**Behind the Scenes: Exploring Exploitation and Resilience in the Lives of Musical Icons**



In the cutthroat world of music, the journey to the top can be a series of ups and downs. Many renowned icons have faced the ultimate rollercoaster ride, from being discovered in obscurity to making it big and then sometimes feeling **washed up** in the ever-changing tides of the industry.

Elvis Presley, the one who **broke into the business** as the pioneer of rock, **paid his dues** amidst the constant pressures of fame. Yet even the King found himself in the maze of commercial demands, turning his rebellion into a marketable trend. His struggles remain a reminder of the pitfalls that await those trying to get their foot in the door of stardom.

In the modern era, the plight of pop diva Britney Spears serves as a cautionary tale. Once she **made a name for herself** as the reigning queen of pop, only to find herself in a grueling battle for autonomy and freedom from the controlling clutches of conservatorship. Her fight epitomizes the ongoing struggle of artists trying **to get their big break** while maintaining control over their own careers.

The tragic end of Chris Cornell, an enigmatic figure in the rock scene, reflects the harsh reality of the industry. After **making it big** with his band, Soundgarden, he struggled to preserve his artistic integrity in the face of commercial expectations, eventually succumbing to the relentless demands of fame. His legacy is a stark reminder that even the most celebrated artists must endure the ups and downs of the relentless music world.

Michael Jackson, once unbeatable in the realm of pop, and his respected sister, Janet Jackson, faced their own battles within the industry. Despite their success, they found themselves entangled in controversies and legal disputes, a testament to the ongoing fight for creative control and fair treatment in the business.

These gripping stories not only serve as cautionary tales but also as inspirations for artists striving to **make a comeback** after facing the challenges of exploitation in the industry. They underline the necessity of creating an environment that not only nurtures creative brilliance but also safeguards the well-being and independence of musical legends, resonating with the dreams of aspiring artists eager to carve their own path in the world of music.

## Breaking into business

**A: Look at these expressions related to show business and fame. Write them in the chart below.**

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|---|---|---|---|
| Be a big hit | Be washed up | Make a comeback. | Break into the business |
| Be a has been | Pay your dues | Be a one-hit wonder | Make a name for yourself |
| Make it big | Get your big break | To have a breakdown or meltdown | Get your foot in the door |

| Just starting out | Currently successful | No longer successful | Emotional outburst |
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LIVEWORKSHEETS