



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Autobiographies



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Autobiographies 自传

A Popular Read in the UK 英国流行读物

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

If you take a look at the **best-selling** books in the UK these days, it is almost certain that there will be a **handful of autobiographies** in that list. Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, actor Michael J Fox and rapper 50 Cent have all written them.

An autobiography is the story of a person's life, written by that person. It is usually a very famous person who might tell us all about their **childhood**, how they became famous and any other interesting things that have happened in their lives.

Traditionally, someone would write an autobiography when they were older because they had had a long, successful life. However, these days there are many **celebrity** magazines with stories and photos of the stars which sell very well. **Reality TV shows** are extremely popular and lots of people become famous very easily just from being on the TV rather than having a particular talent like singing or acting. **As a result**, people become famous very quickly and as soon as they are famous, a lot of money can be made from writing an autobiography, even if they are very young.

So now you can find an autobiography from almost everyone who is in the **public eye**. Even though we can follow the lives of the stars very closely on TV or in magazines **nowadays**, we maybe don't know how they live their lives **from day to day**. Autobiographies often reveal the information we never knew about the stars. **The British public** are very curious to find out more so they are very keen to read autobiographies.

Not every star wants to write though. Sometimes celebrities **employ** writers to write their **life stories** for them. The writer will interview the star, listen to everything they want to say, record interviews and then write the book based on their words. David Beckham did this with his book 'My Side'.

Not everyone likes to read **fiction** regularly but they might like to read about the lives of stars. Autobiographies are helping to get more British people reading books. About 100 million autobiographies are sold in Britain every year. More stars **depend on** them for extra income and as more of these books appear in the shops, more people are sure to keep buying them.



Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| best-selling – 畅销 | a handful – 一把 |
| autobiographies – 自传 | childhood – 童年 |
| traditionally – 传统上 | celebrity – 明星, 名人 |
| reality TV shows – 真人秀 | as a result – 结果, 导致 |
| in the public eye – 受公众瞩目的 | nowadays - 现在, 当今 |
| from day to day – 每天(的), 天天(的) | reveal – 揭示, 暴露 |
| the British public – 英国公众 | keen – 渴望的, 热切的 |
| employ – 雇佣 | life stories – 生活经历 |
| based on – 以...为基础, 根据 | fiction – 虚构小说 |
| depend on – 依靠, 依赖 | extra income – 额外收入 |

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. An autobiography is someone's life story that they wrote themselves.
True / False
2. Older famous people wrote autobiographies traditionally, after they had achieved a lot in their lives. True / False
3. British people aren't interested in finding out more about celebrities.
True / False
4. David Beckham wrote his book 'My Side' all by himself. True / False
5. Autobiographies encourage people who don't like reading novels to read more. True / False

2. Anagrams 组词填空

Solve the anagrams below. They are all book-related words.
重新排列组合次序混乱的词语。这些词语都是不同书籍种类的名称。

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. i c no fit | a. autobiography |
| 2. hi gray bop | b. novel |
| 3. n love | c. fiction |
| 4. cinnin foot | d. reference book |
| 5. roof be neck ere | e. biography |
| 6. i go bar you pat h | f. non-fiction |

Now try and match the words up with their definitions.
为上列词语选出正确定义。

1. a story that has been invented; _____
2. a person's life story, written by that person themselves; _____
3. a book providing useful facts and information, not intended to be read like a novel eg a dictionary; _____
4. writing that is about real events and facts; _____
5. a person's life story written by someone different; _____
6. a long printed story or book with a story that has been invented by the writer; _____

3. Synonyms 同义词

A synonym is a word which means the same as another word. Match the words on the left with their synonyms on the right.

从右列词语中为左列选出意思相同或相近的词语。

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. autobiography | a. certain |
| 2. regularly | b. star |
| 3. celebrity | c. life story |
| 4. sure | d. these days |
| 5. nowadays | e. often |

Now complete the sentences with one of the words in the right hand column above.

用上面的右列词语完成以下句子。

1. An autobiography is a person's _____.
2. It's almost _____ that you will find a few autobiographies amongst the best-selling books in the UK.
3. David Beckham is a big football _____.
4. Reality TV shows are very popular in the UK _____.
5. We _____ find out new information about celebrities when we read their autobiographies.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with books in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与书籍有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| b | e | s | t | s | e | l | l | i | n | g | e |
| f | i | c | t | i | a | a | b | s | r | o | P |
| n | m | o | c | o | i | f | n | o | v | e | w |
| r | e | a | g | f | i | c | t | i | o | n | r |
| e | s | n | k | r | j | h | w | e | l | k | r |
| a | s | o | e | f | a | m | o | u | s | e | s |
| d | u | v | q | t | r | p | o | e | t | x | l |
| e | c | e | l | a | e | h | h | f | a | e | m |
| c | e | l | e | b | r | i | t | y | r | s | e |
| b | e | s | v | l | l | i | n | g | r | e | w |
| b | i | o | g | w | r | i | t | i | n | g | s |
| a | s | d | i | o | p | e | t | e | b | r | s |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|
| read | celebrity | novel | biography | writing |
| best-selling | fiction | famous | star | books |

Answers 答案

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5. Autobiographies encourage people who don't like reading novels to read more. **True**

3. Synonyms 同义词

A synonym is a word which means the same as another word. Match the words on the left with their synonyms on the right.

从右列词语中为左列选出意思相同或相近的词语。

1. c 2. d 3. b 4. a 5. d

Now complete the sentences with one of the words in the right hand column above.

用上面的右列词语完成以下句子。

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2. It's almost certain that you will find a few autobiographies amongst the best-selling books in the UK.
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4. Reality TV shows are very popular in the UK these days.
5. We often find out new information about celebrities when we read their autobiographies

2. Anagrams 组词填空

Solve the anagrams below. They are all book-related words.

重新排列组合次序混乱的词语。这些词语都是不同书籍种类的名称。

1. c 2. e 3. b 4. f 5. d 6. a

Now try and match the words up with their definitions.

为上列词语选出正确定义。

1. a story that has been invented; **fiction**
2. a person's life story, written by that person themselves; **autobiography**
3. a book providing useful facts and information, not intended to be read like a novel eg a dictionary; **reference book**
4. writing that is about real events and facts; **non-fiction**
5. a person's life story written by someone different; **biography**
6. a long printed story or book with a story that has been invented by the writer; **novel**

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| e | | n | | r | | | | | | k | |
| a | | o | | f | a | m | o | u | s | | s |
| d | | v | | | | p | | | t | | |
| | | e | | | | | h | a | | | |
| c | e | l | e | b | r | i | t | y | r | | |
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