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## Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

### **The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**

"1,000 Ideas & Activities For Language Teachers"

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

## **Paris Hilton returns to jail**

URL: [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0706/070610-paris\\_hilton.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0706/070610-paris_hilton.html)

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**10<sup>th</sup> June, 2007**

## THE ARTICLE

### **Paris Hilton returns to jail**

Hilton Hotel heiress Paris Hilton, 26, was ordered to return to jail on June 9th, just two days after an LA sheriff changed her punishment to house arrest. She had served five days of a 45-day sentence but was released and ordered to stay at home because of undisclosed "medical" reasons. Her jail term is for violating probation in a reckless driving case in which she was drunk. The topsy-turvy case is now the talk of America. Her fans are distraught at seeing their heroine returned to jail. She was ordered back to court, wearing handcuffs, to hear that her house arrest had been overturned and she would have to serve the rest of her term behind bars. This is a life far removed from the usual glitz and glamour she enjoys as a multi-millionaire. As she was lead from the courthouse, she looked anything but the perfectly turned out model and singer fans are used to seeing. She looked exhausted and was red-eyed through crying.

The media circus that is now following her toing and froing from jail has polarized the American public. Many are outraged at the fact that the sheriff put her under house arrest. They believed this to be yet another case of "celebrity justice" in the States – one very lenient law for the rich and famous, and strict laws that Jo Public must adhere to. Recent events support a quote from Hilton's autobiography "Confessions of an Heiress", in which she said: "There is no sin in life worse than being boring." Her prison ordeal is a different part of a privileged life that could definitely not be described as boring. She is a model, actor and singer, has her own perfume range and has walked hundreds of red carpets. She compares herself to Princess Diana and was voted as second worst celebrity role model for 2006.

## WARM-UPS

**1. HOTELS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about hotels. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*Hilton Hotel / Paris / jail / being arrested / drunk driving / glamour / exhaustion / media / circuses / justice / autobiographies / being boring / role models*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. HEIR:** With your partner(s), decide which of these things you would like to inherit and why. Change partners and share your findings.

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Hilton Hotel chain            | • Starbucks             |
| • Apple computers               | • a Russian gas company |
| • a casino group                | • Disney                |
| • Manchester United soccer club | • other _____           |

**4. JUST JUSTICE:** Agree with your partners on what sentences each of these people should receive for driving while drunk:

- Paris Hilton
- George W. Bush
- a father driving his pregnant wife to the baby hospital
- you
- a 15-year old girl
- a 99-year-old with severe memory loss

**5. JAIL VS. COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Brainstorm reasons why jail is better than community service and why community service is better than jail. Discuss the reasons why. Change partners and share your opinions.

**6. JAIL:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with jail/prison. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**7. QUICK DEBATE:** Students A strongly believe famous people should get shorter sentences than the rest of us; Students B think famous people should get longer sentences than the rest of us. Change partners often. When you have finished, share your findings.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. A US celebrity has been ordered to stay in Paris' Hilton Hotel.      | T / F |
| b. The celebrity ignored a traffic offence and drove again while drunk. | T / F |
| c. The story of this celebrity has gripped the American public.         | T / F |
| d. Fans saw their star coming out of court looking a million dollars.   | T / F |
| e. The celebrity ordered a circus to come to Paris to cheer her up.     | T / F |
| f. Americans believe there are different laws for those with money.     | T / F |
| g. The celebrity wrote a book about her life as an heiress.             | T / F |
| h. The celebrity is soon to play Princess Diana in an upcoming movie.   | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| a. punishment  | elected    |
| b. undisclosed | messy      |
| c. violating   | divided    |
| d. topsy-turvy | secret     |
| e. turned out  | easy       |
| f. polarized   | presented  |
| g. lenient     | penalty    |
| h. adhere      | advantaged |
| i. privileged  | stick      |
| j. voted       | disobeying |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. an LA sheriff changed her punishment    | not be described as boring       |
| b. violating probation in a                | turned out model                 |
| c. a life far removed from the usual       | circus that is now following her |
| d. she looked anything but the perfectly   | law for the rich and famous      |
| e. She looked exhausted and was            | glitz and glamour                |
| f. The media                               | worse than being boring          |
| g. one very lenient                        | to house arrest                  |
| h. There is no sin in life                 | red-eyed through crying          |
| i. a privileged life that could definitely | celebrity role model for 2006    |
| j. voted as second worst                   | reckless driving case            |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Paris Hilton returns to jail

