

May 6, 2022 ~ Movie Star: Nichole Kidman



****sth** = something; **sb** = somebody [see <http://eflsuccess.com/common/> for common abbreviations and punctuation names]

Warm up:

Would you want to be a movie actor/actress? Why or why not?

Vocabulary:

Academy Award (Oscar) = awarded by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, for excellence in cinematic achievements; widely regarded as the most significant award for entertainers.

ambition = a strong desire to achieve sth (related to career, power, fame, etc)

blockbuster = a book or film with extraordinary success

breakthrough = to overcome or get through a blockage; a major success that opens the door to further progress (in a career, technology, etc)

civilian = anyone not employed by the military, police or government

Golden Globe Award = awarded by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for excellence in American and foreign films

Goodwill Ambassador = a public figure (famous person) who promotes or speaks publicly in favor of a specific cause, delivers humanitarian relief, promotes a charitable organization, etc.

rave reviews = strong praise for a new book, play, etc (esp. such praise in a newspaper)

UNICEF = United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (now "United Nations Children's Fund"), which promotes education and health for moms & kids in developing countries

Nicole Kidman is a highly successful Academy Award-winning actress and producer. Kidman was born in Hawaii in 1967. Her family returned to Australia permanently when she was four years old. She grew up and went to school in Sydney. After high school, she studied at several Sydney theatres to realize her ambitions to become an actress. Throughout the 1980s she appeared in music videos and TV dramas, including the popular 'Bangkok Hilton' in 1989.

Her breakthrough came in 1990 when she starred opposite Tom Cruise in 'Days of Thunder'. She was now one of Hollywood's top stars and landed the lead in many blockbuster movies. She starred with Cruise again in 1992 in 'Far and Away'. She won an Oscar for Best Actress in 2002 for her role in 'Hours'. Also in 2002, Kidman got rave reviews for stage performances in London and New York in the play 'The Blue Room'. In 2021, she won a Golden Globe award for 'Being the Ricardos'.

Kidman's private life has rarely been out of the headlines. From 1990 to 2000 she and husband Tom Cruise were Hollywood's hottest romance. After their divorce (2000), she married country singer Keith Urban in 2006. The couple have mansions in Australia and the USA. She holds passports for both countries.

In 2006, Kidman was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for her contributions to charity, health care and film. This is Australia's highest civilian honour. Kidman has been a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF since 1994, and in 2004 was honoured as a "Citizen of the World" by the United Nations.

Questions:

[First, if you have a question about this article, or terms used in it, ask it now! Did you notice that several words above use British spelling instead of American spelling?]

1. What is the most interesting thing you learned from this text about Nichole Kidman?
2. How would you summarize Nicole Kidman's life, based on this article? * Would you say she has lived a good life? Explain.
3. Would you like to meet Nicole Kidman? Why or why not?
4. If you could meet Ms Kidman (or another famous person), what would you talk to them about?
5. Actors get paid between \$400-\$1000 per day. Of course, lead actors can make millions for a blockbuster. In your opinion, should actors be paid like this? Explain.
6. What kind of people do you expect to see on screen when you go to a movie? (young, old, polite, forceful, strong, bold, humble, wealthy...)
7. An actress once said that every wrinkle on her face lowers her salary. A male actor might say his pay is based on muscle size or how good he looks on camera. Is it right to hire people like this?
8. What is your ambition, and what steps are you taking to achieve it?

If you have more time, read and discuss this Bible passage about humility, success, worry, etc: "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.." ~ 1 Peter 5:5-7 ESV

*Nichole was born in Hawaii but raised in Australia. She had a goal, worked hard and reached it. A top film made her a superstar. She has been married twice. She has also been generous in supporting good causes. [How would you change this summary?]

SYNONYM MATCH

Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Exercise 1

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. highly | a. ordinary person |
| 2. civilian | b. a number of |
| 3. honour | c. forever |
| 4. permanently | d. make happen |
| 5. several | e. hugely |
| 6. realize | f. award |

Exercise 2

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 7. breakthrough | g. starring role |
| 8. lead | h. hardly ever |
| 9. rave | i. has |
| 10. rarely | j. step forward |
| 11. hottest | k. excellent |
| 12. holds | l. most popular |

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Primary source https://famouspeoplelessons.com/n/nicole_kidman.html, plus www.wikipedia.org/ and assorted biographies.

These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211;

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Answers: 1hugely, 2ordinary, 3award, 4forever, 5number of, 6make happen, 7step forward, 8starring, 9excellent, 10hardly ever, 11popular, 12has