

## My daughter and I missed out on tickets to Taylor Swift – but I'm not sorry

### Level 2: Intermediate

#### 1 Warmer

- a. These artists are among the 30 bestselling female singers of all time, but who is the most successful of the six and the least successful? Put them in order from 1 to 6.

Adele

Ariana Grande

Pink

Rihanna

Shakira

Taylor Swift

#### 2 Key words

- a. Find the following words in the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

1. an adverb meaning *in a very worried way* \_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 1)
2. an adjective meaning *exact* \_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 1)
3. a noun meaning *something that always stays the same and never changes*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 2)
4. a noun meaning *a very clear memory of something that happened in the past*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 3)
5. an adjective meaning *achieving new results or using new methods* \_\_\_\_\_  
(paragraph 3)
6. an adjective meaning *very, very successful* \_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 3)
7. an adjective meaning *lucky* \_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 5)
8. a two-word noun meaning *someone whose behaviour is considered to be a good example for other people to copy* \_\_\_\_\_ (paragraph 6)
9. a verb meaning *think about enjoyable experiences in your past* \_\_\_\_\_  
(paragraph 8)
10. an adverb meaning *with great excitement and enthusiasm* \_\_\_\_\_  
(paragraph 8)

## My daughter and I missed out on tickets to Taylor Swift – but I'm not sorry

### Level 2: Intermediate

**Bridget Robertson**

**19 February, 2024**

- 1 It is 10.51 am on Sunday morning and I have just a few minutes to try to buy Taylor Swift Eras tickets for her last show in Melbourne. I am desperately hoping someone out there is selling tickets at the precise moment I want to buy them. It is a narrow window and, so far, I have not been not lucky.
- 2 Taylor Swift came into my life through my daughter. She was a Swiftie from the age of 10. As the only super fan in her friendship group, I had no choice but to become one too. Taylor became not just a constant in both of our lives but the thing that brought us together during my daughter's teenage years. There was the 1989 concert, where we somehow managed to get seats seven rows from the front. I will never forget the moment when Taylor liked one of my daughter's Instagram posts. The whole family enjoyed that achievement for days.
- 3 This week, as I have tried to get tickets, I have had many flashbacks to those Swiftie years. The obsession began when the album *1989* was released. My daughter was 11 and just about to start high school. As a music-loving family, *1989* was an album we all enjoyed listening to. *1989* was a groundbreaking record for Taylor, and launched her stratospheric career.
- 4 Not long after the release of *1989*, I was diagnosed with cancer and had to have major surgery. At the time, I was in the "in-between" stage that a lot of cancer patients find themselves in, where you don't know what lies ahead. Thankfully, the surgery went well.
- 5 A few weeks after the surgery, I was told that I was one of the lucky ones. Three months later, I was sitting on a white plastic chair at AAMI Park, seeing Taylor in concert at the 1989 tour. I remember thinking how fortunate I was to be doing this with my daughter. We were both excited and it is an evening that will stay in my memory forever.
- 6 My daughter is now 20. She moved out of home six months ago and is working hard to save money to travel. She is a clever and confident young woman who knows herself and is also incredibly kind and thoughtful. As a parent, I would love to take the credit but I know that it was not all me. I am certain that I have Taylor Swift to thank for being a great role model and a comfort to her when she needed it most.
- 7 Over the last couple of years, my daughter's interest in Swift seemed to have lessened as she became an adult. I asked her recently if I could get tickets to the Eras concert; would she want to go? Her response was, "Of course. Once a Swiftie, always a Swiftie!"
- 8 It is now 20 minutes after 12pm on Sunday afternoon. The concert starts in six hours, and I have missed the 12pm deadline for resale. But I am not sorry. This week, as I have tried to get tickets, I have had many flashbacks to those Swiftie years. When the concert starts, I will be reminiscing about all those times spent with my daughter, listening to Taylor in the car on the way home from school, and eagerly waiting for new songs. I will be thinking about all the young girls attending the concert with their parents. Many of them will be seeing Taylor for the first time, making memories that will last a lifetime.

## My daughter and I missed out on tickets to Taylor Swift – but I'm not sorry

### Level 2: Intermediate

#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Are these statements True (T) or False (F) according to the article? Correct any that are false.

1. The author succeeded in getting tickets for Taylor Swift's last concert in Melbourne.
2. Her daughter became a fan of Taylor Swift when she was ten.
3. At the 1989 concert, they sat near the back of the auditorium.
4. The author's cancer surgery was successful.
5. Her daughter is still living with her.
6. Her daughter is saving money to attend more concerts.
7. The author thinks that Taylor Swift is a good role model.
8. Her daughter's interest in Swift has grown over the last few years.
9. Her daughter wanted to attend the Eras concert.
10. The author missed the deadline for the resale of tickets.

#### 4 Key language

a. Rearrange the words to make phrases or short sentences from the article.

1. a / will / lifetime / memories / that / last \_\_\_\_\_
2. couple / of / over / the / years / last \_\_\_\_\_
3. ones / I / of / the / was / one / lucky \_\_\_\_\_
4. role / a / model / great \_\_\_\_\_
5. from / the / school / home / way / on \_\_\_\_\_

b. Choose three expressions from task A to write personalised sentences.

## My daughter and I missed out on tickets to Taylor Swift – but I'm not sorry

### Level 2: Intermediate

#### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “Musical memories can last a lifetime.”
- “Pop stars earn too much money.”

#### 6 In your own words

- a. Use an internet search engine to find more information about one of the singers in the warmer. Find out where they come from, how old they are, when they released their first album, which of their records was the most successful and whether they have performed in your country or near your country.
- b. Find as much information as possible. Present your findings to the class.