Hilton Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Paris Hilton, 26, was ordered to return to jail on June 9th, just two days after an LA sheriff changed her \_\_\_\_\_ to house arrest. She had served five days of a 45-day sentence but was released and ordered to stay at home because of \_\_\_\_\_ "medical" reasons. Her jail term is for violating probation in a reckless driving case in which she was drunk. The topsy-turvy case is now the \_\_\_\_\_ of America. Her fans are distraught at seeing their heroine returned to jail. She was ordered back to court, wearing handcuffs, to hear that her house arrest had been \_\_\_\_\_ and she would have to serve the rest of her term behind \_\_\_\_\_. This is a life far removed from the usual \_\_\_\_\_ and glamour she enjoys as a multi-millionaire. As she was lead from the courthouse, she looked anything but the perfectly turned out model and singer fans are used to seeing. She looked \_\_\_\_\_ and was red-eyed through crying.

The media circus that is now following her toing and \_\_\_\_\_ from jail has \_\_\_\_\_ the American public. Many are outraged at the fact that the sheriff put her under house arrest. They believed this to be yet another case of "celebrity justice" in the States – one very \_\_\_\_\_ law for the rich and famous, and strict laws that Jo Public must \_\_\_\_\_ to. Recent events support a \_\_\_\_\_ from Hilton's autobiography "Confessions of an Heiress", in which she said: "There is no sin in life worse than being boring." Her prison \_\_\_\_\_ is a different part of a privileged life that could \_\_\_\_\_ not be described as boring. She is a model, actor and singer, has her own perfume range and has walked hundreds of red carpets. She compares herself to Princess Diana and was voted as second \_\_\_\_\_ celebrity role model for 2006.

*exhausted*

*undisclosed*

*bars*

*heiress*

*overturned*

*punishment*

*glitz*

*talk*

*definitely*

*quote*

*polarized*

*adhere*

*froing*

*lenient*

*worst*

*ordeal*

## LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### Paris Hilton returns to jail

Hilton Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Paris Hilton, 26, was ordered to return to jail on June 9th, just two days after an LA sheriff changed her punishment \_\_\_\_\_. She had served five days of a 45-day sentence but was released and ordered to stay at home because of \_\_\_\_\_ reasons. Her jail term is for violating probation in a reckless driving case in which she was drunk. The \_\_\_\_\_ now the talk of America. Her fans are \_\_\_\_\_ their heroine returned to jail. She was ordered back to court, wearing handcuffs, to hear that her house arrest had been overturned and she would have to serve the rest of her term behind bars. This is \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ she enjoys as a multi-millionaire. As she was lead from the courthouse, she looked anything but the perfectly turned out model and singer fans are used to seeing. She looked exhausted and was \_\_\_\_\_.

The media circus that is now following \_\_\_\_\_ jail has polarized the American public. Many are \_\_\_\_\_ that the sheriff put her under house arrest. They believed this to be yet another case of "celebrity justice" in the States – \_\_\_\_\_ for the rich and famous, and strict laws that \_\_\_\_\_ to. Recent events support a quote from Hilton's autobiography "Confessions of an Heiress", in which she said: "There \_\_\_\_\_ than being boring." Her prison ordeal is a different part of a privileged life that could definitely not be described as boring. She is a model, actor and singer, has her own perfume range and has \_\_\_\_\_ carpets. She compares herself to Princess Diana and was voted as second worst celebrity role model for 2006.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'celebrity' and 'justice'.

