

Sharon Van Etten



Join the words and their definitions:

embroiled suffocated, made unable to breath

turbulent understanding something after it has happened

stifled involved deeply in an argument, conflict, or difficult situation

in hindsight not stable or calm, characterized by conflict, disorder, or confusion

Her life has not always been so open or so contented. In 1998, when she was 17, she became embroiled in a turbulent and deeply damaging relationship, which stifled her musical ambitions and her sense of self – an experience to which she has returned several times in her songs.

“He was an addict and abusive and so I just never knew who I would be coming home to,” she explains. A touring musician, her boyfriend would often be away for long stretches, and Van Etten used those periods of absence to work on her own songs. “I would play when he wasn’t around because he thought my songs were too personal to share,” she says. “Which, in hindsight, they were, I’m sure. I’m that kind of person and just let it out. But he asked me not to play until I could write in a way where people wouldn’t know about our life.” When her boyfriend discovered she had been secretly playing shows, he smashed up her new Gibson guitar.

At a particularly low point, she called her old high-school boyfriend. “I was just feeling really lost and I didn’t know who I was and I realised that because of this relationship, because I was cut off from my family, that my memory was going. I didn’t remember what I used to be like.”

Source: The Guardian

Ask 5 questions about this snippet.

Find in the text two grammar constructions related to habitual behaviour in the past.

Listen to the clip from the song **Seventeen by **Sharon Van Etten**, drag and drop the missing pieces into the places** _____

hot spots

led astray

follow my shadow

halfway up

I know what you wanna say

I think that you're all the same

Constantly being _____

You think you know somethin' you don't

Downtown _____

the street

I used to be free

I used to be seventeen

Around your corner

I used to be seventeen

Now you're just like me



Listen to the clip from the song **BONES by **Radiohead** _____ and type in missing verbs**

missing

feel

climb

got

touched

fly

Now I can't _____ the stairs

Pieces _____ everywhere

Prozac, painkillers

When you've _____ to feel it in your bones

When you've got to _____ it in your bones

And I used to _____ like Peter Pan

All the children flew when I _____ their hands

Listen to the clip from Pink's song and fill the gaps with nouns:



funhouse

/fʌnhaʊs/

noun **NORTH AMERICAN**

(in an amusement park) a building equipped with trick mirrors, shifting floors, and other devices designed to scare or amuse people as they walk through.

This used to be a _____

But now it's full of evil _____

It's time to start the _____

I'm gonna burn it down down down

I'm gonna burn it down

Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one, fun



Listen and enjoy the clip from Gotye's hit song _____. Then match the words and expressions from the lyrics (in bold) with the definitions, type in the number next to the definition,

You can **get addicted**¹ to a certain kind of sadness

Like **resignation**² to the end

Always the end

So when we found that we could not **make sense**³

Well you said that we would still be friends
But I'll admit that I was glad that it **was over**⁴

But you didn't have to **cut me off**⁵

Make out⁶ like it never happened

And that we were nothing

And I don't even need your love

But you **treat**⁷ me like a stranger

And that **feels so rough**⁸

You didn't have to **stoop so low**⁹

Have your friends collect your records

And then change your number

I guess that I don't need that though

Now you're just somebody that I used to know

to be understandable or practical _____

the acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable _____

to become hooked _____

to lower one's moral standards so far as to do something reprehensible _____

try to give a specified impression; pretend _____

to separate from things that they were normally connected with _____

was finished _____

If you feel this way, you feel unwell or down _____

behave towards or deal with somebody in a certain way _____

Can you think of stories that stand behind the songs?

Who is the persona in each song?