

2 Read the title of the text below. From the definitions a-d, can you guess what 'paparazzi' means? Skim the text to see if you were right.

- a. magazines about celebrities
- b. Italian photographers
- c. celebrities who are looking for attention
- d. photographers who hunt celebrities

The Power of the Paparazzi



Many ordinary people have an obsession with celebrities and stars. We want to know everything about the lives of actors and actresses, singers, sports personalities and politicians. This is all because of the media. Most of us will never meet these stars, but we feel we know them well. We read about them in newspapers and magazines, and they appear in our homes on TV and the Internet.

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• Reading •

Unit 1

This obsession with celebrities has created a new kind of photographer – the paparazzi.

10 Paparazzi are freelance photographers who chase celebrities to get an interesting picture. They sell their pictures for large amounts of money to newspapers and magazines. The word 'paparazzi' comes from a 1960 Italian film. In 15 this film, 'Paparazzo' was the name of a news photographer. However, the word is usually used in the plural – paparazzi – because paparazzi hunt their 'prey' in packs, like wolves.

20 The paparazzi will do anything to get a good photo. Their tactics are often neither legal nor ethical, but they don't care. They climb onto roofs of celebrities' homes and hide in the tops of trees with their cameras. They hire 25 helicopters and boats so that they can take pictures of personal events. If the paparazzi know that celebrities are inside a building, they may start false fire alarms so that the celebrities are forced to come outside.

Many stars get angry with the paparazzi, but 30 some people think that celebrities have no right to privacy. 'These people are famous because of the media,' they say. 'Without the media, they

would be nothing. So they should not complain about the paparazzi.'

35 But sometimes the paparazzi can play a role in causing tragedy. A famous example is the death of Princess Diana. On 31 August 1997, Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris. Her car crashed into a concrete post in a tunnel, while 40 paparazzi on motorbikes were chasing it. After the accident, several paparazzi took photographs instead of helping Diana. Many people blamed the paparazzi for the crash. 'If they had not been chasing Diana,' they said, 'the 45 accident wouldn't have happened.' Later, seven paparazzi were arrested by the French police.



Source: <http://people.howstuffworks.com>