

AYUMI HAMASAKI

http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/a/ayumi_hamasaki.html

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Ayumi Hamasaki, a.k.a. "Ayu", is dubbed "the Empress of Japanese Pop". She is hugely popular in Japan and is one of the country's few singers ever to become known overseas. She was born in 1978 on Japan's southern island Kyushu. She moved to Tokyo when she was 14 because she wanted to become a superstar. After a brief spell as a model, she got into singing.

In 1998, she released several singles that did OK in the Japanese charts, but did not give her the fame she desired. Her 1999 debut album 'A Song for XX' debuted at number one in the music charts and stayed there for four weeks in a row. Ayu had arrived and her adoring fans loved her. She quickly became an icon and a style sensation.

She has sold over 50 million records, making her one of Japan's best-selling singers ever. She holds the record for a Japanese female having the most number-one singles and for having a number-one single every year for ten consecutive years. Her music videos are the most extravagant and expensive ever made by a non-American.

In 2008, Hamasaki revealed that she had become totally deaf in one ear, and that her condition was permanent. Despite this setback, she stated that she would continue singing. She told her fans that she would "not give up" on them, and that "as a professional", she would like to "deliver the best performance for everyone".

243 words

Flesch Kinkaid 9.2

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'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. a.k.a. | a. short time |
| 2. dubbed | b. consecutively |
| 3. brief spell | c. wanted |
| 4. desired | d. called |
| 5. in a row | e. success |
| 6. sensation | f. also known as |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 7. holds | g. give |
| 8. consecutive | h. flashy |
| 9. extravagant | i. has |
| 10. totally | j. lifelong |
| 11. permanent | k. in a row |
| 12. deliver | l. completely |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. She is hugely | a. setback |
| 2. a brief | b. into singing |
| 3. she got | c. consecutive years |
| 4. singles that | d. a row |
| 5. four weeks in | e. spell as a model |
| 6. She holds | f. in one ear |
| 7. every year for ten | g. popular in Japan |
| 8. the most extravagant and | h. the record |
| 9. totally deaf | i. did OK |
| 10. Despite this | j. expensive ever made |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Ayumi Hamasaki, _____, is dubbed "the Empress of Japanese Pop". She is _____ in Japan and is one of the country's few singers _____ known overseas. She was born in 1978 on Japan's southern island Kyushu. She moved to Tokyo when she was 14 because she wanted to become a superstar. After _____ a model, she got into singing.

In 1998, she released several singles _____ in the Japanese charts, but did not give her the fame _____. Her 1999 debut album 'A Song for XX' debuted at number one in the music charts and stayed there for four _____. Ayu had arrived and her adoring fans loved her. She quickly became an icon and a _____.

She has sold over 50 million records, making _____ Japan's best-selling singers ever. She _____ a Japanese female having the most number-one singles and for having a number-one single _____ ten consecutive years. Her music videos are the most extravagant and expensive _____ non-American.

In 2008, Hamasaki revealed that she had _____ in one ear, and that her condition was permanent. Despite _____ stated that she would continue singing. She told her fans that she would "not give _____, and that "as a professional", she would like _____ best performance for everyone".

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of italics.

Ayumi Hamasaki, a.k.a. "Ayu", is *dubbed / dabbed* "the Empress of Japanese Pop". She is *hugely / huge* popular in Japan and is one of the country's few singers ever to become *knowing / known* overseas. She was born in 1978 on Japan's southern island Kyushu. She moved to Tokyo when she was 14 because she wanted to become a superstar. After a brief *spell / spill* as a model, she got into singing.

In 1998, she released several singles that *did / made* OK in the Japanese charts, but did not give her the *famous / fame* she desired. Her 1999 debut album 'A Song for XX' debuted at number one in the music charts and stayed *here / there* for four weeks in a row. Ayu had arrived and her adoring fans *loved / loathed* her. She quickly became an icon and a style sensation.

She has sold over 50 million records, making her *one / once* of Japan's best-selling singers ever. She *holding / holds* the record for a Japanese female having the most number-one singles and for having a number-one single every year *for / from* ten consecutive years. Her music videos are the most extravagant and *expensive / expense* ever made by a non-American.

