

LEVEL 2

C1 - C2

When you believe

Mariah Carey – a household name in the United States and a recognized pop / R&B icon in the whole wide world – has been reigning in the music industry for three consecutive decades and is still standing tall and strong.

Although the younger generation may experience difficulty figuring out who the heck she is since their attention has been effectively arrested by the **omnipresent** k-pop bands, true music fans **go ape over** the sheer name of Mariah. Hailed as the best singer in the world, boasting a 5-octave voice – a rarity that only a handful of vocalists were **bestowed** with – Mariah Carey holds the Guinness world record for most number 1 songs in music history ever. Her songs topped the vertiginous Billboard charts 19 times leaving such musical titans as Elvis Presley, Whitney Houston and Madonna behind. Not only does she perform her songs but she also **has** a unique **knack** for writing her own lyrics and composing her own music thus earning herself a reputable image of a **jack-of-all-trades**.

Despite her tremendous coups as an artiste and numerous accolades she has relished in her singing career, living a lavish life full of all the luxuries imaginable, her life was not always a bed of roses. Mariah Carey was born to a biracial family, which at the time was so taboo that it was against the law to marry a black person in some states in America. She had to go through lots of **animosity** and hardships caused by her mixed ethnicity, which **took a heavy toll on** her growing up and further formation as a person. As a child, she also experienced poverty and abuse as well as parental neglect, and music appeared to be her only saving grace. It was at a party, when she was 19 years old, that she accidentally bumped into Tommy Mottola, a renowned record producer at the time, who gave a listen to her demo record “Vision of Love” and was blown away by Mariah’s phenomenal vocal **prohress**. A year later she took the world by storm becoming the mega-star she is now.

There are testimonials **galore** in which people share their sharp **vicissitudes** of life and how Mariah Carey’s songs helped them go through the toughest predicaments eventually making their “visions” come true.



RETELL

Who is Mariah Carey?

What is special about Mariah's voice?

What Guinness record does she hold?

Why was her childhood difficult?

How did she become a singer?



DISCUSS

It would be great
to live a life of a music star.



ARGUMENT BANK

Is it financially rewarding?

Does it allow you to do what you love and see the whole world?

Does it feel great to have a huge group of fans?

Does being in the spotlight have any dark sides?

Are endless concerts and rehearsals easy to cope with?

Can fierce competition make you quickly lose your position?

Make notes!

DEFINITIONS

Put the right letters next to the definitions.

A) omnipresent; **B) to go ape (over)**; C) to bestow; **D) (to have a) knack (for)**; E) jack-of-all-trades; **F) to take its/a toll on**;
G) animosity; **H) prowess**; I) galore; **J) vicissitudes (of life/fortune)**

- 1) usually unpleasant changes of circumstances

- 2) widespread

- 3) so much that it is unbelievable

- 4) to become very excited

- 5) superior skill or ability

- 6) to give as a gift

- 7) hostility

- 8) to have a special talent for sth

- 9) someone who has skill in many different areas

- 10) to have a bad effect on someone



Write down 5 arguments FOR.



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Write down 5 arguments AGAINST.



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GAPS

Say/Write full sentences by filling in the gaps with the correct forms of the phrases from the exercise above.

- 1) Elsa impressed the whole board of examiners with her mathematical _____.
- 2) He possessed an uncanny _____ for rousing public speeches.
- 3) Today's tastelessness in music is a glaring, _____ facet of our society.
- 4) This award is the highest tier, and it is _____ on only a handful of people each year.
- 5) Quarantine and isolation have _____ their _____ her mental health.
- 6) Though he had many _____ in life, nothing would stop him from becoming a successful businessman.
- 7) He was a pleasant young man who showed no hint of _____.
- 8) She's sort of a _____, but at the same time, master of few.
- 9) There are hiking trails _____ in this part of the mountains.
- 10) I've never understood Taylor Swift's popularity, but her fans _____ over her music.



Write down the words you will use in your essay/speech.

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