

## WORKSHEET "Magical Mika" (Spot-On 6/2007) Kä

### PRE-READING

Before you read, work on the following assignments:

- 1) What do you know about the singer Mika? Make notes and/or tell your partner about him. Do you think MiKa is "magical"? Why (not)?
- 2) What is special about Mika's sound?
- 3) Read the German intro text. Now try to find in your dictionary the English equivalents for the following German words and phrases: *Flüchtling, etwas "aufmischen", einzigartig, verraten (context!), Noten (context!), Aufsteiger.*
- 4) Work on semantic fields or the word families for: *flüchten, verraten and magisch.*

### WHILE-READING

- 1) Read the text "Magical Mika" and check the words which make it difficult for you to understand the article. There is no need to check every word which is underlined in the text.
- 2) Without looking into the text again, answer the following comprehension questions (write short texts or make notes and tell your partner):
  - Why was it a surprise that the song "Grace Kelly" reached Number One in the UK single charts?
  - When, how and why did Mika's family come to London?
  - When and why did music become important to Mika?
  - Which was Mika's first instrument and how did he learn to play it?
  - How did Mika's career start?
  - Who are Mika's role models in music and why?
  - What is Mika's attitude towards Freddie Mercury?
  - What is Mika's advice for young musicians at the beginning of their careers?

### POST-READING

#### LANGUAGE TASKS

- 1) In this text you can find many examples of reported speech without tense shift. Underline these examples. Why has the tense not been shifted in these examples? Why has the tense been shifted in 16,28-30?
- 2) Gerund and/or infinitive+to? - *started writing* (17,10-11) / *stopped talking* (17,13): In which of the two examples is it also possible to use the infinitive+to without changing the meaning?
- 3) Find examples of the gerund and assign them to the categories *subject, object, after prepositions.* (to assign = *zuordnen*)
- 4) Which of the ing-forms in the text are participles? Explain why.
- 5) Turn the participle construction "When asked how ..." (17,8) into an adverbial sub-clause.

- 6) Explain why the participle construction in the following sentence (strictly speaking) contains a mistake: "Looking back, maybe 45 quid for an advertisement was a little too cheap." (17,22-23)
- 7) Use the underlined words or other interesting words and phrases of the text as starting points for extending your active vocabulary. For example:
  - Check the entries *top* and *bottom* (17,7) in your dictionary and be amazed at the variety of phrases and meanings you can find there. (*Why is Spongebob's habitat named Bikini Bottom? Explain the pun.*)
  - What is the difference between *to compare sb with* and *to compare sb to* (17,26-27)?
  - Which version is correct - *to play piano* (17,8-9) or *to play the piano* (17,11)?
  - Classic or classical - is there any difference in meaning? (17,28) Consult your dictionary. What about historic / historical, magic / magical? Are there any rules? How do you form the adverbs of adjectives ending with -ic/-ical?
  - Find out what is special about the sentence structure in "Mika told **Spot on** that this was when music became really important to him" (16,28-30) and, in your further reading, be on the lookout for similar sentence patterns. You can find similar structures in *Cornelsen English Grammar*, pp. 220-221 (Hervorhebung) or in Michael Swan, *Practical English Usage*, §131 (cleft sentences).

#### NON-LANGUAGE TASKS

- 1) Listen to Mika's song "Grace Kelly" at <http://myspace.com/mikamyspace>. If you want to understand the lyrics at all it might be a good idea to have the printed text handy:-) <http://tinyurl.com/25cfcgw>
- 2) This song deals with Mika's attempts to get a record contract. It could be argued that the song also has a more general message. Explain. Use the text on page 18 as a starting point.
- 3) Write a text about the importance of "being yourself" (poem, song, essay etc.).
- 4) Read the short info boxes on Grace Kelly and Freddie Mercury. Then work on a biographical profile of either Grace Kelly or Freddie Mercury and present it to the class.
- 5) Do research (www, school library) to find out more about the civil war in the Lebanon.
- 6) In your dictionary, find the English names (and their correct pronunciations) of the states of the Middle East.
- 7) Mini project: Why is it "Naher Osten" in German but "Middle East" in English?

