

# JAY CHOU

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Jay Chou is a Taiwanese singer, songwriter, actor, and movie director. He has won three World Music Awards and is a big star throughout Asia. He is a trained classical musician who has successfully crossed over into pop, and combines Western and Chinese styles. He has sold more than 25 million albums and has a successful movie career. Chou has a growing influence on Chinese culture.

Chou was born in 1979 and grew up in Taiwan. He started learning the piano when he was four. He loved music and recorded sounds and songs on the tape recorder he carried everywhere. He studied piano and cello at high school and began to write the music and lyrics to pop songs. He found it easy to combine classical with pop.

In 1998, Chou appeared on a TV talent show playing the piano. His piano composition impressed a top judge, who offered him a contract to write pop songs. He spent the next two years in the studio and learnt the techniques of song production. The studio manager encouraged him to become a singer. In 2000, he released his debut album 'Jay'.

Chou became an overnight success. He releases a new album every year, all of which sell millions. He has won more than 350 music awards in Asia. He also wrote the official song for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. His acting career is also taking off. He won a Best Newcomer award for his debut role in 'Initial D' in 2005.

249 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 7.4

**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. big     | a. increasing |
| 2. styles  | b. huge       |
| 3. growing | c. words      |
| 4. loved   | d. genres     |
| 5. lyrics  | e. mix        |
| 6. combine | f. adored     |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 7. impressed   | g. urged            |
| 8. learnt      | h. doing well       |
| 9. encouraged  | i. part             |
| 10. overnight  | j. had an impact on |
| 11. taking off | k. instant          |
| 12. role       | l. grasped          |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He is a trained                 | a. of song production    |
| 2. combines Western                | b. classical musician    |
| 3. Chou has a growing influence    | c. on a TV talent show   |
| 4. recorded                        | d. and Chinese styles    |
| 5. write the music and             | e. success               |
| 6. Chou appeared                   | f. sounds and songs      |
| 7. His piano composition impressed | g. 2008 Beijing Olympics |
| 8. learnt the techniques           | h. lyrics to pop songs   |
| 9. Chou became an overnight        | i. a top judge           |
| 10. the official song for the      | j. on Chinese culture    |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Jay Chou is a Taiwanese singer, songwriter, actor, \_\_\_\_\_.

He has won three World Music Awards and is a big \_\_\_\_\_ Asia. He is a trained classical musician who has successfully \_\_\_\_\_ pop, and combines Western and Chinese styles. He has sold more than 25 million albums and has a successful movie career. Chou has a \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese culture.

Chou was born in 1979 and grew up in Taiwan. He \_\_\_\_\_ piano when he was four. He loved music and recorded sounds and \_\_\_\_\_ recorder he carried everywhere. He studied piano and cello at high school and began to write the music \_\_\_\_\_ songs. He found it \_\_\_\_\_ classical with pop.

In 1998, Chou \_\_\_\_\_ TV talent show playing the piano. His piano composition impressed a top judge, who offered him a \_\_\_\_\_ pop songs. He spent the next two years in the studio and learnt the \_\_\_\_\_ song production. The studio manager \_\_\_\_\_ to become a singer. In 2000, he released his debut album 'Jay'.

Chou became an \_\_\_\_\_. He releases a new album every year, \_\_\_\_\_ millions. He has won more than 350 music awards in Asia. He also wrote the \_\_\_\_\_ the 2008 Beijing Olympics. His acting career is also taking off. He won a Best Newcomer award for \_\_\_\_\_ 'Initial D' in 2005.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Jay Chou is a Taiwanese singer, songwriter, actor, and movie *direction / director*. He *has / had* won three World Music Awards and is a big star throughout Asia. He is a trained *classic / classical* musician who has successfully crossed over into pop, and combines Western and Chinese styles. He has sold more than 25 million albums and has a successful movie career. Chou has a *growing / grown* influence on Chinese culture.

Chou was born in 1979 and *grown / grew* up in Taiwan. He started learning the piano when he was four. He loved music and recorded sounds and *sings / songs* on the tape recorder he carried everywhere. He *studying / studied* piano and cello at high school and began to write the music and lyrics to pop songs. He found it easy *to combine / combination* classical with pop.

In 1998, Chou appeared on a TV *talented / talent* show playing the piano. His piano composition impressed a top judge, who offered him a contract *to / for* write pop songs. He spent the next two years *in / on* the studio and learnt the techniques of song production. The studio manager *encouraging / encouraged* him to become a singer. In 2000, he released his debut album 'Jay'.