<b>celebrity</b>	<b>justice</b>

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ordered</li><li>• served</li><li>• undisclosed</li><li>• topsy</li><li>• glitz</li><li>• turned out</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• circus</li><li>• case</li><li>• public</li><li>• sin</li><li>• range</li><li>• worst</li></ul>
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## STUDENT CELEBRITY JUSTICE SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about CELEBRITY JUSTICE in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

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

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What do you think about rich heiresses who don't follow the law?
- c) Do you think celebrities have a duty to model correct behaviour to society?
- d) What do you think it would be like to be born into money?
- e) Should Paris Hilton spend time in jail or under house arrest?
- f) Do you think celebrities have a harder time in jail?
- g) Do you think 45 days is the right sentence for drunk driving?
- h) Why do you think her sentence was overturned twice?
- i) Do you feel sorry for Paris Hilton?
- j) If your hero had to go to jail for driving under the influence of alcohol, would you be upset?



### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Why are there always media circuses surrounding cases such as these?
- c) Do you think there are different kinds of justice for different people in America?
- d) Do the rich and famous get lighter sentences in your country?
- e) Should celebrities be treated in the courts just like Jo Public?
- f) What do you think of Hilton's idea that being boring is a sin?
- g) What would you call your autobiography and why?
- h) In what way have you had a privileged life?
- i) What kind of a role model is Paris Hilton?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

## **SPEAKING**

### **HILTON JAIL:**

Talk about the differences between Paris Hilton's Hollywood lifestyle and her life in prison. Use the table to help you.

Differences	Hollywood	Jail
Clothes		
Bath		
Breakfast		
Friends		
Exercise		
Entertainment		

- Change partners and share your ideas.
- Whose ideas have the biggest difference?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

### Paris Hilton returns to jail

Hilton Hotel (1) \_\_\_\_ Paris Hilton, 26, was ordered to return to jail on June 9th, just two days after an LA sheriff changed her punishment to house arrest. She had (2) \_\_\_\_ five days of a 45-day sentence but was released and ordered to stay at home because of undisclosed "medical" reasons. Her jail term is for violating probation in a (3) \_\_\_\_ driving case in which she was drunk. The topsy-turvy case is now the (4) \_\_\_\_ of America. Her fans are distraught at seeing their heroine returned to jail. She was ordered back to court, wearing handcuffs, to hear that her house arrest had been overturned and she would have to serve the rest of her term behind bars. This is a life far (5) \_\_\_\_ from the usual glitz and glamour she enjoys as a multi-millionaire. As she was lead from the courthouse, she looked anything (6) \_\_\_\_ the perfectly turned out model and singer fans are used to seeing. She looked exhausted and was red-eyed through crying.

The media circus that is now following her toing and (7) \_\_\_\_ from jail has polarized the American public. Many are outraged at the fact that the sheriff put her (8) \_\_\_\_ house arrest. They believed this to be (9) \_\_\_\_ another case of "celebrity justice" in the States – one very lenient law for the rich and famous, and strict laws that Jo Public must adhere to. (10) \_\_\_\_ events support a quote from Hilton's autobiography "Confessions of an Heiress", in which she said: "There is no sin in life worse than being boring." Her prison ordeal is a different part of a privileged life that could (11) \_\_\_\_ not be described as boring. She is a model, actor and singer, has her own perfume range and has walked hundreds of red carpets. She compares herself to Princess Diana and was voted as (12) \_\_\_\_ worst celebrity role model for 2006.

