

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

Level 3: Advanced – 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 (2nd in the list)*
2. *Taylor Swift (6th in the list)*
3. *Adele (9th in the list)*
4. *Pink (15th in the list)*
5. *Shakira (27th in the list)*
6. *Ariana Grande (30th 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 term *wing woman* used in the text is normally used in American English but is used here by the Australian author. *Revel in* is a phrasal verb and *revel* used without 'in' is literary and old-fashioned. The word *solace* is often used in the phrase 'find solace', as in "She finds solace in reading."

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <i>inadvertently</i> | 8. <i>bedridden</i> |
| 2. <i>diehard</i> | 9. <i>catheter</i> |
| 3. <i>wing woman</i> | 10. <i>overwhelmed</i> |
| 4. <i>revel in</i> | 11. <i>elated</i> |
| 5. <i>flashback</i> | 12. <i>etched</i> |
| 6. <i>stratospheric</i> | 13. <i>solace</i> |
| 7. <i>seminal</i> | 14. <i>eagerly</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 3 they may say 'listening to Taylor Swift' or 'going to Taylor Swift concerts' or just 'Taylor Swift'.

Key:

1. *because she was trying to buy tickets and was waiting for someone to sell some*
2. *ten minutes*
3. *the music of Taylor Swift*
4. *Taylor Swift liked one of her daughter's Instagram posts.*
5. *because it came out shortly before the author's cancer diagnosis*
6. *Her surgery was a success.*
7. *the evening with her daughter at the Taylor Swift concert (after her successful surgery)*
8. *for being a great role model (and for providing comfort to her daughter when she most needed it)*
9. *because she has become an adult*
10. *thinking about the times she spent with her daughter*

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. The verb 'have' can also be used with 'surgery' but the solution given is the only one that uses all six verbs.

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Key:

1. *have flashbacks*
2. *refresh a web browser*
3. *launch his/her career*
4. *undergo surgery*
5. *take the credit for something*
6. *miss a deadline*

- b. Students complete the sentences using phrases from task A. Notice that in *missed the deadline* the article 'a' is replaced with 'the', which is a more common collocation.

Key:

1. *launched his/her career*
2. *undergo surgery*
3. *took the credit*
4. *missed the deadline*

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

6. In your own words

- a. The task could also be done as a homework task and students could then present their reports to the class.