

ONE

Vocabulary:

Match these translations of the word 'One' in English with the appropriate language.

Uno	German
Aon	Spanish
Eins	Dutch
Een	Greek
Um	Norwegian
ένας	Gaelige (Irish)
Bat	Portuguese
Ettall	Basque



Vocabulary:

Check the meaning of these words in a monolingual dictionary.

1. blame (verb)
2. disappoint (verb)
3. crawl (verb)
4. leper (noun)
5. drag (verb)
6. temple (noun)
7. to leave a bad taste in one's mouth (verb)
8. to go without something (verb)
9. forgiveness (noun)
10. to raise the dead (verb)
11. to hold on to something (verb)
12. to get to do something (verb)

Listening:

As you listen put these sections in the correct order. Write your answers in the box below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. One love
One life
When it's one need
In the night
One love
We get to share it
Leaves you baby if you
Don't care for it</p> | <p>2. Well it's...
Too late
Tonight
To drag the past out into the light
We're one, but we're not the same
We get to
Carry each other
Carry each other
One...</p> |
| <p>3. Have you come here for forgiveness
Have you come to raise the dead
Have you come here to play Jesus
To the lepers in your head</p> | <p>4. <i>One love, One blood, One life</i>
<i>You got to do what you should</i>
<i>One life with each other</i>
<i>Sisters, Brothers</i>
<i>One life</i>
<i>But we're not the same</i>
<i>We get to</i>
<i>Carry each other, Carry each other</i></p> |
| <p>5. Did I ask too much
More than a lot
You gave me nothing
Now it's all I got
We're one
But we're not the same
Well we
Hurt each other
Then we do it again</p> | <p>6. Is it getting better
Or do you feel the same
Will it make it easier on you now
You got someone to blame
You say...</p> |
| <p>7. Did I disappoint you
Or leave a bad taste in your mouth
You act like you never had love
And you want me to go without</p> | <p>8. You say
Love is a temple
Love a higher law
Love is a temple
Love the higher law</p> |
| <p>9. You ask me to enter
But then you make me crawl
And I can't be holding on
To what you got
When all you got is hurt</p> | <p>10. <i>One...life</i>

<i>One</i></p> |

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

One - U2

*Is it getting better
Or do you feel the same
Will it make it easier on you now
You got someone to blame
You say...*

*One love
One life
When it's one need
In the night
One love
We get to share it
Leaves you baby if you
Don't care for it*

*Did I disappoint you
Or leave a bad taste in your mouth
You act like you never had love
And you want me to go without
Well it's...*

*Too late
Tonight
To drag the past out into the light
We're one, but we're not the same
We get to
Carry each other
Carry each other
One...
Have you come here for forgiveness
Have you come to raise the dead
Have you come here to play Jesus
To the lepers in your head*

*Did I ask too much
More than a lot
You gave me nothing
Now it's all I got
We're one
But we're not the same
Well we
Hurt each other
Then we do it again
You say
Love is a temple
Love a higher law
Love is a temple
Love the higher law
You ask me to enter
But then you make me crawl
And I can't be holding on
To what you got
When all you got is hurt
One love
One blood
One life
You got to do what you should
One life
With each other
Sisters
Brothers
One life
But we're not the same
We get to
Carry each other
Carry each other

One...life*

Reading:

Read over the different interpretations of the meaning of the song and decide which one you are most convinced by and why. Texts adapted from <http://hem.bredband.net/steverud/U2MoL/index.html>

One is a song about the German population after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989. Now they had to come together again to get 'one'. It's about the families who split after the second world war. The me/I in the song is most probably an east-German talking to a west-German, and to my ears this interpretation makes perfect sense both when you listen to the lyrics and looking in the CD-case (Trabants, pictures from Berlin etc).

The story behind how the song was written in fact saved U2 from breaking up. The band was having a real tough time creativity wise and was falling apart. The band were fighting and arguing all the time; hence the quote 'We hurt each other and we'll do it again'. They had even spent some time discussing whether or not they had finally used up all of their creative energy and talent. Eventually, they decided that they probably had but after they wrote 'One' they realized what they created and their creativity slump was over. The band stopped fighting and continued on to record the amazing and mind-blowing album which we now recognize as Achtung Baby.

I think that most of the songs from the album are rather personal, strongly influenced by separations – those of the The Edge and other friends close to the band. The topic is about love, which goes together with cruelty, blindness, waves of joy, waves of regret. Love is the only important thing in life, yet it hurts, you cannot live it out without hurting the one you love. Love has left and the writer reflects the other person's thoughts about it giving him the blame. He defends himself however, by asking a lot. The conclusion is that there is only hurt left, and therefore he has to separate. Nevertheless the song gets a strength from the strong feeling of the longing to be one, without being the same. There is this longing, like an ideal, like a vision, to live in one love, one blood, one need, the vision of the tensions to be overcome, when we carry each other. So sadness with anger and self-defence go together with a longing, a vision. Thereby you feel the depth of the pain and you see the hard work you have to do yourself to care for your own love.

I seem to remember reading an interview with Bono around the time the song was released in which he said that it dealt with the subjects of love, homosexuality, and AIDS. Also, the cover of the single has a painting of a buffalo running off a cliff. On the back, it is explained that this is a painting by a man who is HIV positive and that this painting and many others that he has done, are about homosexuality and AIDS and signifies how time and life are fleeting.