- |     |                 |              |                |              |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) airless     | (b) air      | (c) hairless   | (d) heiress  |
| 2.  | (a) served      | (b) serviced | (c) severed    | (d) servant  |
| 3.  | (a) shipwrecked | (b) wrecked  | (c) reckless   | (d) freckles |
| 4.  | (a) speech      | (b) talk     | (c) shout      | (d) whisper  |
| 5.  | (a) remote      | (b) removal  | (c) removed    | (d) moving   |
| 6.  | (a) but         | (b) so       | (c) because    | (d) however  |
| 7.  | (a) far         | (b) froing   | (c) hoping     | (d) hopping  |
| 8.  | (a) outside     | (b) over     | (c) inside     | (d) under    |
| 9.  | (a) far         | (b) ever     | (c) so         | (d) yet      |
| 10. | (a) lately      | (b) recount  | (c) recent     | (d) recently |
| 11. | (a) definitely  | (b) defined  | (c) definition | (d) definite |
| 12. | (a) first       | (b) second   | (c) last       | (d) best     |

Paris Hilton returns to jail – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

## WRITING:

Write about celebrity justice for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

[illegible]

## **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 the Paris Hilton saga. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. CELEBRITY JUSTICE POSTER:** Make a poster about the celebrities you know of who escaped justice because they were rich and famous. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one(s).

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about celebrity justice. Discuss the merits of celebrities being given more lenient or stricter sentences than the rest of us.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the LA sheriff who sentenced Paris Hilton. Ask him three questions about his decision. Give him three pieces of advice about how to sentence celebrities. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. T      c. T      d. F      e. F      f. T      g. T      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| a. punishment  | penalty    |
| b. undisclosed | secret     |
| c. violating   | disobeying |
| d. topsy-turvy | messy      |
| e. turned out  | presented  |
| f. polarized   | divided    |
| g. lenient     | easy       |
| h. adhere      | stick      |
| i. privileged  | advantaged |
| j. voted       | elected    |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. an LA sheriff changed her punishment    | to house arrest                  |
| b. violating probation in a                | reckless driving case            |
| c. a life far removed from the usual       | glitz and glamour                |
| d. she looked anything but the perfectly   | turned out model                 |
| e. She looked exhausted and was            | red-eyed through crying          |
| f. The media                               | circus that is now following her |
| g. one very lenient                        | law for the rich and famous      |
| h. There is no sin in life                 | worse than being boring          |
| i. a privileged life that could definitely | not be described as boring       |
| j. voted as second worst                   | celebrity role model for 2006    |

### GAP FILL:

#### Paris Hilton returns to jail

Hilton Hotel **heiress** Paris Hilton, 26, was ordered to return to jail on June 9th, just two days after an LA sheriff changed her **punishment** to house arrest. She had served five days of a 45-day sentence but was released and ordered to stay at home because of **undisclosed** "medical" reasons. Her jail term is for violating probation in a reckless driving case in which she was drunk. The topsy-turvy case is now the **talk** of America. Her fans are distraught at seeing their heroine returned to jail. She was ordered back to court, wearing handcuffs, to hear that her house arrest had been **overturned** and she would have to serve the rest of her term behind **bars**. This is a life far removed from the usual **glitz** and glamour she enjoys as a multi-millionaire. As she was lead from the courthouse, she looked anything but the perfectly turned out model and singer fans are used to seeing. She looked **exhausted** and was red-eyed through crying.

The media circus that is now following her toing and **froing** from jail has **polarized** the American public. Many are outraged at the fact that the sheriff put her under house arrest. They believed this to be yet another case of "celebrity justice" in the States – one very **lenient** law for the rich and famous, and strict laws that Jo Public must **adhere** to. Recent events support a **quote** from Hilton's autobiography "Confessions of an Heiress", in which she said: "There is no sin in life worse than being boring." Her prison **ordeal** is a different part of a privileged life that could **definitely** not be described as boring. She is a model, actor and singer, has her own perfume range and has walked hundreds of red carpets. She compares herself to Princess Diana and was voted as second **worst** celebrity role model for 2006.

### LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - c    2 - a    3 - d    4 - b    5 - a    6 - d    7 - c    8 - b    9 - b    10 - d    11 - a    12 - c