

Skills test 4

READING

Pop goes the till - \$2.2 million and counting

Pop singer Amber Thorne, 23, was in court again today arguing that photographs of her wedding a year ago to Mr Rodrigo Cortez, 66, were published illegally and against their express wishes by US magazine *Snap!* The court case, which started a month ago in the State of Florida, has already cost in excess of \$2.2 million in legal fees.

Amber Thorne was discovered in Miami by Mexican-born billionaire Cortez at the age of 19 as an amateur dancer, and was propelled to stardom by her number one hit single (the first of twelve so far) titled *Old Enough To Know Better*. Cortez financed Thorne's solo career and secured a recording deal for her with US media company Swinger. The couple became romantically involved two years ago, and despite their best efforts to keep their plans secret, their wedding preparations were in the news continuously for several months.

The current court battle began when Ms Thorne married Mr Cortez, who had made his fortune in the construction trade, in a lavish ceremony attended by some 200 close friends, including international celebrities, on Mr Cortez's private island in the Caribbean. At the time of their wedding, which involved a half-hour fireworks display, the couple were paid \$2 million by another magazine for their official wedding photographs. However, *Snap!* published informal photographs that were taken by one of the couple's guests.

Speaking in court, Ms Thorne said that the photographs in question showed her relaxing with her personal guests and that the wedding was a private occasion. When she was asked why she and Mr Cortez had accepted \$2 million for the formal photographs taken at the same ceremony, she replied, 'I think my fans wanted to share my happiest day with me. For these fans, those photographs will forever remain a valuable treasure.'

The US magazine's editor, Ms Caroline Silvestri, agreed that the photographs showed the bride and groom at an all-night party and admitted that *Snap!* had published them without permission. Ms Silvestri apologized if this had hurt the feelings of the couple, but she argued that they lived their life in the public eye, and that their wedding was therefore news, not a private event. She reminded the court that Mr Cortez and Ms Thorne divorced just six months after the wedding and suggested that the current court case was a complete waste of time.

The case continues.

1 Read the article. Give short answers to the questions.

- When did the court case start? _____
- How many number one hits has Amber Thorne had until now? _____
- Who attended the couple's wedding? _____

2 points for each correct answer

8

- What was Amber Thorne's reason for accepting \$2 million for their photos? _____

2 Read the article. Circle the correct letter.

- Pop star Amber Thorne has a court case
 - against Mr Rodrigo Cortez.
 - over the publication of her wedding photographs.
 - against the State of Florida.
- Amber Thorne was ____ when she met Rodrigo Cortez.
 - living in Mexico
 - a pop star with a number one hit single
 - a 19-year-old dancer in Miami
- The couple's wedding plans
 - appeared frequently in the news.
 - started two years ago.
 - were kept secret.
- Rodrigo Cortez became rich
 - as the head of a media company called Swinger.
 - when he discovered Amber Thorne.
 - from the construction business.
- Snap!* published photos
 - bought from another magazine.
 - and paid \$2 million to the couple for them.
 - taken by one of the wedding guests.
- Caroline Silvestri admitted that
 - the photos appeared in another magazine.
 - the photos were published without permission.
 - the wedding was a private event.
- Amber Thorne and Rodrigo Cortez were married
 - at the time of the court case.
 - at a private ceremony.
 - for only half a year.

2 points for each correct answer

12

3 Find the underlined phrases in the text that match the definitions.

- clearly and definitely stated intentions express wishes
- made quickly very famous _____
- fell in love with each other _____
- a personal event _____
- often appearing in the media _____
- absolutely pointless _____

1 point for each correct answer

5

Reading total

25

Skills test 4

LISTENING

1 Listen to five people who saw a bank robbery. Match them with statements a–e.

- 1 2 3 4 5

- a I saw four people who were involved in the robbery.
- b I think it was the man in the hat who carried the rucksack.
- c There was somebody else with me when I saw the robbery.
- d When the robbery started, I was in the bank.
- e The woman put the stolen money in the rucksack.

2 points for each correct answer 10

2 Listen again. Write true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The first witness was reading a newspaper when the robbery started. _____
- 2 The second witness didn't know what time it happened. _____
- 3 The third witness spoke to one of the bank robbers. _____
- 4 The fourth witnesses had finished his dessert when the robbers arrived. _____
- 5 The fifth witness took twenty pounds out of a cash machine. _____

2 points for each correct answer 10

3 Complete the policeman's notes with the missing information.

Incident: bank robbery on main square

¹ *Time of incident: around _____*

² *Number of suspects: _____ people*
(_____ male and _____ female)

³ *How they arrived at the scene: _____*

⁴ *What they stole: _____*

⁵ *What they were carrying: _____*

1 point for each correct answer 5

Listening total 25

SPEAKING

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What are your favourite childhood memories? Why?
- 2 Which city, town or place do like best? Why?
- 3 What do you normally use the Internet for? How much time do you spend online?
- 4 Do you enjoy the circus? Why? / Why not?
- 5 Who is your personal hero? In what way does he/she inspire you?

max. 1 point for each topic 5

2 Look at the photos. Compare the different uses of technology they show. Which are the most important?



max. 10 points 10

3 Discuss the statements. Do you agree or disagree?

- 1 'Television should educate and inform, as well as entertain.'
- 2 'Rich people have a better chance to succeed in every area of life.'

max. 5 points for each topic 10

Speaking total 25

Skills Test 4 total 100