I think the song might be more directed towards a homosexual man whose father has given up hope on him. The lyrics "we are one, but we are not the same," refer to the parental bonds between them, yet the son is a homosexual. Also judging from the time period when this song was released, AIDS was scaring a great deal of the population, and it was a big scare in the gay population. Judging from the sad tone of the song, the son might soon die without reconciling with his father.

DVD Script:

Narrator:

At the start of the 90's U2's future was a blank slate. For the first time the band was at a loss for what to do next. Bono said that they should tap into the energy of the new Europe, the Cold War was over and the Berlin Wall was coming down. Bono thought it was time for them to make new music for a new era. U2 flew into East Berlin on the last flight before East Germany faded into history. They set up camp at Hansa Studios, the site of David Bowie's ground-breaking work with Brian Eno in the 1970's. Bono figured that U2 would be inspired by the spirit of the place, the fervour of the unification. It was a good theory but in reality Hansa Studios was falling apart. The band ended up staying in a sleazy hotel in the former East Berlin but the biggest problem U2 faced was a division that almost broke up the group. Edge had been getting into a lot of experimental electronic music and Bono was raving about dance rhythms at the Manchester club scene.

Edge:

Going into that record Bono and I had worked on maybe, 2 or 3 songs that we thought could go all the way and erm, it was a bit of a departure for the band so there was this thing that Bono and Edge are writing songs, they say they're great, they're taking us off in some different direction and really, I felt Adam and Larry's resistance.

Adam:

There was a lot of confusion though everyone was, was suffering from it. It was this feeling that we had to forge a new sound for the band but none of us really knew how to do that.

Larry:

It was the first time ever that U2 would come together as a band and play and nothing would happen.

Narrator:

The darkness of Berlin closed in on Berlin. The sessions dragged on and the band felt they weren't getting anywhere. Edge started talking about splitting up the group. Larry felt that if they had to choose between the band and their friendships, U2 would have to go.

Adam:

It had got pretty grim in Berlin.

Bono:

There was a lot of shouting and fi., people threatening to kill each other.

Edge:

I could see the headlines, you know, the term musical differences, you know, started to loom and I thought, Oh, this is, this could get messy.

Bono:

And then out of the blue, popped this song 'One'

Larry:

I just remember walking into the control room and hearing this guitar riff, the guitar riff from 'One' and I just said, 'that is it!' this is.., this is something special.

Edge:

And within, like, 20 minutes we were playing this thing and it was, everyone was getting off on it and erm, that was the real turning point, turning point I think for me on the record 'cos I really felt that there was something really special in that tune.

Adam:

That just felt right. I mean maybe, maybe it summed up the way we felt as a band trying to kind of go somewhere and not being able to do it at the time.

Narrator:

Once they realised they could still make music together U2 was ready to go home. Back in Dublin, Bono, Larry, Adam and The Edge had a serious discussion about their expectations of each other and the band. They listened to the tapes from Berlin and realised they had a lot of material to work with.

Edge:

The whole session kind of turned around from then on and everyone was much more focused and, and enthusiastic and it kind of dispelled the, that tension. And then Adam and Larry started to get inspired and they came up with some great stuff and we were off.

Vocabulary Development:

Read the script and match the vocabulary items with the appropriate definition for the context.

1. <i>a blank slate</i>	A. <i>to think or guess that something is the case.</i>
2. <i>to be at a loss for something</i>	B. <i>somewhere dirty, badly cared for, not respectable, rather sordid.</i>
3. <i>to tap into something</i>	C. <i>to try and create something that something strong and lasting that people will admire.</i>
4. <i>to figure</i>	D. <i>when something frightening is likely to happen soon.</i>
5. <i>sleazy</i>	E. <i>to become very excited about something.</i>
6. <i>to rave about something</i>	F. <i>when you don't know what to do in a particular situation.</i>
7. <i>to get into something</i>	G. <i>when you make a fresh start without taking into consideration past failures or mistakes.</i>
8. <i>to go all the way</i>	H. <i>when something happens by surprise.</i>
9. <i>to forge</i>	I. <i>to speak or write about something with great enthusiasm.</i>
10. <i>grim</i>	J. <i>to begin to enjoy something.</i>
11. <i>to loom</i>	K. <i>to become very successful.</i>
12. <i>out of the blue</i>	L. <i>unpleasant, depressing, unattractive in appearance.</i>
13. <i>to get off on something</i>	M. <i>to make use of something to get from it something that you need or want.</i>
14. <i>we were off</i>	N. <i>to overcome problems and continue successfully with a project</i>

Write you answers here.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Music & Song Questionnaire

Speaking Development:

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Is music important to you?
- Why? Why not?
- How often do you listen to it?

- Who are some of your favourite artists?

- Do you have a favourite song/couple of songs/albums?
- Why is that/are they your favourite(s)?

- Do you often go to concerts?
- What was the best/worst concert you have ever been to?

- How often do you buy music?
- Do you download music from the internet?
- Do you buy pirate copies of CD's and DVD's on the street?
- Do you think it's a good idea or do you think that they do harm to the music industry?

- Do you or have you ever played a musical instrument?

- Do you think music and politics should be mixed?
- Why/Why not?
- Do you agree with benefits records/concerts?

- Who do you think have been the most influential musicians over the last one hundred years? Why?
- If you could choose to live or relive any musical period which one would it be? Why?

