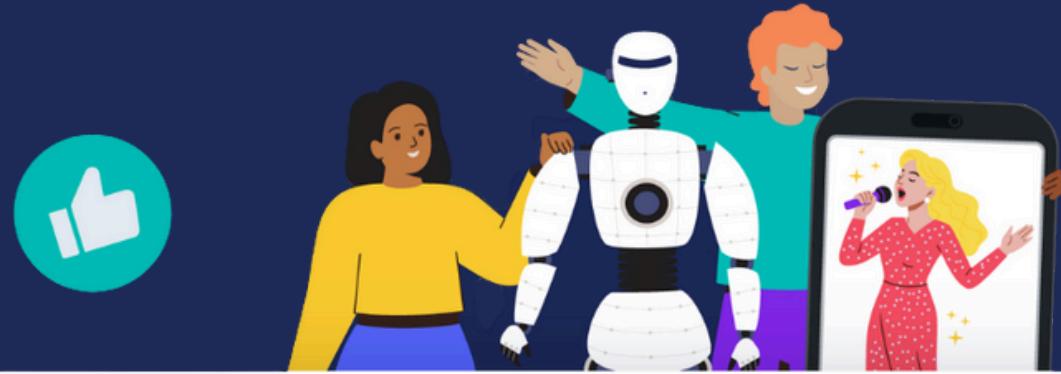




Cambridge  
Dictionary

# Word of the Year 2025



## parasocial

**adjective**



involving or relating to a connection that someone feels between themselves and a famous person they do not know, a character in a book, film, TV series, etc., or an artificial intelligence

**Explore how this word can spark vocabulary, reading, writing, and discussion activities in English lessons.**

# Why it matters to English teachers

## Vocabulary

Introduce words like stan, fandom, parasocial grief, toxic fandom.

## Reading & Writing

Analyse media, write fan messages, or short essays.

## Speaking & Debate

Discuss parasocial relationships, express opinions, use lesson vocabulary.

## Media Literacy

Explore how language reflects online culture, influencers, and AI.

**Tip:**

Use pop culture or AI examples to make lessons engaging and relevant.

# Classroom activities

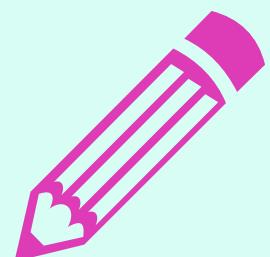
## 1. Vocabulary

Students define new words and give examples from music, TV, or gaming.



## 2. Writing Task

Write a short fan message to a celebrity, character, or AI. Discuss healthy vs. unhealthy admiration.



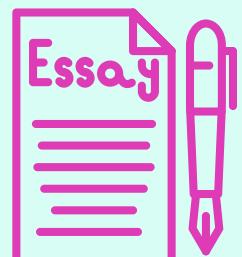
## 3. Debate

- Are parasocial bonds positive or negative?
- Can AI replace friendships?



## 4. Essay

Why are parasocial relationships more common today? Can they be positive? When might they be harmful?





Where  
your world  
grows

