

A LEVEL

PART 1 (Estimated CEFR-J Level: A1.2)

Host: Welcome to Star Talk, our radio show. We're here with journalist Stella Skye. Stella works for a magazine and writes about famous singers and actors. Today, she will tell us about stage names. A stage name is a professional name. Singers and actors may use stage names instead of their real names. Stella, why do some singers and actors use stage names?

Stella: Well, one reason is that their real names are too ordinary. Stars want people to remember their names. For example, do you know the name Richard Starkey?

Host: No, I don't. Who is he?

Stella: That's the real name of Beatles drummer, Ringo Starr. His stage name is much more interesting. No one will forget it.

Host: Yes, that's true. I guess stars want an unusual name: a name no one else has. So, what is another reason for using stage names?

Stella: Well, some stars want a name that is easy to pronounce. As a child, Bruce Lee had a Chinese name, Lee Jun-fan. When he became an international star, he wanted to use a different name because people from other countries couldn't pronounce his real name. It was very difficult for them.

Host: Hmm. Yes, I see. So, how do celebrities choose their stage names?

Stella: Well, some choose a name that's similar to their real name. Other celebrities choose a nickname. For example, Miley Cyrus's real name is Destiny Hope Cyrus. Her father called her "Smiley Miley" when she was a child, and she decided to use "Miley" as her stage name.

Host: That's cute. Well, what advice would you give about choosing a stage name?

Stella: Hmm. I guess the most important thing is to choose a name that you like — something you can live with for the rest of your life.

Host: Right. Good advice. Well, Stella, thank you for coming on the show today. We'll see you later, everybody. Join us next time for...

PART 2 (Estimated CEFR-J Level: A1.1)

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Ramoran, what kind of person was Keith Haring?

EDWIN T. RAMORAN: Haring liked people. He liked parties and dancing. He was very energetic. You can see his energy in his art. His art moves and dances too.

I: When did Haring become famous?

ER: In 1978, he started to make pictures in the New York City subway. Some people were very upset. They said, "That isn't art. It's graffiti!" But graffiti is art. And some people liked his art very much. They started to buy his drawings, paintings, and sculptures. Then galleries became interested in his art, too. By the mid-1980s, people all over the world knew Keith Haring.

I: What is Haring's art about? What does it mean?

ER: When people asked Haring, "What is your art about?" he answered, "You decide." His art is funny, energetic, and sometimes angry. It is also political. His art is about education, freedom, and AIDS. These

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issues were very important to Haring. His art is also about children. He worked with kids on many projects. For example, he made a large sculpture for a children's hospital in New York.

I: Was Haring different from other artists?

ER: Yes, he was.

I: How was he different?

ER: Haring liked to make art in public places, like in the subway. He believed "art is for everyone." First, he was famous for his public art. Later, he became famous in galleries and museums. He was also different because magazines had ads with his paintings and drawings. His drawings were also on other things, such as Swatch watches. He also sold his art in the Pop Shop. He used his art in unusual ways to communicate with the world.

I: Is his art still popular?

ER: Yes, it is. Haring died in 1990, but people still feel his energy in his art. Today, we can see his art all around the world. Some of the money from his art helps AIDS organizations and children's organizations. His art still helps people. And if people want to learn more, they can go to www.haring.com.

PART 3 (Estimated CEFR-J Level: A1.2)

Man: Good morning. Can I help you?

Woman: Yes, I'm thinking of going away for a few days in February. I need a break. Where can I go?

Man: Well, you can go to the Caribbean, visit the Canaries, go skiing in the Alps, or explore anywhere you like... We've got hundreds of destinations.

Woman: Mmm, the Alps. Could you tell me about the offers you've got?

Man: Well, one of the best is for ten days' skiing in Chamonix in the French Alps. Accommodation is at an excellent four-star hotel, the Hotel du Mont Blanc. Breakfast is not part of the price, so you have to pay extra for it, but you have free dinner. It's a Turkish Airlines flight from London to Geneva.

Woman: And how long does it take?

Man: Let me see. Mmm, it takes an hour and a half and you pick up a rental car from the airport.

Woman: Could you tell me the cost, please?

Man: Well, it's 700 pounds if you travel alone. But if you are two people, we have a 100-pound discount per person, so you pay 1,200 pounds in total for two people.

Woman: Well, that's a bit too expensive. And I am alone. I'd like some information about cheaper holidays, please.

Man: Certainly. One of the best deals is in Spain, for eight days in Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. We had another package for fifteen days, but unfortunately we sold all the tickets for it. So, you only have this option for now. This package is 280 pounds. Is it okay for you?

Woman: That's much better. Could you give me some more information?

Man: Right. Accommodation is at a three-star hotel, the Hotel Magnifico. It's right on the beach and it's got its own private pool. Breakfast and dinner are included in the price. The flights are with Britannia Airways from Birmingham, so you don't have to go down to London.

Woman: Oh, good.

Man: The flight lasts four hours and 20 minutes. It's a direct flight, so you won't have to change planes.

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Woman: That's rather long. I don't like flying much. But I suppose it's OK. What about transfer from the airport?

Man: The hotel organizes buses to pick you up. It takes half an hour to get from the airport to the hotel.

Woman: Right, I'll think it over. Do you think I could have a brochure for the Lanzarote holiday?

Man: Of course.

PART 4 (Estimated CEFR-J Level: A1.3)

Speaker A - I felt really anxious when I woke up this morning. In my dream, I was playing tennis, but I couldn't move my legs! So I couldn't hit the ball back. I've got a match this afternoon. I think my dream means I will lose the match. Oh, I hope not. I'm not feeling very positive about it at all.

Speaker B - I had an amazing dream last night. I play the piano, you see, and in my dream I was recording a blues album with all these talented musicians. I think it means I'll be a famous musician one day ...

Speaker C - I had an interesting dream last week ... I haven't got a boyfriend, but in the dream, I was going out with a lovely guy who bought me flowers. We could hear violin music and everything was perfect. I've never had this kind of dream before. I think it definitely means I will meet someone and fall in love. I also think he will be "the one" and we will get married. I really hope so.

Speaker D - My dreams are usually quite nice. But the one I had last night was horrible! I was driving all night and it was freezing cold outside. I was really frightened because I couldn't stop the car. I've got my driving test next week. I think my dream means I'll fail it.

Speaker E - I've got a good job and I work hard. But in a dream last week, I lost my job. So, I had no money to pay for food and everything. I was going up to complete strangers in the street and asking them for money. I felt afraid when I woke up. I think my dream means I will be poor.