YUSUF ISLAM
(CAT STEVENS)

http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/y/yusuf_islam.html

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THE READING / TAPESCRPT

Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, is a British musician, singer-songwriter and philanthropist. He has sold over 60 million albums worldwide in a career spanning five decades. He converted to Islam at the height of his fame in 1977. The following year, he started a three-decade break from music to devote himself to helping the British Muslim community.

Yusuf Islam was born in 1948 as Steven Georgiou. His father was a Greek-Cypriot and his mother was Swedish. He lived and grew up very near London’s Piccadilly Circus. Steven started playing piano when he was 12, which led to songwriting and playing guitar. He began to perform his songs in London pubs under the stage name Cat Stevens.

At the age of 18, Stevens got a record deal. His debut album ‘Matthew and Son’ was a huge success. He became a pop sensation until he developed tuberculosis in 1968. He spent several months in hospital, where he took up meditation and read about religion. He wrote many songs that would make him world famous in the 1970s.

In 1976 Stevens nearly drowned, an event that made him question his life. His brother gave him a copy of the Koran and he converted to Islam. Yusuf Islam then abandoned his rock star career. In 1981, he established the first of many Islamia Schools in Britain. He devoted himself to Islamic charitable causes and has received many peace awards. Yusuf returned to releasing records in 2006.

246 words
Flesch Kinkaid 8.8
SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students’?

Paragraphs 1 and 2
1. formerly
2. philanthropist
3. devote
4. very
5. led to
6. perform

Paragraphs 3 and 4
7. deal
8. huge
9. took up
10. event
11. converted
12. established

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

1. formerly known
2. a career spanning
3. at the height
4. grew up very
5. under the stage
6. Stevens got a record
7. a huge
8. an event which made him
9. he established the first of many
10. charitable
LISTENING GAP FILL:

Yusuf Islam, _______________ Cat Stevens, is a British musician, singer-songwriter and philanthropist. He _______________ 60 million albums worldwide in a career _______________. He converted to Islam at the height of his fame in 1977. The following year, he started a three-decade break from _______________ himself to helping the British Muslim community.

Yusuf Islam was born in 1948 as Steven Georgiou. His father was a Greek-Cypriot and his mother was Swedish. He _______________ very near London’s Piccadilly Circus. Steven started playing piano when he was 12, ___________ songwriting and playing guitar. He _______________ his songs in London pubs _______________ name Cat Stevens.

At the age of 18, Stevens _______________ deal. His debut album ‘Matthew and Son’ was _______________. He became a pop sensation until he developed tuberculosis in 1968. _______________ months in hospital, where he took up meditation and read about religion. He wrote many songs that _______________ world famous in the 1970s.

In 1976 Stevens _______________, an event that made him question his life. His brother gave _______________ the Koran and he converted to Islam. Yusuf Islam _______________ his rock star career. In 1981, he established the first of many Islamia Schools in Britain. He devoted himself to Islamic _______________ and has received many peace awards. Yusuf returned to releasing records in 2006.
CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Yusuf Islam, formerly *known / knowing* as Cat Stevens, is a British musician, singer-songwriter and philanthropist. He has *sold / selling* over 60 million albums worldwide in a career *spanned / spanning* five decades. He converted to Islam at the height of his fame in 1977. The following year, he started a three-decade break from music to *devote / devotion* himself to helping the British Muslim community.

Yusuf Islam was born in 1948 *was / as* Steven Georgiou. His father was a Greek-Cypriot and his mother was *Sweden / Swedish*. He lived and grew up very *nearly / near* London’s Piccadilly Circus. Steven started playing piano when he was 12, which led to songwriting and playing guitar. He began to perform his songs in London pubs *below / under* the stage name Cat Stevens.

At the age of 18, Stevens got a record *deal / dealer*. His debut album ‘Matthew and Son’ was a huge *success / successful*. He became a pop sensation until he developed tuberculosis in 1968. He spent several months in hospital, where he took *up / over* meditation and read about religion. He wrote many songs that *would / will* make him world famous in the 1970s.

