

YUSUF ISLAM (CAT STEVENS)

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

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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 | a. dedicate |
| 2. philanthropist | b. sing |
| 3. devote | c. do-gooder |
| 4. very | d. previously |
| 5. led to | e. extremely |
| 6. perform | f. resulted in |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

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

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

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

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. mloyrrfe 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 esnnoita
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 drtvceone to Islam
16. charitable uscace

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () songwriting and playing guitar. He began to perform his songs in London pubs under the stage name Cat Stevens.
- (**1**) Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, is a British musician, singer-songwriter and philanthropist. He has sold
- () of his fame in 1977. The following year, he started a three-decade break from music to devote
- () 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
- () an event which made him question his life. His brother gave him a copy of the Koran and he converted to
- () At the age of 18, Stevens got a record deal. His debut album 'Matthew and Son' was a huge success. He became
- () causes and has received many peace awards. Yusuf returned to releasing records in 2006.
- () Islam. Yusuf Islam then abandoned his rock star career. In 1981, he established the first of many
- () In 1976 Stevens nearly drowned,
- () himself to helping the British Muslim community.
- () meditation and read about religion. He wrote many songs that would make him world famous in the 1970s.
- () Islamia Schools in Britain. He devoted himself to Islamic charitable
- () over 60 million albums worldwide in a career spanning five decades. He converted to Islam at the height
- () Yusuf Islam was born in 1948 as Steven Georgiou. His father was a Greek-Cypriot and his mother was Swedish. He lived

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. _____

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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.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

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.