Reading • Part 3

Questions 16 – 30

You are going to read a newspaper article about young pop stars. For questions **16 – 30**, choose from the people (**A – E**). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

Which person says

they realised it would be difficult to change the band's image?	**16**
it is important to develop in your role as a member of a band?	**17**
their favourite time was when the band was first together?	**18**
they nearly lost the opportunity to stay in the band?	**19**
they can't imagine giving up making music?	**20**
they were not defeated by negative feedback?	**21**
they didn't have time to adjust to being in a successful band?	**22**
they are glad that more talent is expected from bands nowadays?	**23**
the most important thing in their band was to work hard?	**24**
they appreciate the people who work with the band?	**25**
successful performers shouldn't take their success for granted?	**26**
they initially had some concerns about discussing their ambition of starting a band?	**27**
their band's path to success was through people telling each other?	**28**
they aren't bothered if the band gets bad reviews?	**29**
there is a mistaken belief that their band quickly became well-known?	**30**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Band fever

We asked five young pop stars, each from a different band, what it's like to be in a band.

A Nat



I heard an advert on the radio for a band audition. I loved singing, but only really ever did it on the karaoke. But I went, and I got in. People think it was easy for us but they don't realise that we didn't have a record deal for ages. We sang in all kinds of places to start with. Our producer always said he wanted effort from band members rather than good looks or even talented singers and I know now that was the right emphasis. He even sacked me twice for messing around. I remember him shouting: 'I don't work with people like that.' Thankfully, he listened when I begged him to take me back and before long we became famous. It doesn't matter what the newspapers say about your music – that's just life. When you're up there and you hear the fans scream when they recognise a song – that's the best feeling in the world.

B Alex



I'd trained to be a footballer, kicking a ball from dawn to dusk, so I missed watching all the music programmes on TV. Then I became a model and one day a record manager came to me and said: 'You've got a great face, can you sing?' Singing seemed an odd thing to do, so I said: 'Not at all.' Then I did an audition and suddenly I was in a band. At first, I didn't know what had hit me because it all happened in such a rush. I was going out spending a fortune. My advice to bands would be: remember how the world really works, and never forget where you came from. You could easily end up back there.

C Morgan



When I was 15 I was obsessed with forming a band, but I didn't tell my mates straightaway, because I didn't want them to tease me. I plotted in my head, wrote songs and hassled John Matthews, a manager who had looked after some successful bands, just sending him tapes. He said I was rubbish so many times, but as he'd taken the time to reply, I stuck at it. One day I sent him a song called Heavy. He loved it - and it all went crazy from there. He got us reviewed in the magazine Smash Hits, then we got a record deal, and we were on roadshows and TV, like some amazing, weird dream. What would I say to a new band? Enjoy the days when you're starting out – they're the best: coming up, getting known.

D Jules



So much has changed since we started. We've got bodyguards now and a whole team who travel with us. To outsiders, it's strange, but we depend on them and it's like gaining a new family. Bands are different today. Fans won't just accept singing groups who follow dance routines. They'll still argue over who's their favourite in the band, but they expect you to write your own songs and be original. That's good, because we're getting older as well, and getting into different stuff. I love it when we write songs influenced by other groups, and our fans start to listen to their music as well. My advice to bands would be to keep level-headed, but think about how you can branch out – it's not enough just to sing. Your fans will grow with you, but you've got to move with them, too.

E Guy



We didn't like being called a boyband even when we started. When we had our first big hit, it was a word-of-mouth thing: it took its time climbing the charts. But once you're thought of in a certain way – as a bunch of boys singing love songs, wearing nice clothes – then that's that. You've got to fight to be thought of differently. I'll be making music until I'm old and grey, partly because I don't know what else I'd do, partly because I've known what it's like to stand before a huge audience and feel that incredible rush. My advice to bands? Enjoy every moment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS