H) L’interview

The interview is the written form of a question and answer session which has taken place between two people. When conducting an interview, you always have two sides:
- the interviewer: the person who asks the questions
- the interviewee: the person / group who answers the questions.

- The questions that will be asked will obviously depend on who is being interviewed, the purpose of the interview (talking about someone’s latest film or book / giving advice after an expedition or even an interview of the main character of a book etc.) and where the script of the interview will be published (target audience). This will also determine the register of language used during the interview. However, it is important to bear in mind that the interview must be interesting and meaningful. A good interviewer has always researched its material beforehand and is able to gear the questions in a specific way and direction. Therefore, you might have general questions followed by shorter answers to start with, but it must then go further than a few personal questions.
- The interview must be conducted in a STRUCTURED and logical way.
- If the interview is being published in a magazine, a short introduction and conclusion will be welcomed, maybe even a title.
- Don’t forget to thank the interviewee at the end.
- Try and use humour if appropriate.
- Include personal anecdotes from the interviewee if appropriate to lighten up the interview.
- Depending on the nature and purpose of the interview, personal views and opinions might need to be expressed, argued, illustrated, defended and even challenged by the interviewer.
- As it is the script of a conversation, use punctuation to reflect emotions and mood (like in a diary).
- And obviously... use of variety of grammar and linguistic tools as well as linking devices and a rich and specific range of vocabulary!

Imagine that you have to interview a fictional character for a teenage magazine. Opposite is the beginning of this interview and an example of layout. The brief conclusion and thanks are also missing.

NB: Remember that it would be better if you can (unless otherwise specified) to choose a Francophone character. Here, I have chosen Harry Potter as I am pretty confident that it is a point of reference for everyone.

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Interview avec Harry Potter!

Personnage sorti tout droit de l'imagination de JK Rowling, Harry Potter n'existe pas... et pourtant, l'équipe d'Ado Mag l'a rencontré...

AM : Harry, tout d'abord merci d'avoir accepté de nous rencontrer. Tu es très occupé en ce moment puisque tu es en plein tournage du prochain volet de la saga Harry Potter. Peux-tu révéler en avant première à nos lecteurs quels personnages nous quittons ?

HP : Malheureusement, vous révéler quels personnages meurent serait vous gâcher la surprise. Je préfère donc vous laisser sur votre faim et vous inviter à aller voir le film dès sa sortie au ciné. Par ailleurs, un personnage ne meurt jamais... Il reste vivant au travers des livres, non ?

AM : oui, ce n'est pas faux... C'est difficile d'être Harry Potter au quotidien ?

HP : (...)