

## SPEAKING

### Set 1

Preparation (10 minutes)

Presentation and questions (15 minutes)

#### Task 1

Monologue (3-4 minutes)

Your school is planning to organise a club for music lovers for English learners. You want to propose to listen to your favourite American singer **Selena Gomez** in English. Make a presentation to persuade your classmates to include the songs of this singer in the programme.

Speak about:

- Life facts
- Career in music and acting
- Awards and achievements
- Personal life

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read them during the presentation.

2. Questions / Answers (2-3 minutes)

Answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get additional information not mentioned in your presentation about the topic from the fact file.

#### Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner.

2. Questions / Answers (2-3 minutes)

Ask 2 questions about the topic to get additional information not mentioned in the presentation.

**2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes**

**YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED**

#### Fact file SELENA GOMEZ

##### Life facts

Selena Marie Gomez was born to former actress Amanda Dawn Cornett, and her Mexican husband, Ricardo Joel, on July 22, 1992, in the Grand Prairie city of Texas.

When the young girl was only five years old, her parents separated, and her grandparents played an important role in her upbringing. Selena has two stepsisters, Gracie Elliot, her mother's child with Brian Teefey, and Victoria, born to her father and his second wife, Sara.

After her parents separated, the young girl and her twenty-one year old mother struggled to survive amidst dire poverty. Amanda's stage performances inspired Selena to choose a career in acting, and soon the little girl was attending try-outs.

##### Career

2002–2006

In 2002 she began her acting career on the children's television series *Barney & Friends*, portraying the character Gianna. The show was her first acting role.

Also Gomez had bit part roles in the film *Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over* (2003) and the made-for-television film *Walker, Texas Ranger: Trial by Fire* (2005). She guest starred in a 2006 episode of the Disney Channel series *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*.

2007–2012

Gomez was given a role on the Disney Channel series *Hannah Montana* in 2007 as pop star Mikayla. During this time Gomez filmed pilot episodes for two potential Disney Channel series; the first was a *Suite Life spin-off* titled *Arwin!*, and the second was a *Lizzie McGuire spin-off* titled *What's Stevie Thinking?* Gomez and her mother subsequently moved to Los Angeles.

The role brought Gomez "teen idol" status. And she also became one of the ten highest-paid children's TV stars of all time, earning from \$ 25,000-30,000 per episode.

Gomez voiced Helga in the animated film *Horton Hears a Who!* (2008). The film was a critical and commercial success, grossing nearly \$300 million worldwide. Gomez had a leading role as an aspiring dancer Mary Santiago in *Another Cinderella Story* (2008).

At age 16 Gomez signed a record deal with Hollywood Records. Gomez formed her own production company in 2008, which she called July Moon Productions. She partnered with XYZ Films for the project, allowing Gomez to option articles, hire writers and create talent packages to shop to studios. Gomez was slated to release two films under the company.

Hoping to cross over into the music industry, Gomez formed the pop rock band **Selena Gomez & the Scene** through her record deal with Hollywood Records. The group released their first studio album, *Kiss & Tell*, in August 2009, which debuted at number nine on the Billboard 200 albums chart in the U.S.

Gomez starred in the comedy film *Monte Carlo* (2011), with Leighton Meester and Katie Cassidy; she played the lead role of Grace.

2012–2014

Gomez confirmed in January 2012 that she would be taking a break from music, placing Selena Gomez & the Scene on hiatus. That year *Wizards of Waverly Place* officially ended its run on the Disney Channel after four seasons (2009-2013).

In April 2013 Gomez released "*Come & Get It*" as the lead single for her upcoming album. This song became Gomez's first top-ten entry on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, reaching number six, and also reached the top-ten on the charts in Canada and the U.K.

2015–2016

While working on her second studio album, Gomez collaborated with German DJ Zedd on "*I Want You to Know*", released in February 2015, and debuted at number-seventeen in the U.S. In May she appeared in Taylor Swift's music video for "*Bad Blood*". Gomez released "*Good for You*" featuring rapper ASAP Rocky as the lead single from her second studio album in June. The song debuted at number-one on the Digital Songs chart with first-week sales of 179,000 copies – the best sales week in Gomez's career for a single. It was the chart's first number-one debut since Swift's "*Blank Space*" (2014).

2017–2019

Gomez and the Norwegian DJ Kygo released a single together, "*It Ain't Me*", in February 2017.

2020 – present

In October 2019 Gomez released "*Lose You to Love Me*" as the lead single from her third studio album.

Gomez hosted and executive produced the HBO Max cooking show *Selena + Chef*, which features Gomez joined by a different chef each episode remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each episode highlights a food-related charity. The show premiered in August 2020, and was well received by critics. It ran for four seasons till September 2022/

### Awards and achievements

- This young celebrity actor has been nominated on 125 occasions, and has won some of the most prestigious awards for her songs as well as acting performances.
- This talented actress was honoured with the '*American Latino Media Arts Award*', ('ALMA Award') in 2009 for the series '*Wizards of Waverly Place*'. For the same show, she received the '*Gracie Awards*', and the '*Imagen Awards*'. She has also been the recipient of seven '*Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards*' for '*Wizards of Waverly Place*'.
- From 2010-12 the German '*Bravo Otto*' awards have been presented to Gomez on six occasions. During the same time she was also declared the '*Woman of the Year*' by the '*Glamour Awards*'.
- For her philanthropic services she received the '*Chris Greicius Celebrity Award*' from the '*Make-A-Wish Foundation*' and the '*Young Visionary Award*' at the '*Unite4: Humanity*' ceremony, both in 2013.
- Around the same time she was also given the '*MTV Video Music Awards*' for the single '*Come & Get It*'.

