

Reading Test

Susan Boyle was born in 1961 in Scotland. She used to be an ordinary person, but today she is an international star. She has been famous since 2009. Her career started when she was a contestant on a reality show called *Britain's Got Talent*. When she first walked onto the stage, the judges of the show looked surprised. And when she said that she wanted to be a professional singer, the people who were watching the show laughed. But after a few seconds, nobody was laughing: Susan had an incredibly beautiful voice.



So why did people laugh at Susan Boyle before she started singing? Because she didn't look like their idea of a talented singer. She was 47 years old and overweight, and she wasn't wearing stylish clothes. Popular singers are usually good-looking and glamorous people, so we think that beautiful people are talented and ordinary-looking people are ordinary, not extraordinary. The human brain is programmed to categorize things quickly and this is what we do when we judge people by their appearance. In ancient times, this was an essential ability because life was dangerous. It was important to keep away from angry or aggressive-looking people who might be enemies. Of course, Susan Boyle doesn't look dangerous, but when people judged her, it was the same part of the brain that was at work. We don't think when we judge people like this. It is a sort of animal reaction which was very useful for our ancient ancestors, but not in the modern world. It would help if there were more ordinary-looking people in the media.

Today, Susan Boyle is a successful British singer. She has made four CDs and she has travelled all over the world. There has even been a television documentary about her life. Her story has been a lesson for everyone.

Read about a success story. Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

Example

Susan Boyle used to be a singer.

Susan Boyle used to be an ordinary person.

1. She has been famous since 1961.

2. She became famous when she won a reality show.

3. The TV judges laughed when Susan said she wanted to be a singer.

4. Good-looks and talent go together.

5. Judging people by their appearance is a useful skill.

6. There are a lot of ordinary-looking people on television.

7. Susan Boyle has travelled all over Britain.

8. A television series has been made about her.

Read about a success story. Are the sentences true, false or not mentioned? Choose the correct answer.

Example

Susan Boyle didn't use to be a famous singer.

- A. ☒ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned

1. Susan Boyle first became famous when she won a reality show.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
2. When she appeared on stage, the people who were watching were unkind to her.

- A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
3. After her performance, one of the judges apologized to Susan Boyle.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
4. Susan Boyle was wearing glamorous clothes when she walked on stage.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
5. People didn't expect Susan Boyle to have a good voice.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
6. Judging people by their appearance used to be useful ability.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
7. People are now trying to have more ordinary-looking people on TV.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned
8. These days, Susan Boyle is a very happy person.
A. ☐ True
B. ☐ False
C. ☐ Not mentioned