In 1976 Stevens nearly drowned, an *event / eventful* that made him question his life. His brother gave him a *copy / copied* of the Koran and he converted to Islam. Yusuf Islam then abandoned his rock star career. In 1981, he established the first of *much / many* Islamia Schools in Britain. He devoted himself to Islamic charitable causes and has received many *piece / peace* awards. Yusuf returned to releasing records in 2006.
SPELLING:
These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1
1. mloyrre known as Cat Steven
2. a career spanning five adsecde
3. at the tigheh of his fame in 1977
4. tvoede himself to helping the British Muslim community

Paragraph 2
5. his mother was shdeSwi
6. playing noiap
7. rpmrfeo his songs in London
8. under the egtsa name Cat Stevens

Paragraph 3
9. a record elad
10. He became a pop esnnsoita
11. He spent several months in loaiphts
12. he took up meditation and read about oinrelgi

Paragraph 4
13. In 1976 Stevens nearly ddnorwe
14. an event which made him eonitqsu his life
15. he drvtceone to Islam
16. charitable uscase
Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, is a British musician, singer-songwriter and philanthropist. He has sold over 60 million albums worldwide in a career spanning five decades. He converted to Islam at the height of his fame in 1977. The following year, he started a three-decade break from music to devote himself to helping the British Muslim community. In 1976 Stevens nearly drowned, and grew up very near London’s Piccadilly Circus. Steven started playing piano when he was 12, which led to a pop sensation until he developed tuberculosis in 1968. He spent several months in hospital, where he took up meditation and read about religion. He wrote many songs that would make him world famous in the 1970s.

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SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. 60 over sold has He worldwide albums million

2. at of He Islam height fame to the his converted

3. from three music - he decade started break a

4. piano playing started Steven 12 was he when

5. began He London in songs his perform to

6. Stevens got a record deal At the age of 18 ,

7. read and meditation up took he religion about

8. an life his question him made which event

9. him Koran a His copy brother of gave the

10. established he Schools Islamia many of first the
YUSUF ISLAM DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Yusuf Islam?
2. Would you like to meet Yusuf Islam?
3. What would you like to know about Yusuf Islam and why?
4. ___________________________________________________
5. ___________________________________________________
6. ___________________________________________________
7. ___________________________________________________
8. ___________________________________________________

YUSUF ISLAM DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Yusuf Islam?
2. What questions would you like to ask Yusuf Islam?
3. What would his answers be to those questions?
4. ___________________________________________________
5. ___________________________________________________
6. ___________________________________________________
7. ___________________________________________________
8. ___________________________________________________
YUSUF ISLAM SURVEY:

Write five questions about Yusuf Islam in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.3.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING:

Write about Yusuf Islam for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Yusuf Islam. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. YUSUF ISLAM POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Yusuf Islam. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Yusuf Islam. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he does every day and what he thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Yusuf Islam. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should do in his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your “Yusuf Islam expert” partner(s) will try and answer your questions.
ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:
Paragraphs 1 and 2
1. formerly          a. previously
2. philanthropist    b. do-gooder
3. devote            c. dedicate
4. very             d. extremely
5. led to          e. resulted in
6. perform          f. sing

Paragraphs 3 and 4
7. deal             g. agreement
8. huge            h. enormous
9. took up         i. started
10. event         j. incident
11. converted       k. changed
12. established     l. set up

PHRASE MATCH:
1. formerly known  a. as Cat Stevens
2. a career spanning  b. five decades
3. at the height     c. of his fame
4. grew up very    d. near London’s Piccadilly
5. under the stage  e. name Cat Stevens
6. Stevens got a record  f. deal
7. a huge          g. success
8. an event which made him  h. question his life
9. he established the first of many  i. Islamia Schools
10. charitable     j. causes

ALL OTHER EXERCISES
Look at the text on page 2.