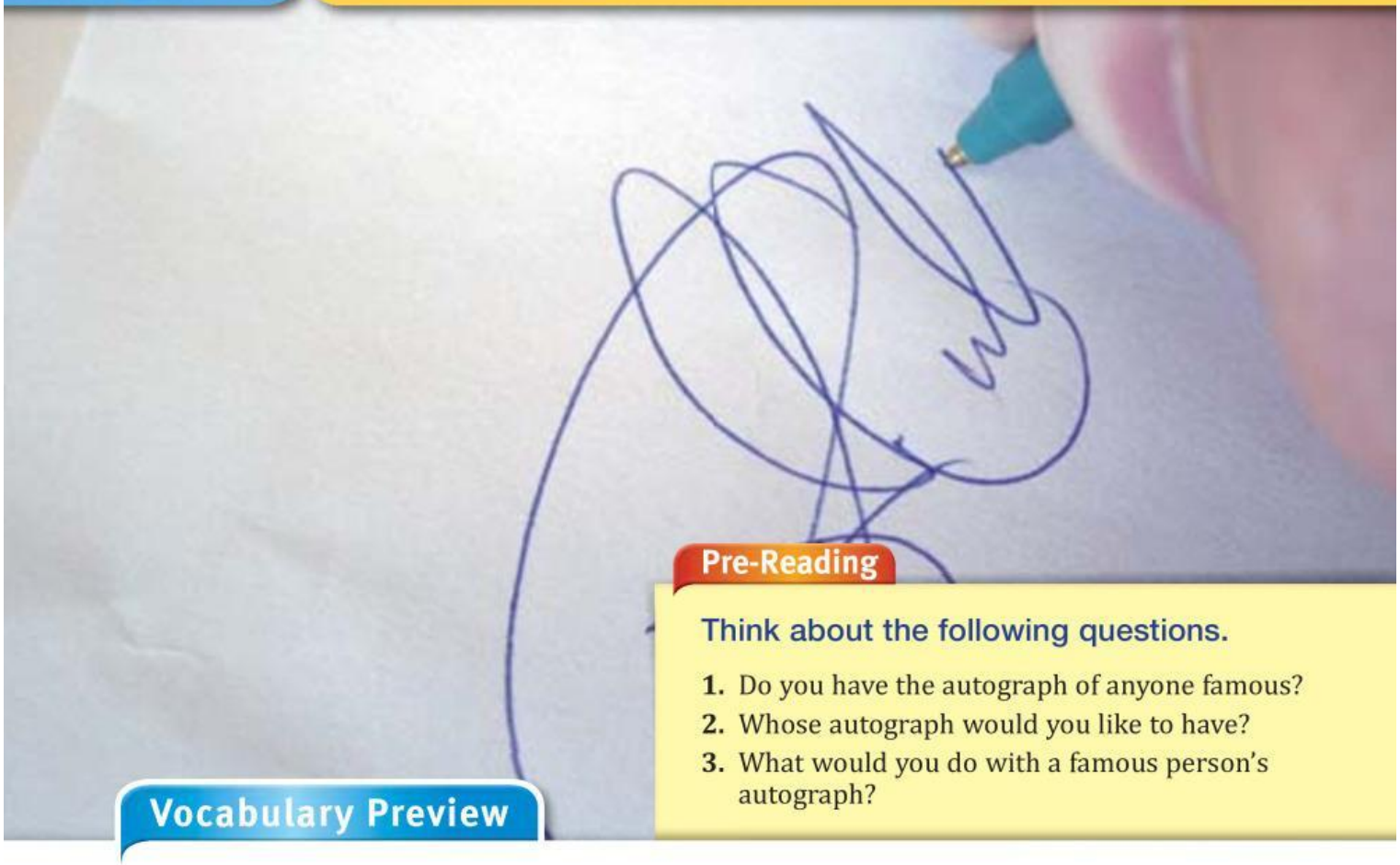
8 May I Have Your Autograph?



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Do you have the autograph of anyone famous?
2. Whose autograph would you like to have?
3. What would you do with a famous person's autograph?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. concerns; means	d. actors, singers, or dancers
b. make through work	e. write
c. ready to do happily	f. respect; look up to

1. ___ My grandfather started his own business. I really <u>admire</u> him.
2. ___ We can always ask her for help. She is <u>willing</u> to help us any time.
3. ___ Employees in fast food restaurants do not <u>earn</u> much money.
4. ___ You can see famous <u>entertainers</u> walking on the street in Hollywood.
5. ___ Please <u>sign</u> your name on the line.
6. ___ I am worried about the test. My score <u>matters</u> a lot to me.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

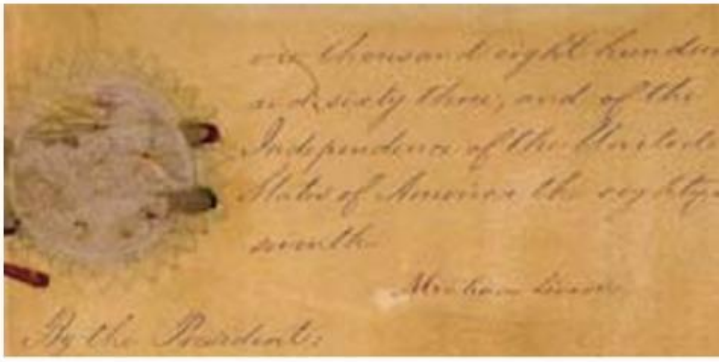
May I Have Your Autograph?

