

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 06

Routines of a Music Star

Key words & expressions · English + Español

15 words

Your English Toolbox

1

a gig

un bolo · una actuación · un concierto**DEF**

a live music performance; any paid professional booking

*Central to the vocabulary of the music world — a gig can be anything from a small pub show to a stadium concert.***ES**

Una actuación musical en vivo; cualquier reserva profesional remunerada.

Central en el vocabulario del mundo de la música — puede ser desde un pequeño bar hasta un estadio.

She has two gigs this weekend — one on Friday night and one on Sunday afternoon.

She has two gigs this weekend — one on Friday night and one on Sunday afternoon. -> Tiene dos bolos este fin de semana — uno el viernes por la noche y otro el domingo por la tarde.

Getting your first paid gig is a milestone every musician remembers.

Getting your first paid gig is a milestone every musician remembers. -> Conseguir tu primer bolo pagado es un hito que todo músico recuerda.

2

stage fright

pánico escénico · miedo al escenario**DEF**

intense anxiety or fear about performing in public

*Affects even the most famous performers — Barbra Streisand famously suffered severe stage fright. It is not weakness; it is the body preparing itself.***ES**

Ansiedad o miedo intenso ante actuar en público.

Afecta incluso a los artistas más famosos. No es debilidad; es el cuerpo preparándose.

Stage fright hit her hardest when she performed for the very first time.

Stage fright hit her hardest when she performed for the very first time. -> El pánico escénico la golpeó con más fuerza cuando actuó por primera vez.

He turned his stage fright into energy — the nervousness became fuel.

He turned his stage fright into energy — the nervousness became fuel. -> Convirtió su pánico escénico en energía — los nervios se convirtieron en combustible.

3

to take off

despegar · triunfar · cobrar vuelo

DEF

(of a career/idea) to suddenly become very successful or popular

The overnight success myth is almost always false — careers take off after years of invisible work, not out of nowhere.

ES

De repente volverse muy exitoso o popular.

El mito del éxito de la noche a la mañana casi siempre es falso — las carreras despegan después de años de trabajo invisible.

Her career really took off after one song went viral on social media.

Her career really took off after one song went viral on social media. -> Su carrera realmente despegó después de que una canción se volviera viral.

It took five years before the band's sound finally took off with audiences.

It took five years before the band's sound finally took off with audiences. -> Tardó cinco años antes de que el sonido de la banda finalmente despegara.

4

to sell out

agotar entradas · venderse · llenarse

DEF

to sell all available tickets or stock; to compromise values for success or money

Double meaning: 'we sold out the venue' (achievement) vs. 'she sold out to a record label' (betrayal of principles).

ES

Vender todas las entradas o existencias disponibles; comprometer valores por éxito.

Doble significado: 'agotamos el aforo' (logro) vs. 'se vendió' (traición de principios).

They sold out the 10,000-seat arena in under twenty minutes.

They sold out the 10,000-seat arena in under twenty minutes. -> Agotaron las entradas de un recinto de 10.000 plazas en menos de veinte minutos.

Some fans accused her of selling out when she changed her style for mainstream appeal.

Some fans accused her of selling out when she changed her style. -> Algunos fans la acusaron de venderse cuando cambió su estilo.

5

to make it big

triunfar · llegar lejos · hacerse famoso

DEF

to become very successful and widely recognised

The dream phrase of the music industry — 'making it big' implies reaching a level of fame or wealth beyond ordinary success.

ES

Volverse muy exitoso y ampliamente reconocido.

La frase soñada de la industria musical — implica alcanzar un nivel de fama más allá del éxito ordinario.

She always believed she would make it big, even when no one was listening.

She always believed she would make it big, even when no one was listening. -> Siempre creyó que triunfaría, incluso cuando nadie la escuchaba.

Making it big in the music world requires talent, timing, and a little luck.

Making it big in the music world requires talent, timing, and a little luck. -> Triunfar en el mundo de la música requiere talento, momento adecuado y un poco de suerte.