Chou became an overnight *successes / success*. He releases a new album every year, *all / every* of which sell millions. He has won more than 350 music awards in Asia. He also wrote the *office / official* song for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. His acting career is also *taking / taken* off. He won a Best Newcomer award for his debut role in 'Initial D' in 2005.

## SPELLING:

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

### *Paragraph 1*

1. movie errdotic
2. a trained classical cnmsiuai
3. has a elussccfsu movie career
4. Chinese eutlruc

### *Paragraph 2*

5. eilgnnar the piano
6. tape odrrcree
7. islcyr to pop songs
8. He found it easy to cmnboei classical with pop

### *Paragraph 3*

9. a TV entlta show
10. offered him a atocrnt
11. learnt the ghuscetine of song production
12. he rdaelees his debut album

### *Paragraph 4*

13. Chou became an viehrnotg success
14. He esreasle a new album every year
15. the oialcfff song for the 2008 Beijing Olympics
16. He won a Best ecmerwoN award

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) and Chinese styles. He has sold more than 25 million albums and has a successful movie
- ( ) Chou was born in 1979 and grew up in Taiwan. He started learning the piano when he was four. He loved
- ( ) of song production. The studio manager encouraged him to become a singer. In 2000, he released his debut album 'Jay'.
- ( ) music and recorded sounds and songs on the tape
- ( ) Chou became an overnight success. He releases a new album every year, all of which sell millions. He has won
- ( ) more than 350 music awards in Asia. He also wrote the official song for the 2008 Beijing
- ( ) career. Chou has a growing influence on Chinese culture.
- ( ) recorder he carried everywhere. He studied piano and cello at high school
- ( **1** ) Jay Chou is a Taiwanese singer, songwriter, actor, and movie director. He has won three World Music Awards and is a big
- ( ) and began to write the music and lyrics to pop songs. He found it easy to combine classical with pop.
- ( ) In 1998, Chou appeared on a TV talent show playing the piano. His piano composition impressed a top judge, who offered
- ( ) crossed over into pop, and combines Western
- ( ) him a contract to write pop songs. He spent the next two years in the studio and learnt the techniques
- ( ) star throughout Asia. He is a trained classical musician who has successfully
- ( ) Olympics. His acting career is also taking off. He won a Best Newcomer award for his debut role in 'Initial D' in 2005.

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. is He musician classical trained a

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2. influence growing a has Chou culture Chinese on

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3. four piano He when started he learning was the

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4. write and pop to music to began the lyrics songs

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5. pop to He combine found classical it with easy

---

6. TV playing Chou a show piano on talent the appeared

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7. spent in the the next studio two He years

---

8. studio become manager a encouraged singer him The to

---

9. awards He more music Asia won 350 in has than

---

10. Olympics Beijing 2008 the for song official the

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## JAY CHOU DISCUSSION:

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

1. What do you know about Jay Chou?
2. Would you like to have met Jay Chou?
3. What would you like to know about Jay Chou and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## JAY CHOU DISCUSSION:

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

1. What did you learn from this text about Jay Chou?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Jay Chou?
3. What would his answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## JAY CHOU SURVEY:

Write five questions about Jay Chou 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.**

**WRITING:**

Write about Jay Chou for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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## 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 Jay Chou. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. JAY CHOU POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Jay Chou. 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 Jay Chou. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he did every day and what he thought 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 Jay Chou. Ask him three questions about his life. Tell him how important he is in today's world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Jay Chou expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. big     | a. huge       |
| 2. styles  | b. genres     |
| 3. growing | c. increasing |
| 4. loved   | d. adored     |
| 5. lyrics  | e. words      |
| 6. combine | f. mix        |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 7. impressed   | g. had an impact on |
| 8. learnt      | h. grasped          |
| 9. encouraged  | i. urged            |
| 10. overnight  | j. instant          |
| 11. taking off | k. doing well       |
| 12. role       | l. part             |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He is a trained                 | a. classical musician    |
| 2. combines Western                | b. and Chinese styles    |
| 3. Chou has a growing influence    | c. on Chinese culture    |
| 4. recorded                        | d. sounds and songs      |
| 5. write the music and             | e. lyrics to pop songs   |
| 6. Chou appeared                   | f. on a TV talent show   |
| 7. His piano composition impressed | g. a top judge           |
| 8. learnt the techniques           | h. of song production    |
| 9. Chou became an overnight        | i. success               |
| 10. the official song for the      | j. 2008 Beijing Olympics |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.