

1) 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

c. celebrities who are looking for

b. Italian photographers

d. photographers who hunt celebrities

The Power of the Paparazzi



No pictures please!

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.

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

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 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 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.

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 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 accident wouldn't have happened. Later, seven paparazzi were arrested by the French police.



Princess Diana

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

2) Read the text in Activity 2 again. Find the words in the column on the left and match each word to a meaning on the right.

1) obsession

A) working independently for different companies.

2) freelance

B) said that someone was responsible for something bad.

3) prey

C) relating to principles of right and wrong

4) tactics

D) creatures hunted and eaten by other creatures

5) ethical

E) strong and unhealthy interest in someone or something

6) blamed

F) methods used to achieve something

3) Read the text again and match the questions to the answers in the boxes below:-

The paparazzi

Start false fire alarms.

Actors, actresses, singers , sports personalities, politicians

photographer

1- Name three different kinds of celebrities?

2- What was Paparazzo's profession?

3- How do the paparazzi make celebrities come out of buildings?

4- Who did a lot of people blame for Diana's death?