**LISTENING TASK ISE II -FAME**

**Exercise 6**

I wish I had been prepared for the downsides of fame. As a young singer it’s your goal to make it big, to land a dream contract and sing all over the world. In retrospect, I should have been much more cautious.

When you hit the big time, you just feel like everyone is your friend, and they can’t do enough for you – but not everything is as it seems. Most people want to manipulate you, or gain access to your money and status, I understand that now.

People are interested in every tiny detail of your life: what you eat, where you shop, what car you drive: crazy stuff. Photographers would wait outside my house, follow me to the hairdressers, on holiday, you name it; your life is never your own.

I became really paranoid. One of my band members had his phone tapped: journalists were listening to his conversations. It’s illegal of course, but it’s always a risk, you still have to be careful what you say.

Some singers have problems with stalkers, fans who are obsessed with you in a really scary way. I’ve got really loyal fans, but I’ve never felt intimidated or threatened by them.

I never read the papers anymore. You can’t imagine how hurtful it is to be constantly criticised: for your work, your looks, what dress you wore at an award ceremony. They aren’t always negative, but the occasional compliment doesn’t cancel out all the other abuse.

Even your own family can betray you. Newspapers will pay a lot of money for an exclusive story about your life… it’s difficult… if your friends or family are struggling for money they might sell some photos, or an embarrassing story from your past.

I’ve learnt my lesson: trust no-one.

DOWNSIDES/DRAWBACKS OF BEING FAMOUS

People want to manipulate you/ gain access to money or status  
People are interested in every tiny detail of your life  
Photographers wait outside your house  
Journalists listening to conversations/ phone tapped  
Stalkers/ fans who are obsessed  
Being constantly criticised (looks/ work/ dress)  
Family can betray you/ newspapers pay for stories from your life