

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

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

1 Warmer

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

Adele

Ariana Grande

Pink

Rihanna

Shakira

Taylor Swift

2 Key words

- a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

album

cancer

flashback

obsession

release

1. A(n) _____ is a very clear memory of something that happened in the past.
2. A(n) _____ is an interest that is so strong that you think about it all the time.
3. A(n) _____ is a collection of songs.
4. If people _____ music, they put it on the market for people to buy.
5. _____ is a serious illness when a group of cells in the body increases in an uncontrolled way.

clever

fortunate

lifetime

response

role model

6. If you are _____, you are lucky.
7. If you are _____, you are intelligent.
8. A(n) _____ is someone who is a good example for other people to copy.
9. A(n) _____ is an answer to a question.
10. If something lasts a _____, it lasts for your whole life.

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

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

Bridget Robertson

19 February, 2024

- 1 It is 10:51 a.m. 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 hope someone is selling tickets at the exact moment I want to buy them. So far, I have not been lucky.
- 2 Taylor Swift came into my life through my daughter. She was a Swiftie from the age of 10. Taylor brought us together during my daughter's teenage years. There was the 1989 concert, where we managed to get seats seven rows from the front. And I will never forget when Taylor liked one of my daughter's Instagram posts.
- 3 This week, as I have tried to get tickets, I have had many flashbacks to those Swiftie years. The obsession began when Taylor Swift released the album 1989. 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.
- 4 Not long after the release of 1989, I was diagnosed with cancer, and I had to have major surgery. Thankfully, the surgery went well. Three months later, I was at AAMI Park, seeing Taylor in concert at the 1989 tour. I remember thinking how fortunate I was to do this with my daughter. We were both excited, and it was an evening that will stay in my memory forever.
- 5 My daughter is now 20. She is a clever and confident young woman. I have Taylor Swift to thank for being a great role model and a comfort to her when she needed it most.
- 6 Over the last couple of years, my daughter's interest in Swift has reduced. But 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!"
- 7 It is now 20 minutes after 12pm on Sunday afternoon. The concert starts in six hours, and I didn't get any tickets. But I am not sorry. When the concert starts, I will remember all those times spent with my daughter, listening to Taylor in the car on the way home from school. I will think about all the young girls attending the concert with their parents. Many of them will see Taylor for the first time, making memories that will last a lifetime.

© Guardian News and Media 2024
First published in *The Guardian*, 19/02/2024

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

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

3 Comprehension check

a. Answer these questions about the text.

1. How long did the author have to buy the Taylor Swift tickets?
2. How old was her daughter when she became a Taylor Swift fan?
3. What will the author never forget?
4. When did her obsession with Taylor Swift begin?
5. Why did the author have to have major surgery?
6. How old is her daughter now?
7. When does the concert start?
8. What will the author be thinking about when the concert starts?

4 Key language

a. Match the verbs in column A with the noun phrases in column B to form collocations from the text.

A	B
1. have	memories
2. get	surgery
3. attend	tickets
4. make	a concert

b. Use two collocations from task A to complete the sentences.

1. When you have a shared interest with your parents, you _____ that will last forever.
2. When the child broke his arm and will _____ to repair it.
3. It isn't easy to _____ for concerts of famous singers or bands.
4. Some people have to drive to another city to _____.

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

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

5 Discussion

a. Discuss these questions.

- Are concert tickets too expensive? Why (not)?
- What singer or band do you want to see in concert? Why?

6 In your own words

a. Use an internet search engine to find more information about Taylor Swift or their favourite band or singer. Find this information:

- How old is (are) she (he/they)?
- Where is (are) she (he/they) from?
- Is (Are) she (he/they) on tour now? Are the tickets expensive?

b. Add any other information you can find. Report your findings to the class.