6

the limelight

el centro de atención · el foco público · el protagonismo

DEF

public attention and fame; the spotlight of celebrity life

'In the limelight' = under public scrutiny; 'out of the limelight' = living privately. Fame brings both the limelight and the loss of privacy.

ES

Atención pública y fama; el foco de la vida de las celebridades.

'En el centro de atención' = bajo escrutinio público. La fama trae tanto el protagonismo como la pérdida de privacidad.

She thrives in the limelight — every camera makes her more alive.

She thrives in the limelight — every camera makes her more alive. -> Ella florece en el centro de atención — cada cámara la hace más viva.

After years in the limelight, he stepped back and chose a private life.

After years in the limelight, he stepped back and chose a private life. -> Después de años en el foco público, dio un paso atrás y eligió una vida privada.

7 a gruelling schedule

un horario agotador · una agenda brutal · un ritmo extenuante

DEF

an extremely demanding and exhausting timetable that pushes a person to their limits

The reality behind glamour: music stars operate on gruelling schedules — flights, soundchecks, performances, interviews, all with minimal recovery time.

ES

Un horario extremadamente exigente y agotador que lleva a una persona al límite.

La realidad detrás del glamour: las estrellas de la música trabajan con horarios agotadores.

She follows a gruelling schedule — up at five every morning, in bed by midnight.

She follows a gruelling schedule — up at five every morning, in bed by midnight. -> Sigue un horario agotador — levantada a las cinco cada mañana, en cama antes de medianoche.

A gruelling schedule sounds exciting at first, but it drains you over time.

A gruelling schedule sounds exciting at first, but it drains you over time. -> Un horario agotador suena emocionante al principio, pero te agota con el tiempo.

8 to pull off

lograr · conseguir · sacar adelante

DEF

to succeed in doing something difficult or surprising

'Pulling off' a performance implies that it was genuinely difficult and could have gone wrong — the achievement has weight.

ES

Tener éxito en hacer algo difícil o sorprendente.

'Sacar adelante' una actuación implica que fue genuinamente difícil y podría haber salido mal.

She pulled off a flawless three-hour show despite a fever.

She pulled off a flawless three-hour show despite a fever. -> Logró un espectáculo impecable de tres horas a pesar de tener fiebre.

Nobody thought they could pull it off, but they performed brilliantly.

Nobody thought they could pull it off, but they performed brilliantly. -> Nadie pensó que podrían lograrlo, pero actuaron brillantemente.

9 to live up to

estar a la altura de · cumplir con las expectativas

DEF

to meet the expectations set by a reputation or promise; to be as good as expected

The pressure of fame: every performance must live up to the expectations of millions of fans.

ES

Cumplir las expectativas establecidas por una reputación.

La presión de la fama: cada actuación debe estar a la altura de las expectativas de millones de fans.

Her live show lived up to everything her studio albums had promised.

Her live show lived up to everything her studio albums had promised. -> Su espectáculo en vivo estuvo a la altura de todo lo que sus álbumes de estudio habían prometido.

The hardest part of success is living up to what people expect of you.

The hardest part of success is living up to what people expect of you. -> La parte más difícil del éxito es estar a la altura de lo que la gente espera de ti.

10 to cut through

abrirse paso · destacar entre el ruido · llegar directamente

DEF

to reach people powerfully despite noise, competition, or indifference

In the modern music industry, cutting through the noise is the central challenge — millions of songs compete for the same attention.

ES

Llegar poderosamente a la gente a pesar del ruido o la indiferencia.

En la industria musical moderna, abrirse paso entre el ruido es el desafío central.

That one raw, honest lyric cuts through every distraction and hits you in the chest.

That one raw, honest lyric cuts through every distraction. -> Esa letra cruda y honesta se abre paso entre todas las distracciones.

In a world of perfect production, authenticity is what cuts through.

In a world of perfect production, authenticity is what cuts through. -> En un mundo de producción perfecta, la autenticidad es lo que se abre paso.

