

I AM A LEGEND: MARILYN MONROE

Level: B1/B2

1. Ex.1. What do you know about a person in the photo?



source: time.com

- a) Who was she?
- b) What is she famous for?

- c) What was her real name?
- d) When did she die?
- e) Why is she considered an icon?

Ex.2. What can you tell about Marilyn Monroe's attitude to life based on the following quotes:

- + 'A girl doesn't need anyone who doesn't need her.'
- + 'The nicest thing for me is sleep, then at least I can dream.'
- + 'I live to succeed, not to please you or anyone else.'
- + 'I don't stop when I'm tired. I only stop when I'm done.'
- + 'I don't want to make money. I just want to be wonderful.'
- + 'Fear is stupid. So are regrets.'

Ex.3.a. You are going to watch a video 'The Tragic Life of Marlin Monroe.' Based on the video answer the questions below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9RThZnYV0g&t=244s>



- a) What was Marilyn Monroe's real name? _____
- b) What was her relation with her parents? _____
- c) Did she get popular right away? _____
- d) What characters did she portray? _____
- e) What was she like in her real life? _____
- f) What medical problems did she have? _____
- g) What reputation did she have at work? _____

Ex.3.b. Decide if the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE.

- a) Marilyn Monroe suffered from endometriosis.
- b) She never met her father.
- c) In spite of being famous, she never got her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
- d) According to the video she was romantically involved with JFK.
- e) She got divorced a few times.
- f) She was considered very professional at work.
- g) She suffered from a few miscarriages.
- h) There are a lot of conspiracy theories surrounding her death.

Ex.4.a. Match the words with definitions.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a starlet 2. a breakdown 3. a foster care 4. (to) be abused | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to be more advanced or innovative than typical in a particular era b) stereotype about blond women seen as stupid or silly c) high earnings d) a young actress with aspirations to become a star |
|---|--|

5. (to) fool somebody	e) to trick someone
6. top billings	f) excessive use of drugs
7. an overdose	g) a period of extreme emotional stress
8. a dumb blonde cliché	h) to retain a position of strength in a challenging situation
9. (to) hold one's own	i) when you take more than recommended amount of something
10. (to) be ahead of one's time	j) treated with cruelty or violence
11. a substance abuse	h) a temporary custody for children whose parents are dead or unable to look after them

Ex.4.b. Fill in the gaps with correct words. You may need to change their forms.

(to) hold one's own	dumb blonde	top billings	
(to) fool	foster care	mental breakdown	starlet

- Marilyn Monroe is one of the Hollywood's famous _____ whose life was over too soon.
- Marilyn's mother experienced a _____ and was diagnosed with schizophrenia.
- Marilyn was taken into _____.

4. She _____ millions of people into believing that she was a silly blonde in real life.
5. She became a huge star after 6 years of hard work and started receiving _____ starring alongside the biggest names.
6. She was typecast as a _____.
7. She was very intelligent and _____ against the studios.

Extra activity

You will read an article about Marilyn Monroe from

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marilyn-Monroe>

Fill in the gaps with appropriate words:

surpassed to emerge unprecedented reared confined an orphanage adulation
critical acclaim needless death

Marilyn Monroe, original name **Norma Jeane Mortenson**, later called **Norma Jeane Baker**, Jeane sometimes spelled **Jean**, (born June 1, 1926, Los Angeles, California, U.S.—died August 5, 1962, Los Angeles), American actress who became a major sex symbol, starring in a number of commercially successful films during the 1950s, and who is considered a pop culture icon.

Norma Jeane Mortenson later took her mother's name, Baker. Her mother was frequently _____ in an asylum, and Norma Jeane was _____ by 12 successive sets of foster parents and, for a time, in

_____. In 1942 she married a fellow worker in an aircraft factory, but they divorced soon after World War II. She became a popular photographer's model and in 1946 signed a short-term contract with Twentieth Century-Fox, taking as her screen name Marilyn Monroe. After a few brief appearances in movies made by the Fox and Columbia studios, she was again unemployed, and she returned to modeling for photographers. Her nude photograph on a calendar brought her a role in the film *Scudda-Hoo! Scudda-Hay!* (1948), which was followed by other minor roles.

In 1950 Monroe played a small uncredited role in The Asphalt Jungle that reaped a mountain of fan mail. An appearance in All About Eve (1950) won her another contract from Fox and much recognition. In a succession of movies, including *Let's Make It Legal* (1951), *Love Nest* (1951), Clash by Night (1952), and Niagara (1953), she advanced to star billing on the strength of her studio-fostered image as a "love goddess." With performances in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953), How to Marry a Millionaire (1953), and There's No Business Like Show Business (1954), her fame grew steadily and spread throughout the world, and she became the object of _____ popular _____. In 1954 she married baseball star Joe DiMaggio, and the attendant publicity was enormous. With the end of their marriage less than a year later she began to grow discontented with her career.

Monroe studied with Lee Strasberg at the Actors' Studio in New York City, and in The Seven Year Itch (1955) and Bus Stop (1956) she began _____ as a talented comedian. In 1956 she married playwright Arthur Miller and briefly retired from moviemaking, although she costarred with Laurence Olivier in The Prince and the Showgirl (1957). She won _____ for the first time as a serious actress for Some Like It Hot (1959). Her last film, the drama The Misfits (1961), was written by Miller specifically for Monroe, though their marriage disintegrated during production; they divorced in 1961.

In 1962 Monroe began filming the comedy *Something's Got to Give*. However, she was frequently absent from the set because of illnesses, and in May she traveled to New York City to attend a gala where she famously sang “Happy Birthday” to Pres. John F. Kennedy, with whom she was allegedly having an affair. In June Monroe was fired from the film. Although she was later rehired, work never resumed. After several months as a virtual recluse, Monroe died from an overdose of sleeping pills (barbiturates) in her Los Angeles home. Her death was ruled a “probable suicide,” and this finding was supported by the actress’s history of drug use and previous suicide attempts. However, some believed that she had been killed after threatening to reveal her relationship with the Kennedy brothers—she was also rumoured to have had an affair with U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy—or that she had information linking the two men to organized crime. Although there was insufficient evidence to support these claims, conspiracy theories persisted.

In their first runs, Monroe’s 23 movies grossed a total of more than \$200 million, and her fame _____ that of any other entertainer of her time. Her early image as a dumb and seductive blonde gave way in later years to the tragic figure of a sensitive and insecure woman unable to escape the pressures of Hollywood. Her vulnerability and sensuousness combined with her _____ eventually raised her to the status of an American cultural icon.

Q: Is it common for celebrities to commit suicides or die too young? If so, what might be the reasons?

Q: Can you provide a few examples of famous people who died way too early?