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BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

More 6 Minute English



June 2008

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March - April 2008



Ghost writers

This week, Amber and Callum chat about 'ghost writing'. What does the verb 'to ghost write' mean? (It's nothing to do with ghost stories, ghost trains or ghost towns ...) And why do celebrities these days tend to use ghost writers to write their life stories for them? Find out.

This week's question: The word 'autobiography' comes from the Greek for:

- a) 'life pictures'
- b) 'life' and 'self'
- c) 'self', 'life' and 'write'

Listen out for the answer at the end of the programme!

Listen

 Ghost writing

Vocabulary from the programme

to ghost write

to write a book or article etc. for another person, so that they can pretend it is their own

no-holds-barred

without any limits or controls

stilted style

a style that doesn't flow very well, that doesn't sound natural or elegant

coherent

well-structured

to be credited

to have your contribution to something (eg. to writing a book) acknowledged

becoming more mainstream

if something is 'becoming more mainstream', it is thought to be less shocking than before because more people know about it and accept it

stepping out of the closet

if something is 'stepping out of the closet', it is no longer a secret

to be savvy

if you're savvy about something, you know and understand it

Extras

 Download this programme (mp3 - 1.8 MB)

More on ghost writing*

Read about Robert Harris's political thriller *The Ghost**

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