- In 2014-15 she received the Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) Awards as a songwriter for the tracks 'Come & Get It' and 'Slow Down'.
- Gomez has won the 'Teen Choice Awards' five times for films like 'Princess Protection Program', 'Another Cinderella Story' and 'Wizards of Waverly Place'.

### Personal Life

Selena Gomez's personal life has often been in the spotlight. She has been in high-profile relationships with fellow celebrities, including *Justin Bieber* and *The Weeknd*.

Despite the ups and downs Gomez has maintained her focus on her career and personal growth.

## SPEAKING

### Set 2

Preparation (10 minutes)

Presentation and questions (15 minutes)

#### Task 1

Monologue (3-4 minutes)

Your school is planning to organise a club for music lovers for English learners. You want to propose to listen to your favourite American singer **Lady Gaga** in English. Make a presentation to persuade your classmates to include the songs of this singer in the programme.

Speak about:

- Life facts
- Career in music and acting
- Awards and achievements
- Personal life

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read them during the presentation.

2. Questions / Answers (2-3 minutes)

Answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get additional information not mentioned in your presentation about the topic from the fact file.

#### Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner.
2. Questions / Answers (2-3 minutes)

Ask 2 questions about the topic to get additional information not mentioned in the presentation.

**2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes**

**YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED**

**Fact file****LADY GAGA****Life facts**

Joanne Angelina Germanotta was born on March 28, 1986 into an Italian American family in New York City, U.S. She learned music at an early age and was performing onstage in New York City clubs by the time she was a teenager. She attended an all-girls school, Convent of the Sacred Heart, in Manhattan before going on to study music at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She studied at Tisch for two years before dropping out to manage her own career.

**Career**

After dropping out, she began transforming herself from Germanotta into Lady Gaga, whose style combined glam rock and over-the-top fashion design. In 2007 she and performance artist Lady Starlight formed a revue called the Ultimate Pop Burlesque Rockshow. The same year Lady Gaga, who also wrote songs for other pop artists such as Fergie, the Pussycat Dolls, and Britney Spears, was signed by the singer Akon and Interscope Records and began preparing her debut album, "*The Fame*", which was released in 2008.

Although she modeled herself on such theatrical performers as David Bowie during his Ziggy Stardust period, the New York Dolls, Grace Slick, and Freddie Mercury – her adopted stage name was derived from Queen's song "*Radio Ga Ga*" – she created a character that came to occupy a unique space in the music world. Her fashion combined with her up-tempo, synthetic dance music and her edgy, theatrical performance to create stunning sounds and visuals. Indeed, while producing music, Lady Gaga also created her own fashions – replete with dazzling wigs and space-age bodysuits – through her creative team Haus of Gaga.

Her first single, "*Just Dance*" became popular in clubs throughout the United States and Europe and eventually landed at number one on the *Billboard* Pop Songs chart (also called the radio chart). Three other singles off "*The Fame*" – "*Poker Face*," "*LoveGame*," and "*Paparazzi*" – also reached number one on the radio chart, making Lady Gaga the first artist in the 17-year history of that chart to have four number ones from a debut album.

In addition to recording music, Lady Gaga made occasional film appearances, notably in *Machete Kills* (2013) and *Sin City: A Dame to Kill For* (2014). She played a vampiric countess with no regard for life or suffering in the fifth season of the television show *American Horror Story: Hotel* (2015–16).

In 2021 Lady Gaga appeared in Ridley Scott's *House of Gucci*.

She notably cowrote and performed "*Til It Happens to You*" for the documentary *The Hunting Ground* (2015) and "*Hold My Hand*" for *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022).

In 2021 Lady Gaga sang the national anthem at the U.S. presidential inauguration of Joe Biden.

**Awards and achievements**

- The album *The Fame* yielded Lady Gaga five Grammy nominations, including for album of the year and song of the year ("Poker Face").
- She captured two Grammys – best dance recording ("Poker Face") and best electronic/dance album ("*The Fame*") – and her opening duet with Sir Elton John was among the most talked-about elements of the 2010 Grammys telecast.
- In February 2010 she also picked up three Brit Awards (the British equivalent of the Grammys) – for best international female, best album, and breakthrough act.
- For her performance in the anthology series, Lady Gaga received a Golden Globe Award.
- She also appeared in the sixth season, which aired in 2016. Lady Gaga garnered critical acclaim and an Academy Award nomination for her first lead role, a guileless up-and-coming singer-songwriter in the 2018 remake of the movie *A Star Is Born*.
- The lead single, "*Shallow*," won two Grammy Awards and the Oscar for best original song.

**Personal life**

Music producer Rob Fusari had apparently claimed that he and Lady Gaga were in a relationship during her days of struggle. It's also believed that the two decided to part ways in 2007. Later speculations about her relationship with the drummer of a metal band had also surfaced.

During the early days of her career, Gaga was addicted to drugs and alcohol, which also became a cause of serious worry for her father.