

Let's work!

Reading Comprehension:

Hayley Williams and her solo career



Hayley Williams is an American singer who became famous as the lead vocalist of Paramore, a band which started in Tennessee in 2004. She was very young when the band became successful; however, she quickly became one of the most recognizable voices in alternative rock. Besides singing, she was also writing songs whose lyrics were emotional and honest. Many fans admired her energy on stage, and critics often considered her one of the best female singers in modern rock.

In 2020, Hayley Williams released her first solo album, *Petals for Armor*, which showed a more personal and experimental side of her music. The album included songs about mental health, relationships, and self-discovery. She had already written many emotional songs with Paramore; however, her solo career allowed her to express herself more freely. Besides that, she also released *Flowers for Vases / descansos* in 2021. Critics have praised her solo music because it has combined vulnerability with artistic creativity. Therefore, many people have considered her not only a talented singer but also an important songwriter whose work has influenced younger artists.



a. True or false?

- ___ Hayley Williams became famous as the lead vocalist of Paramore.
- ___ Paramore started in California in 2004.
- ___ *Petals for Armor* was Hayley Williams' first solo album.
- ___ *Flowers for Vases / descansos* was louder and heavier than her previous work.
- ___ Critics have considered Hayley Williams not only a talented singer but also an important songwriter.

Although Hayley Williams was the lead singer of a successful band, many people judged her differently because she was a young woman in a male-dominated music scene. Some critics focused more on her appearance than on her talent, while male musicians in similar bands were often judged less harshly. Besides facing sexism from the media and from parts of the music industry, she was also dealing with stereotypes which suggested that women could not lead rock bands successfully. However, Hayley continued proving herself through her performances and songwriting. She was not only fighting against unfair criticism but also becoming a role model for many young women who wanted to enter alternative music. Today, she is often considered one of the most influential female artists of her generation because she challenged expectations and created a stronger space for women in rock music.

B. Speaking: Discussion

- Why do you think female artists are sometimes judged more for their appearance than for their talent?
- Do you think the music industry has changed for women since Hayley Williams became famous? Why or why not?
- How can artists like Hayley Williams inspire younger women who want to work in music or other male-dominated industries?
- In your opinion, why is representation important in genres like rock music?

Writing: A short story.

Use the following words in order to write a short story. Be creative and funny!

Red bike - so - Brad Pitt - however - parents - supermarket - who - cake - although - new friend - dinner - so

Use of English: Tenses.

Maria _____ (to live) in a small town whose streets _____ (to be) very quiet. Every morning, she _____ (to walk) to work; however, yesterday she _____ (to take) the bus because it _____ (to rain). While she _____ (to wait) at the bus stop, she _____ (to see) an old friend who _____ (to work) in the same company.

Besides working in an office, Maria _____ (to study) English online because she wants a better job in the future. She thinks English _____ (to be) more useful than French; therefore, she _____ (to practice) every night. Last month, she _____ already _____ (to finish) two English books, and her teacher said she _____ (to be) one of the best students in the class.

Although Maria sometimes feels tired, she never stops trying. Right now, she _____ (to prepare) for an important exam which _____ (to happen) next week. She believes she _____ (to pass) the test because she _____ always _____ (to study) very hard. Besides that, her best friend _____ (to help) her with grammar yesterday while they _____ (to drink) coffee at a café.

Maria's brother, who _____ (to be) younger than her, loves music. He not only _____ (to play) the guitar but also _____ (to sing) in a local band. Last year, the band _____ already _____ (to perform) in three different cities before they _____ (to win) a small competition. However, Maria thinks her brother's new songs _____ (to be) better than the old ones.

Use of English: Paraphrasing.

- The girl is my cousin. She is wearing a red jacket.
• _____ . (who)
- I bought a phone. The phone was very expensive.
• _____ . (which)
- The man has a beautiful dog. His car is parked outside.
• _____ . (whose)
- Sarah studied a lot. She passed the exam.
• _____ . (therefore)
- Tom was tired. He finished his homework.
• _____ . (however)
- Julia sings beautifully. Julia plays the piano beautifully too.
• _____ . (not only...but also)
- It was raining. We went to the park.
• _____ . (although)
- Mike is tall. His brother is tall too.
• _____ . (as...as)
- The movie was very boring. We fell asleep.
• _____ . (so)
- It was a very difficult test. Many students failed it.
• _____ . (such)
- The coffee is very hot. I can't drink it.
• _____ . (too)
- Anna is very intelligent. She can solve the problem.
• _____ . (enough)
- Lisa likes reading books. She likes watching documentaries too.
• _____ . (besides)

Use of English: Unscramble.