In 2008, Hamasaki revealed that she had become *totally / total* deaf in one ear, and that her condition was permanent. Despite *this / these* setback, she stated that she would continue *songs / singing*. She told her fans that she would "not give *over / up*" on them, and that "as a professional", she would like to "deliver the best performance for everyone".

SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. "Ayu", is dbdbue "the Empress of Japanese Pop"
2. She is ehyulg popular in Japan
3. she wanted to become a usersptra
4. a brief lpseI as a model

Paragraph 2

5. she released valseer singles
6. the fame she ieddres
7. uddtebe at number one in the music charts
8. She quickly became an icon and a style noseansti

Paragraph 3

9. one of Japan's best-nlligse singers ever
10. She losdh the record
11. for ten stoeucvicen years
12. the most gnvtateaxra

Paragraph 4

13. she had become tyoallt deaf in one ear
14. Despite this cbkesat
15. as a laepsoosfinr
16. deliver the best pfcrrenaome for everyone

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () In 2008, Hamasaki revealed that she had become totally deaf in one ear, and that her condition was
- () Japanese female having the most number-one singles and for having a number-one single every year for ten
- () at number one in the music charts and stayed there for four weeks in a row. Ayu had arrived and her adoring
- () Japan's southern island Kyushu. She moved to Tokyo when she was 14 because she wanted to become a
- () superstar. After a brief spell as a model, she got into singing.
- () consecutive years. Her music videos are the most extravagant and expensive ever made by a non-American.
- () In 1998, she released several singles that did
- () She has sold over 50 million records, making her one of Japan's best-selling singers ever. She holds the record for a
- () popular in Japan and is one of the country's few singers ever to become known overseas. She was born in 1978 on
- () fans loved her. She quickly became an icon and a style sensation.
- () OK in the Japanese charts, but did not give her the fame she desired. Her 1999 debut album 'A Song for XX' debuted
- () that she would "not give up" on them, and that "as a professional", she would like to "deliver the best
- () performance for everyone".
- () permanent. Despite this setback, she stated that she would continue singing. She told her fans
- (**1**) Ayumi Hamasaki, a.k.a. "Ayu", is dubbed "the Empress of Japanese Pop". She is hugely

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. the " dubbed Pop Japanese of Empress "

2. in popular hugely is She Japan

3. OK released singles did she several that

4. one number at debuted charts music the in

5. sensation icon She and quickly a became style an

6. year every years consecutive ten for

7. music are most Her videos the extravagant

8. ear one in deaf totally become had she

9. would up her she give told that not She fans

10. everyone for performance best the deliver

DISCUSSION (Write your questions):

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

1. What do you know about Ayumi Hamasaki?
2. Would you like to meet Ayumi Hamasaki?
3. What would you like to know about Ayumi Hamasaki and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your questions):

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

1. What did you learn from this text about Ayumi Hamasaki?
2. What questions would you like to ask Ayumi Hamasaki?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

THE AYUMI HAMASAKI SURVEY:

Write five questions about Ayumi Hamasaki in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

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

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

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 Ayumi Hamasaki. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. AYUMI HAMASAKI POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Ayumi Hamasaki. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Ayumi Hamasaki. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she does every day and what she thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Ayumi Hamasaki. Ask her three questions about her life. Give her three suggestions on what she should do in her future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Ayumi Hamasaki expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|----|---------------|
| 1. | a.k.a. | a. | also known as |
| 2. | dubbed | b. | called |
| 3. | brief spell | c. | short time |
| 4. | desired | d. | wanted |
| 5. | in a row | e. | consecutively |
| 6. | sensation | f. | success |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----|------------|
| 7. | holds | g. | has |
| 8. | consecutive | h. | in a row |
| 9. | extravagant | i. | flashy |
| 10. | totally | j. | completely |
| 11. | permanent | k. | lifelong |
| 12. | deliver | l. | give |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1. | She is hugely | a. | popular in Japan |
| 2. | a brief | b. | spell as a model |
| 3. | she got | c. | into singing |
| 4. | singles that | d. | did OK |
| 5. | four weeks in | e. | a row |
| 6. | She holds | f. | the record |
| 7. | every year for ten | g. | consecutive years |
| 8. | the most extravagant and | h. | expensive ever made |
| 9. | totally deaf | i. | in one ear |
| 10. | Despite this | j. | setback |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.