

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

### Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate – Teacher's notes

**Article summary:** The article describes how trying to buy tickets for a pop concert reminded the author of the relationship a particular musical artist created between her and her (now grown-up) daughter.

**Time:** 45–60 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking

**Language focus:** Vocabulary

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

#### 1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the topic of music and, as the artist featured in the article is Taylor Swift, to encourage learners to think about contemporary female artists and where Taylor Swift is located in the list of bestselling female singers of all time. Madonna is number one.

**Key:**

1. *Rihanna (2<sup>nd</sup> in the list)*
2. *Taylor Swift (6<sup>th</sup> in the list)*
3. *Adele (9<sup>th</sup> in the list)*
4. *Pink (15<sup>th</sup> in the list)*
5. *Shakira (27<sup>th</sup> in the list)*
6. *Ariana Grande (30<sup>th</sup> in the list)*

#### 2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that the adjective form of *obsession* is *obsessed*, as in "My daughter was obsessed with Taylor Swift."

**Key:**

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <i>flashback</i> | 6. <i>fortunate</i>  |
| 2. <i>obsession</i> | 7. <i>clever</i>     |
| 3. <i>album</i>     | 8. <i>role model</i> |
| 4. <i>release</i>   | 9. <i>response</i>   |
| 5. <i>cancer</i>    | 10. <i>lifetime</i>  |

#### 3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually to answer the questions and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. The answers given are just examples. Students may say something different that is correct. For example, in item 8, they may also say, 'All the times spent with her daughter listening to Taylor Swift,' or similar.

**Key:**

1. *a few minutes*
2. *ten*
3. *the moment that Taylor Swift liked one of her daughter's Instagram posts*
4. *when Taylor Swift released the album 1989*
5. *because she had cancer*
6. *twenty*
7. *in six hours*
8. *all the young girls attending the concert with their parents*

#### 4. Key language

- a. Ask students to do this task individually and compare their answers in pairs. Then, they can find and highlight the collocations in the article to see them in context.

**Key:**

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

- b. Students complete the sentences using the collocations from task A. You can elicit other examples

**Key:**

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

#### 5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas and encourage them to give reasons for their answers.

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### 6. In your own words

- a-b. Ask students to research Taylor Swift or any other singer or band currently or recently on tour. Encourage them to talk about a performer they like to allow for easier and smoother personalisation. You can assign this task as homework and have students report their findings in the following class.