

1 SPEAKING Read the definition of 'photobombing' and look at the photos. Then discuss the questions.

- 1 Which occurred by accident and which was staged? What makes you think this?
- 2 Why do you think photobombing has become so common?

2 Read the text about a 'professional' photobomber. What, according to the author, makes somebody want to photobomb?

An anonymous man in London has so far managed to photobomb eighteen separate live TV news events. Appearing in shot behind journalists, the mystery man pops up each time **as if** he **were** there by accident.

There is, however, little **if any** purpose for such pranks other than perhaps a kind of narcissism. After all, it's not **as though** he **has** anything to gain from his exploits. And, **even if** there is some slim chance of him becoming a full-on Z-list celebrity*, he rarely, **if ever**, does anything more than stand still or walk into frame reading a newspaper. **If in doubt** as to his range of talents, casting agents are hardly likely to be falling over themselves in a rush to sign him up based on such performances.

If anything, his appearances serve only as an annoyance for film crews, who, **if necessary**, have to re-shoot after abandoning the first take.

Re-shooting is clearly not an option for live broadcasts, however, which means we may have to put up with our unwanted guest for some time yet.

*sb who thinks they are a celebrity when they aren't

3 Read the LANGUAGE FOCUS and find an example of each structure in the text.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Phrases with *if*

- You use **as if/as though** with the present tense to talk about situations which we think can be true and with the past tense to talk about situations which we know are not true.
- You use **even if** in unexpected conditions.
- You sometimes leave out subject + be after *if* in fixed expressions: **if necessary, if any, if anything, if ever, if in doubt.**

THE MEME DICTIONARY



Photobombing: the act of appearing in a photo you shouldn't be in, accidentally or on purpose.

4 In pairs, take turns to read out the sentences choosing the appropriate phrases.

- 1 I wouldn't do anything to encourage him. *If anything / If any, I'd try to stop him.*
- 2 She won't change *even if / as though* she becomes famous.
- 3 *If in doubt / If ever* – don't do it!
- 4 He seldom, *if necessary / if ever*, is well-meaning.
- 5 He's not tight-fisted. In fact, *if ever / if anything* he's rather generous.
- 6 There's little, *if any / if anything* possibility of her becoming a conductor.
- 7 I'll ask for help *if ever / if necessary*.
- 8 He orders people around *as though / even if* he's the director.
- 9 I'm determined not to appear on live TV – *even if / as though* I've been invited personally.

5 In your notebook, rewrite the sentences with the words in brackets in the correct place.

- 1 He told me he was disappointed, but he seemed angry. (if anything)
He told me he was disappointed, but if anything, he seemed angry.
- 2 She behaves she owned the place. (as though)
- 3 I think the play will be a flop, it does get promoted on national TV. (even if)
- 4 I was told, about our plans, not to talk to a journalist. (if in any doubt)
- 5 I have to pass the test. I'll take it a hundred times. (if necessary)
- 6 Cameron seldom asks for more than one rehearsal. (if ever)
- 7 The cameraman looks he's about to fall. (as if)
- 8 There are very few people that don't love practical jokes. (if any)

6 SPEAKING For each statement below rate from 1–10 how true or untrue it is for you (1 = very true, 10 = not true at all). Then compare with a partner.

- 1 There's very little possibility, if any, of my becoming a teacher.
- 2 I sometimes act as though I know something – even when I don't.
- 3 I never give advice if in doubt as to best thing to do.
- 4 I rarely, if ever, tell lies – even white lies.
- 5 I never fail exams. If anything, I always pass with flying colours.
- 6 Even if I were lost, I wouldn't ask for directions.
- 7 I'll stay up all night working if necessary.
- 8 I never behave as if I were better than anyone else.