11 downtime

tiempo libre · descanso · tiempo de recuperación

DEF

time spent resting or relaxing between periods of work; unscheduled free time

Critical and often neglected by high-achievers — downtime is not laziness, it is the recovery period that makes the next peak performance possible.

ES

Tiempo pasado descansando entre períodos de trabajo.

Crítico y a menudo descuidado por los de alto rendimiento — el descanso no es pereza, es el período de recuperación.

She protects her downtime fiercely — no calls, no emails, no social media.

She protects her downtime fiercely — no calls, no emails, no social media. -> Protege su tiempo libre ferozmente — sin llamadas, sin correos, sin redes sociales.

Without enough downtime, even the most talented performers start to break down.

Without enough downtime, even the most talented performers start to break down. -> Sin suficiente descanso, incluso los artistas más talentosos empiezan a derrumbarse.

12 to grind

currarse · trabajar sin descanso · matarse a trabajar

DEF

to work hard and persistently, often at a repetitive or demanding task

Modern colloquial term for the hard work behind success — 'the grind' is the daily, unglamorous effort that nobody sees.

ES

Trabajar duro y persistentemente, a menudo en una tarea repetitiva o exigente.

Término coloquial moderno para el trabajo duro detrás del éxito — 'el grind' es el esfuerzo diario y sin glamour.

She was grinding for three years before anyone noticed her music.

She was grinding for three years before anyone noticed her music. -> Se estuvo currando durante tres años antes de que alguien notara su música.

Success in music is ninety percent grind and ten percent talent.

Success in music is ninety percent grind and ten percent talent. -> El éxito en la música es un noventa por ciento de trabajo duro y un diez de talento.

13 fan base

base de seguidores · fandom · comunidad de fans

DEF

the established group of loyal fans who support an artist or performer

Building a fan base is the work of years — it requires consistent output, authenticity, and direct engagement with your audience.

ES

El grupo establecido de fans leales que apoyan a un artista.

Construir una base de seguidores requiere años de trabajo, consistencia y autenticidad.

She built her fan base entirely through social media before signing with a label.

She built her fan base entirely through social media before signing with a label. -> Construyó su base de seguidores completamente a través de las redes sociales antes de firmar con un sello.

A loyal fan base is worth more than a viral hit — it keeps supporting you long-term.

A loyal fan base is worth more than a viral hit. -> Una base de seguidores leal vale más que un éxito viral.

14 to put on

montar · organizar · producir

DEF

to organise and present a show, event, or performance

Putting on a show involves everything invisible — lighting, sound, choreography, costumes, crew — not just the performance itself.

ES

Organizar y presentar un espectáculo, evento o actuación.

Montar un espectáculo implica todo lo invisible — iluminación, sonido, coreografía, vestuario.

They put on the most spectacular show I have ever seen in my life.

They put on the most spectacular show I have ever seen in my life. -> Montaron el espectáculo más espectacular que he visto en mi vida.

Putting on a world tour costs millions and takes years to plan.

Putting on a world tour costs millions and takes years to plan. -> Montar una gira mundial cuesta millones y lleva años de planificación.

15 overnight success

éxito de la noche a la mañana · éxito fulminante

DEF

the (usually false) idea that someone became famous or successful very quickly

The term is almost always a myth — what looks like overnight success is usually the visible moment of a much longer, private struggle.

ES

La idea (generalmente falsa) de que alguien se hizo famoso muy rápidamente.

El término es casi siempre un mito — lo que parece un éxito repentino es el momento visible de una lucha mucho más larga.

People call her an overnight success, but she was writing songs for fifteen years.

People call her an overnight success, but she was writing songs for fifteen years. -> La gente la llama un éxito de la noche a la mañana, pero llevaba quince años escribiendo canciones.

There is no such thing as overnight success — only the part of the story that gets told.

There is no such thing as overnight success — only the part of the story that gets told. -> No existe el éxito de la noche a la mañana — solo la parte de la historia que se cuenta.