Easy Access English

Fallen Hero



Fallen Hero – someone who was a role model or very popular with the masses, and is generally considered a good person, who has been disgraced by a scandal.

"The higher you go, the further you fall..."

ASHAMED, EMBARRASSED, DISGRACED

Activity One – read the following stories and identify the past participles which are used.

Lance Armstrong

He became a name synonymous with Tour de France after the ace cyclist won seven consecutive titles, having survived life-threatening cancer. His inspirational tale made him an instant hero but US anti-Doping Agency and UCI's decision to erase off all his Tour titles has marred his name. For many he is a fallen hero.

Tiger Woods

The golf phenomenon lost several major endorsement deals after his serial infidelities became public. His pact with Nike, which built its golf brand on the successes of Woods, remains, but he's made less from it, according to published reports. The golfer's career also suffered in the wake of his failed marriage, though he has begun to win tournaments again.

O.J. Simpson

The former football avoided criminal conviction in 1995 for the killings of his ex-wife and her friend Ron Goldman. He was subsequently arrested in Las Vegas in 2007 and convicted on charges of theft of sports memorabilia and is serving a 33-year sentence in prison.

Mike Tyson

An intimidating and hard-hitting boxer, Tyson saw his sports career take off early. He was convicted and imprisoned for rape in 1992. His subsequent comeback efforts were blunted in 1997 when he was disqualified from a bout for biting off part of his opponent's ear. Tyson declared bankruptcy in 2003.

Activity Two – In addition, past participles can function as adjectives and you need to know the correct forms of irregular verbs.

Now – Read the text and write the adjective participle above each verb in bold.

Fallen Heroes

The public has high expectations of celebrities. Sometimes they are so well **like** and **admire** that they are like heroes to their fans. This means that when they are **involve** in a scandal, people are very **disappoint** in them. Certain stars **link** to such affaires and **disgrace** in this way end up **break** by the experience and we don't hear about them again. They are just **forget** by their fans. Others are later **prove** to be innocent but are always **surround** by doubt and **discredit** for the rest of their careers. Some have **risen** again and re-built their careers through perseverance. We wonder what will happen to Lance Armstrong and if he is too far **go** to rise again?



Activity Three - Tell the story of a scandal surrounding one of the following stars (a real or invented story).

Gary Glitter, Jimmy Saville, Lindsay Lohan, Charlie Sheen, Lady Diana, Britney Speers,
Michael Jackson, Selena Gomez, Maria Carey, JFK, DSK.

Use as many of the following adjectives as possible:

Supported, Appreciated, Well-liked, Fallen from grace, Disappointed, Deceived, Let down, Saddened, Broken, Confused, Depressed, Embarrassed, Damaged, Angered, Forgotten, Forgiven.

Activity Four - Oprah Winfrey - Now with your partner act out an interview with one of your stars. Oprah will ask the celebrity to explain themselves.



Activity Five - Read the following article paying attention to your intonation and stress. Identify any past participles used in the text and then answer the questions, which follow.

Domestic violence case

At 12:30am on February 8, 2009, Brown and his girlfriend, Rihanna had an argument which escalated into physical violence, leaving Rihanna with visible facial injuries which required hospitalization. Brown turned himself in to the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire station at 6:30pm and was booked under suspicion of making criminal threatsFollowing Brown's arrest, several commercial ads featuring him were suspended, his music was withdrawn from multiple radio stations, and he withdrew from public appearances, including one at the 2009 Grammy Awards.

On March 5, 2009, Brown was charged with felony assault and making criminal threats.On July 20, 2009, Brown released a two-minute video on his official YouTube page apologizing to fans and Rihanna for the assault, expressing the incident as his "deepest regret" and saying that he has repeatedly apologized to Rihanna and "accepts full responsibility". On August 25, Brown was sentenced to five years of probation, one year of domestic violence counseling, and six months of community service; the judge retained a five-year restraining order on Brown, which requires him to remain 50 yards away from Rihanna, 10 yards at public events.According to Andy Kellman of Allmusic, "A fairly substantial backlash resulted in Brown's songs being pulled from rotation on several radio stations. Ultimately, however, it had little bearing on his music and acting careers".

"Stupid in Love" is a song by Rihanna. The song was written by other songwriters. It was written two days before Rihanna and then boyfriend Chris Brown's altercation on the night of the 2009 Grammy Awards, which occurred on February 8, 2009. The lyrics, which describes an abusive relationship, led people to describe the song as a "premonition".

1. What did Chris Brown do to Rihanna?
2. What was the impact on his career immediately after the event?
3. How did he apologise?
4. What were the long term affects on his career?
5. What was the song 'Stupid in Love' about?
6. Why was it like a premonition?

Activity Six - Listen to the song - 'Stupid in Love' and answer the questions.

1. What is the song about ?
2. How many words for stupid can you find in the song ?
3. What problem does the person in the song explain ?
4. What do her friends advise her to do ?
5. What do you like or dislike about this song ?