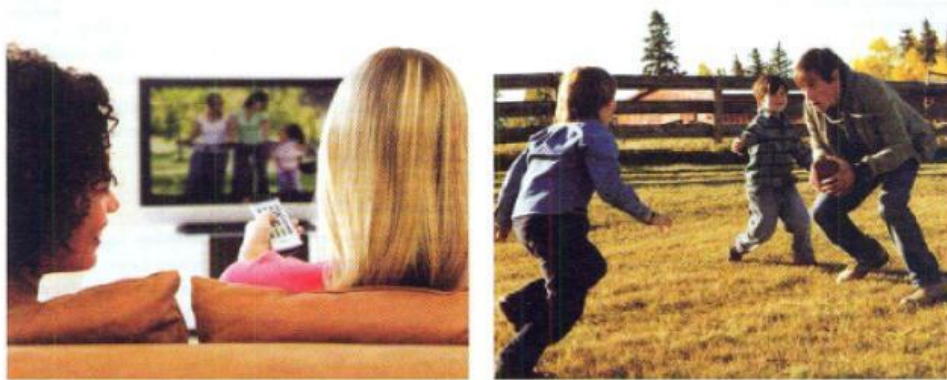
- as / brother / my / tall / is / as / I / not
• _____
- movie / the / than / was / more interesting / book / the
• _____
- the / student / smartest / class / in / she / the / is
• _____
- was / tired / so / he / asleep / fell / that / he
• _____

- such / it / difficult / was / a / test / that / many students failed
- _____.
- too / young / drive / to / is / he
- _____.
- enough / not / coffee / hot / the / is
- _____.
- already / had / they / dinner / arrived / when / we / eaten
- _____.
- working / have / been / they / since / morning / the
- _____.
- finished / just / has / she / her / homework / yet / not / but / project / her / she / hasn't
- _____.

Listening:

https://english4real.com/practice/a2_l1-t-weekend.html

Listening part 1.



- 1) She _____.
a went to a club
b watched TV
- 2) He _____.
a met a girl
b went to his sister's house
- 3) He _____.
a went to the gym
b entered a bodybuilding competition
- 4) He _____.
a played with his nephews
b went out with a friend
- 5) She _____.
a went to a party
b went to a movie
- 6) She _____.
a watched a DVD
b watched baseball on TV

Listening: Fiona Apple - Shadowboxer.

Once my _____, now my _____
What a cruel thing to _____
What a cunning _____ to condescend
Once my _____ and now my _____
Oh, _____ creep up like the clouds
And you set my _____ at ease
Then you let your _____ abound
And you _____ to my knees

Oh, it's _____(eliv), babe
The way you _____(tel) your grace
enrapture me
When well you know I'd be _____(nasnie)
To ever let that dirty _____(emga) recapture
me

pretend - lover x2 - way -
friend x2 - soul - love -
bring me - you



CHORUS

And I've been swinging 'round me ☐

☐ You made me a shadowboxer, baby

'Cause I don't know when you're
gonna make your move ☐

☐ I wanna be ready for what you do

Oh, your gaze _____(be) dangerous
And you _____(fill) your space so sweet
If I _____(let) you get too close
You_____ (set)your spell on me



So darling, I just wanna _____
Just in case I _____
I was on to every _____
I just wanted _____

don't come through -
wanted - say - play

it's so evil, my love--

--To save the pain of once my flame and
twice my burn

So I'll be sure to stay wary of you, love--

--The way you've no reverence to my
concern

CHORUS REPEAT

Activities with the song:

After you listened to the song, you must do the following activities:

A. Mark PERFECT TENSES you find.

B. Answer the following questions:

- Did you like the song?
- Have you ever heard it?
- Have you ever heard another Fiona Apple's song?
- Was it easy to solve?
- What is the song about?