

UNIT 9: HEROES

Task 1. Oral production:

Which of these people is the most heroic? Say why.

- 1** A climber who reaches the top of Mt Everest without oxygen.
- 2** A nurse who has never had a day off sick in 25 years.
- 3** A businessperson who has created thousands of jobs.

Discuss with your partner.

Can you think of a self-made man or woman you admire?

I've always admired ..., a self-made man who made it by the age of ...

Who would you say are some of your heroes or heroines? Why do you admire them?

I really admire ... She's the total package because ...

Task 2. Oral coproduction:

Discuss the questions with a partner.

- 1 Can you think of an unsung hero you know?
What are they like?

I think my neighbour is an unsung hero – she always helps the old people in our apartments with their shopping and checks on them every day.

- 2 Have you ever had a moment of glory?
3 Have you ever had to put on a brave face?
4 Can you think of a hero you used to admire
but who had feet of clay?

Task 3. Oral coproduction.

Answer the questions.

- 1 Do you have any fallen idols? Describe them.
I used to idolise Oscar Pistorius, the Paralympic runner, then he was accused of murdering his girlfriend and ...
2 Who is your favourite folk hero? Why?
3 Which modern icon do you most admire?

Task 4. Oral production:

Who are some of your country's national heroines? Do you think their heroic status is justified?

... is a national heroine that comes to mind and I believe it's a well-deserved status. She is known to have ...

Task 5. Oral production.

What characteristics do you think a modern-day personal hero should have? Choose the ones you consider important and add some more of your own.



have a sense of humour
 avoid conflict be open to bribery
 be compassionate give up easily be resilient
 be courageous be truthful show humility

Task 6. Oral coproduction:

Interaction: how to express disappointment

- 6a** Think of a person/hero you really admired but who let you down and you no longer admire. First, choose three characteristics that made you admire this person from the box below and make notes saying why.

truthful and honest courageous compassionate brave resilient modest

Example: resilient

I really admired X. She was such a fighter. She had to overcome all kinds of problems when she was a child, but she managed to achieve great success despite her disabilities.

- 6b** Choose the reasons why you no longer admire this person from the box below and make notes saying why.

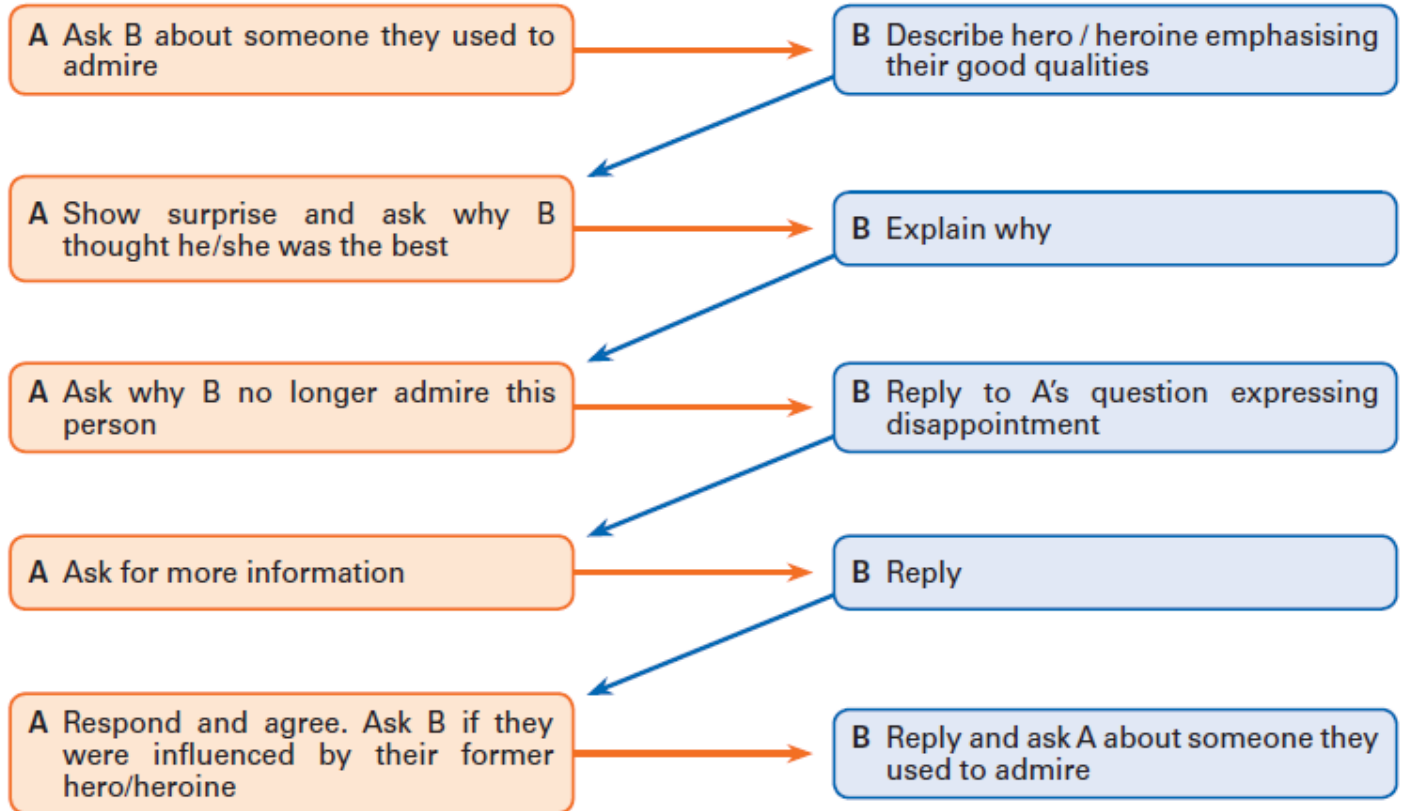
they cheated and didn't admit it they betrayed a cause
 they showed off after achieving success they showed weakness

Example: showing off after achieving success

I used to admire Y. She was the best ... But later, success went to her head and she started acting like a real diva. She's even rude to people when they express their admiration for her.

Task 7. Oral coproduction:

- 7** Work with a partner. Talk about a former personal hero you no longer admire. Use your notes from activities 6a and 6b and include emphatic expressions. Structure your interaction according to the flow chart below. Swap roles.



Task 8. Final task. Oral coproduction (4 minutes).

Imagine you have € 50,000 to spend on a prize for a “local hero”. Check the four people that are introduced in activity 7, page 97 and make notes about the candidates. Choose one candidate each and defend why your candidate might deserve the prize and what they could do with the money.

Use the language in activity 6, page 97 to wrap up the discussion.