

UNIT 3 *Read and Write*



En esta unidad vas a:

- leer un artículo sobre autores anónimos que escriben a sueldo para otras personas
- aprender a escribir en inglés utilizando sinónimos.



Excuse me, who wrote your autobiography?

When Ronald Reagan's autobiography *An American Life* was published in 1990, the former US president allegedly said, 'I hear it's a terrific book. One of these days I'm going to read it myself!' Reagan's name appeared on the cover of the book, but he wasn't talking about his own skills as a writer. He was admitting that he wasn't the sole author of his own autobiography. So were his readers disappointed? Was the real writer angry? Not at all. In fact, the real writer was Robert Lindsey, a former *New York Times* correspondent, and ghostwriting – where a writer writes a book for another person to publish as their own work – is common practice in publishing.

Bookshops are filled with autobiographies written at least in part by ghostwriters, including David Beckham's best-selling *My Side*. And according to Beckham's ghostwriter, Tom Watt, there's nothing wrong with that. Watt spent hours in conversation with Beckham and the words on the page, Watt says, are David's. The ghostwriter's job is to structure the material and give it a distinctive style and identity. Some publishers say that everyone knows that most books by politicians and celebrities are ghostwritten, so they don't put the ghostwriter's name on the cover.

Yet it's largely thanks to the success of ghostwritten celebrity autobiographies that publishers now have a lucrative new genre: the celebrity novel. One well-known example, *Swan*, is a story about five gorgeous young models who want to be famous, and it's got the supermodel Naomi Campbell's name on the cover. However, Campbell told journalists that she was too busy to write a book and it was soon revealed that the novel was the work of ghostwriter Caroline Upcher. Campbell's agent said that Naomi was very much the author but Caroline was the writer.

As well as turning celebrities into authors, it appears that some publishers have also got supernatural powers. The popular American author V C Andrews died in 1986. However, it seems that her death hasn't stopped her from writing. In fact, Andrews has managed to write more novels from beyond the grave than she wrote before she died. How does she do it? As you would expect of an author who has died, she's got a ghostwriter! ■

1 Relaciona los títulos con los párrafos.

Death is no obstacle to successful publishing!

Paragraph ____

A winner on the pitch and on the bookshelves.

Paragraph ____

Writing for the rich and famous.

Paragraph ____

Too busy to tell a story.

Paragraph ____

2 Indica si las siguientes afirmaciones son verdaderas (true) o falsas (false).

- 1 Ronald Reagan helped to write Robert Lindsey's autobiography. _____
- 2 Ghostwriting is unusual in the publishing industry. _____
- 3 Sales of David Beckham's *My Side* were disappointing. _____
- 4 David Beckham and Tom Watt spent time talking together. _____
- 5 Publishers think people know that many books are written by ghostwriters. _____
- 6 Naomi Campbell said that she didn't have time to write a novel. _____
- 7 Caroline Upcher was Naomi Campbell's agent. _____
- 8 Novels are still published in V C Andrews's name many years after her death. _____

3 Completa las frases con las palabras del recuadro.

about about of of to to with with

- 1 David Beckham talked _____ his life to help Tom Watt to write *My Side*.
- 2 Caroline Upcher was not the author _____ *My Side*.
- 3 Shops are filled _____ books about the lives of the rich and famous.
- 4 According _____ Naomi Campbell's agent, Naomi was the author of *Swan* but Caroline Upcher was the writer.
- 5 Tom Watt says there's nothing wrong _____ the practice of ghostwriting.
- 6 Some books are best-sellers thanks _____ the contribution of the ghostwriter.
- 7 The success _____ ghostwritten books has brought financial rewards to the publishing industry.
- 8 *Swan* is a story _____ a group of beautiful models.

Words to remember

4 Busca las palabras en el texto.



Fantastic (paragraph 1).
terrific

- 1 Only (paragraph 1).

- 2 Reporter (paragraph 1).

- 3 Usual (paragraph 1).

- 4 Famous people (paragraph 2).

- 5 Mostly (paragraph 3).

- 6 Tomb (paragraph 4).

Using synonyms to avoid repetition

Los adjetivos *depressed*, *disappointed* y *upset* se pueden utilizar como sinónimos de *unhappy*.

depressed deprimido/a	disappointed decepcionado/a
unhappy triste	upset disgustado/a

So were his readers disappointed?

¿Y decepcionó a sus lectores?

Los adjetivos *annoyed*, *cross* y *furious* se pueden emplear como sinónimos de *angry*.

angry enfadado/a	annoyed molesto/a
cross enfadado/a	furious furioso/a

Was the real writer angry?

¿Se enfadó el verdadero escritor?

Los adjetivos *attractive*, *gorgeous* y *pretty* se pueden utilizar como sinónimos de *beautiful*. *Beautiful* y *pretty* no se suelen utilizar para referirse a hombres, solo a mujeres.

attractive atractivo/a	beautiful guapa	gorgeous guapísimo/a	pretty bonita
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It's a story about five gorgeous young models.

La historia trata sobre cinco guapísimas modelos jóvenes.

Los adjetivos *popular*, *renowned* y *well known* se pueden emplear como sinónimos de *famous*.

famous famoso/a	popular popular	renowned célebre	well known conocido/a
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The popular American author V C Andrews died in 1986.

La popular escritora estadounidense V.C. Andrews murió en 1986.

1 Elige las palabras correctas.

Saint George's Day

The date of April 23rd is **1 well known / upset** as the day on which both Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare died. It's also the day when several countries and regions such as England, Aragon and Catalonia celebrate Saint George's Day. However, it's only in Catalonia that April 23rd is a celebration of both literature and of Saint George.

On this day, Catalan men have traditionally given **2 annoyed / beautiful** red roses to their partners and Catalan women have given books to theirs. These days, books are given and received by both sexes on April 23rd and it's one of the most **3 popular / cross** customs in Catalonia.

However, it's also a day when people who regularly buy books might get **4 annoyed / gorgeous** because the bookshops are so crowded. But people looking for the latest book by a **5 famous / pretty** author are never **6 furious / disappointed** because the Catalan and Spanish publishers release many new books just before April 23rd. In fact, 50% of all books sold every year in Catalonia are sold on this special day. It's certainly an original way of celebrating Saint George's Day!

2 Completa las frases.



We've got three beautiful daughters and a **gorgeous** baby son.

- 1 She was very angry when I broke her MP3 player. In fact, she was f_____.
- 2 He's been really unhappy since he got divorced. He's quite d_____.
- 3 She looked b_____. She was wearing a very pretty dress.
- 4 The area is r_____ for its natural beauty. It's especially popular with hikers.
- 5 He's got dark hair and gorgeous eyes. He's very a_____.