



Unit 6 Biographies

Compréhension à partir d'une vidéo

Comprendre la courte biographie d'un personnage célèbre – Niveau B1

Titre de la vidéo* : Alicia Keys Biography: Life and Career of the Singer and Actress

Lien vers la vidéo : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u78vejxkqYQ>

Durée : 5'55"

Sous-titres : non

** à rentrer dans le moteur de recherche si le lien ne fonctionne plus*

PART 1 Watch the video without the sound

■ Répondez en anglais aux questions suivantes.

a. What is it about?

It's about Alicia Keys's life and career.

b. What do you know about her? Describe her.

Réponse libre.

PART 2 Watch the video with the sound

1. Complétez la grille en anglais avec les informations données dans la vidéo.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Alicia Keys's real name | Alicia Augello-Cook |
| Date of birth | January 25th 1981 |
| Place of birth | New York City |
| Marital status | She is married to hip hop recording artist Swiss Beatz. |
| Children? | One son. |
| Job(s) / Activities | Singer, actress, film director |
| Music genre | R'n'B / soul |

2. Associez les albums d'Alicia Keys avec leur date de sortie.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| a. <i>As I am</i> | • | • | 2001 |
| b. <i>Girl on Fire</i> | • | • | 2003 |
| c. <i>The Diary of Alicia Keys</i> | • | • | 2005 |
| d. <i>Songs in A Minor</i> | • | • | 2007 |
| e. <i>The Element of Freedom</i> | • | • | 2009 |
| f. <i>Unplugged</i> | • | • | 2012 |
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3. Associez les albums et les chiffres de vente.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| a. <i>Songs in A minor</i> | • | • | 8,000,000 copies |
| b. <i>The Diary of Alicia Keys</i> | • | • | 3/4 of a million copies in the first week |
| c. <i>As I am</i> | • | • | 12,000,000 copies |
| d. <i>The Element of Freedom</i> | • | • | 400,000 copies in its first week |
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4. Citez les artistes avec lesquels Alicia Keys a déjà chanté.

Usher, Jack White, Jay-Z.

PART 3 Watch the video a second time

1. Répondez aux questions suivantes en français.

a. Quel est le nom de sa première maison de disques?

Columbia.

b. Qu'a fait Alicia Keys en 2006 ?

Elle s'est éloignée des projecteurs pendant quelques temps.

c. *Another Way to Die* est la chanson d'un film célèbre. Lequel?

Quantum of Solace.

d. Quel est le sujet du film pour lequel elle fut productrice?

Les femmes et le cancer du sein.

2. Présentez Alicia Keys à l'oral en anglais en utilisant les éléments des exercices précédents. .

Réponse libre.

Script de la vidéo

With every song she has us fallen in love with her. Welcome to WatchMojo.com and today we're taking a look at the life and career of Alicia Keys.

Alicia Augello-Cook was born January 25th 1981 in New York City. After learning to play piano as a child and enrolling in music class, Cook graduated as valedictorian of the Professional Performing Arts School at age sixteen. With the help of a manager and her future A&R*, Cook put together a demo and showcase. After laying a deal with Columbia records in the midnineties, she left her studies at Columbia university to pursue music.

She made her first recordings with the label under the name Alicia Keys. However she parted ways with Columbia after only two years.

She then reached out to music impresario Clive Davis who signed her to Arista records. When that company folded, she followed Davis to J Records and made contributions to the *Shaft* and *Doctor Dolittle 2* movie soundtracks in the new millennium.

Keys released her debut *Songs in A minor* in 2001.

The R'n'B and soul artist debuted number one on the billboard chart and introduced Keys as a vocal powerhouse.

It sold almost a quarter million copies in its first week and went on to sell over twelve million worldwide. On the strength of the number one hit *Fallen* and the top ten single *A Woman's Worth*, Keys became the best-selling artist of 2001 and only the second solo female actor winning five Grammy Awards in one year.

To follow up, *the Diary of Alicia Keys* did not disappoint. The album sold over half a million copies in the first week which was the best first week record of any female artist in 2003. The Grammy-winning album entered the billboard 200 at number one and eventually sold over eight million copies internationally. It also spawned four top twenty singles including the top 5 hits, *You don't know my name* and *If I ain't got you*.

The success continued the next year when she collaborated with Usher on the chart topping smatch *My Boo*.

In 2005 Keys's collection of poetry made the New York Times bestseller list. And she had another number one with the live *Unplugged* album.

2006 was a mostly quiet year for the singer and she took some time away from the spotlight. Next step Keys earned a prize for her natural acting ability in the movies *Smoking Aces* and the *Nanny Diaries*. In 2007 she continued her successful run with *As I am*.

The record went to number one and sold almost three quarters of a million copies in the first week alone and once again she received multiple Grammy nominations for the disc, its highest charting singles for the top twenty tracks like *You'll never see me again* and the number one tune *No One*.

The next year Keys teamed up with Jack White of the White Stripes for *Another Way to Die* which was the theme song for the James Bond film *Quantum of Solace*.

She also starred in the drama *The Secret Life of Bees*.

In 2009 Keys notched her fourth number one single and another Grammy for her joint effort with Jay-Z *Empire State of Mind*.

Later that year she kept her hot streak alive by dropping the *Element of Freedom*.

Premiering at the second spot of the Billboard 200, it sold over four hundred thousand copies in its first week.

The next year Keys married hip hop recording artist Swiss Beatz and gave birth to their son. She even went behind the camera to direct a film project about women with breast cancer.

But soon she was back with another record. *Girl on Fire* was unveiled in 2012 and upon its release the title track quickly began receiving widespread airplay.

Alicia Keys is a rare artist who is in a class of her own. With a successful career and a loving family, she is an inspiration to women everywhere. And she injects positivity into everything she does. Simply put, this girl is on fire.

*A&R (Artists and Repertoire): division d'un label discographique responsable de la découverte des nouveaux talents.