Track 15

Is there a famous person whom you really admire? Wouldn't you love to have his or her **autograph**? You would never throw that person's autograph away because of your admiration for him or her. However, some people collect autographs even from people they don't admire. They just want autographs from any famous person. Rather than collecting these autographs to keep, they collect the autographs to sell.

These days there are more than 20,000 people who collect autographs for the value the autographs might have in the future. Since these people are willing to pay a lot of money for an autograph, autograph hounds now hang around sports centers, concert **arenas**, and **chic** restaurants trying to get autographs they can sell. They can sometimes make as much as $1,500 for one autograph. In fact, one very successful autograph hound earns about $100,000 a year. There are also companies that buy and sell autographs. One company, **Profiles** in History, says it has the largest collection of entertainers' autographs in the world, and earns more than $12 million a year! Some autographs from this company may cost under $100, but others can cost several thousand dollars.

The price of an autograph depends on how rare the autograph is. For example, famous people like Angelina Jolie and George Clooney sign a lot of autographs. Therefore, their autographs are not rare and are not worth very much money. On the other hand, Madonna and Nicole Kidman rarely sign anything. This makes their autographs rarer and more valuable. Queen Elizabeth II almost never signs autographs, therefore, something with her **signature** on it might sell for around $3,500. It doesn't matter if the person is dead. Elvis Presley and Napoleon signed many things. Their signatures are only worth $1,500. However, signed letters from Marilyn Monroe are very rare. They can cost $50,000 each. The highest price ever paid for an autograph was $750,000 for a letter written and signed by Abraham Lincoln.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 333 words

2 *autograph*: the signature of a famous person
9 *arena*: a place to watch sports
9 *chic*: fashionable
12 *profile*: an essay of famous people's achievements
20 *signature*: a person's name as it appears when officially written by his or her own hand

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the reading?

a. Collecting autographs is fun.
b. Some autographs are rare.
c. Signatures of people who are dead are worth the most.
d. Collecting autographs can be a business.

2. What does the price of an autograph mostly depend on?

a. How hard it is to find the autograph
b. Whether the person is living or dead
c. How many people admire the person
d. When the person wrote the signature

3. Which is true about Profiles in History?

a. It is an autograph museum.
b. It has the most expensive autographs.
c. It is a book about famous people.
d. It is a business that sells autographs.

4. Whose signature was worth the most?

a. Queen Elizabeth II's
b. Abraham Lincoln's
c. Marilyn Monroe's
d. George Clooney's

5. From the reading, what do you think an "autograph hound" is?

a. Someone who buys autographs
b. Someone who gets autographs from famous people
c. A famous person who signs many autographs
d. A dog that can sign its autograph

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **throw away** [to get rid of; to discard]
  He didn't want the old magazines, so he threw them away.
- **hang around** [to wait or stay somewhere]
  That dog is always hanging around the garbage.
- **depend on** [to be or change because of something]
  Our plans depend on the weather. We will go to the beach only if it is sunny.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. Don't _____ the receipt. You may need it.

2. Sally usually _____ the mall with her friends.

3. Your grades _____ how much you study.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Scan the passage and complete the chart with the correct information.

$1,500	**$3,500**	**$50,000**
$100,000	**$750,000**	**$12 million**

Autograph Facts

- A successful autograph hound earns about 1 _____ a year.
- A company that sells autographs earns more than 2 _____ a year.
- Queen Elizabeth II's signature is rare, so it might sell for 3 _____.
- Something signed by Elvis or Napoleon is worth 4 _____.
- A signed letter from Marilyn Monroe can cost 5 _____.
- Someone paid 6 _____ for one of Lincoln's letters.



Listening

A Trip to the Bookstore

Track 16

Listen to the dialog and complete each sentence.

1. The man is interested in getting the autograph of _____.
2. The man wants to have a _____ signed by this _____.
3. The woman is only interested in autographs that _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. If you wanted to get an autograph, where would you go?
2. Would you be willing to buy an autograph? Why or why not?
3. What kinds of things do people put autographs on?

Grammar

Would

Would can be used to express an intention, inclination, or desire. *Would like to* or *would love to* is also commonly used.

(Wouldn't / Shouldn't) you love to have a famous person's autograph?

You (ought / would) never throw that person's autograph away because of your admiration for him or her.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

My Favorite Star

(1) Who is your favorite star? **(2)** Why do you like him or her? **(3)** What do you have of his or hers? **(4)** Would you also like his or her autograph? **(5)** How could you get it?

Example

My favorite star is Annie Lennox. I like her because she sings well. I have three of her CDs and a poster of her. I would also like to have her autograph. I could get her autograph by buying it online.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. My friend _____ coins. He has a big jar full of them!

a. admires b. collects c. costs d. earns

2. That woman is a famous actress. Do you have a pen? Let's get her _____.

a. autograph b. business c. collection d. profile

3. He is a popular singer. He _____ millions of dollars with his last album.

a. bought b. cost c. earned d. sold

4. I wanted to buy the autographed movie poster, but the _____ was too high.

a. arena b. entertainer c. hound d. price

5. You might not care about visiting your parents, but it _____ a lot to them.

a. admires b. feels c. matters d. pays

6. Many tourists _____ the chic café downtown to see famous movie stars.

a. are willing to b. depend on c. hang around d. throw away

7. We are both _____ to work late tonight to finish the project.

a. dead b. rare c. successful d. willing

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. She was an _____ writer for years before she won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

a. admiration b. admire c. admired

9. A few stars make millions of dollars, but most _____ earn very little.

a. entertainers b. entertainment c. entertaining

10. Should I _____ my name at the bottom of the page?

a. signature b. sign c. signed

LIVEWORKSHEETS