

Unit 10 - The Date

10A Introduction

It's a popular storyline: The nerdy kid somehow gets a date with the most popular girl in school. Usually, in the movies, the two people eventually find out that they have more in common than they thought. But that kind of happy Hollywood ending isn't how life always works.

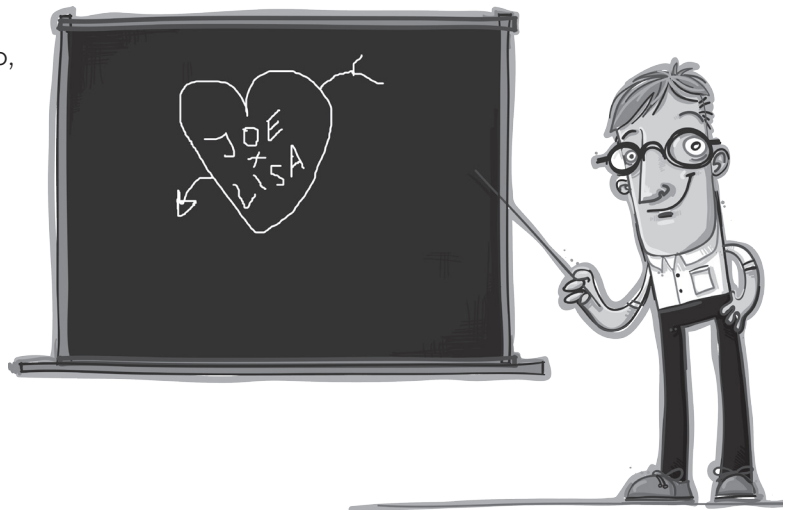
10B Song Lyrics

I'm JOE, spell the word in all caps,
I'm the biggest nerd in the World of Warcraft.
I'm not popular, I get **excluded** and left out,
Whenever the popular kids go out.
I've tried to **cultivate** a sense of fashion,
Make my style grow, but nothing happened.
Here's an **idiom**: I'm over the top,
I've got a crush on Lisa, she's totally hot.

Would she go out with me? Totally not.
She's so popular that she only dates jocks.
I was **reluctant** to pass her a note, hesitating,
What if her friends saw, and made it a joke?
But Lisa's bright like a guiding light, a **beacon**,
I approached hardly breathing.
I said, "I know I'm **subordinate** to you, lower in rank,
But I wanted to know if you wanted to think
About going to Red Lobster to eat up some shrimp,
With me, plus unlimited salad and bread sticks?"
I waited for her decision, her **verdict**,
She mumbled something, I hardly heard it.
I said, "I didn't hear you, Lisa, what did you say?"
She said, "Sure...we can go on a date."
Oh man, could it really be?
The most popular girl is dating me!

*Lisa, you're hotter than a piece of pizza,
Please believe uh, I would never leave ya.
I don't know, Joe, I don't really think so,
I'm more popular at school than cell phones.
x2*

So Lisa had **consented** and agreed,
To get picked up at a quarter to three.
I saw Lisa come out of her house from afar,
And I thought of what to say when she got in the car:
"Lisa, they should have passed a law,
Some **legislation** against being so hot."
The Red Lobster was **convenient**, easy to reach,
So five minutes later, we were taking a seat.
We ordered lots of food, it was **abundant**,



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So much of it, we were loving it.
Now for me, my manners have **evolved**,
Changed over the years, as I've gotten tall.
But Lisa had a bad quality, a bad **trait**,
She kept her mouth wide open when she ate.
I saw shrimp, potato salad, Diet Coke and some coleslaw,
She went for another bite, but hold on.
I don't want to see food chewed when you chew seafood
So when you chew, keep your mouth shut, dude.
It's not cool, Miss Popular, it's so gross,
If you've never seen this girl eat, then you don't know.
Our relationship fell apart
And **deteriorated** quick after just one date.
But from that date, I got some **clarity**,
Seeing her food made me see that she wasn't for me.

*Yo Joe, you're hotter than a hot plate,
And you just took me on a hot date.
Well, like a summer doesn't need a heater, I don't need ya,
Like Evita told Argentina, don't cry for me, Lisa.*
x2

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10C Words Defined

abundant / beacon / clarity / consent / convenient / cultivate / deteriorate / evolve / exclude / idiom / legislation / reluctant / subordinate / trait / verdict

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. **abundant** (adj) plenty, more than enough

The plants were *abundant* in the forest, not like in the city.
Other forms: Something easily found is found in *abundance* (noun).

2. **beacon** (noun) a guiding light or signal

The lighthouse served as a *beacon* to the sailors at sea.
Synonyms: warning, sign of hope

3. **clarity** (noun) the state of being clear and straightforward

Seeing the therapist gave me a lot of *clarity* about my life.
Other forms: If you clear something up, you *clarify* (verb) it.

4. **consent** (noun) agreement or approval

Steve was only allowed to go to the game with his parents' *consent*.
Synonyms: permission, endorsement
Other forms: Someone can *consent* (verb) or agree to something.

5. **convenient** (adj) easy and suitable to a particular situation

He would let us borrow the car only when it was *convenient* for him.
Antonyms: difficult, inconvenient
Other forms: Something that is easy and suitable is a *convenience* (noun): Having indoor plumbing sure is a *convenience*.

6. **cultivate** (verb) to grow and care for

Dad *cultivated* my love of music by playing new CDs for me.
Synonyms: to tend to, develop, nurture

7. **deteriorate** (verb) to fall apart, usually gradually or over time

Edgar loved sugary soda, but knew it would *deteriorate* his teeth
Other forms: The falling apart, or *deterioration* (noun), of the house happened slowly

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8. exclude (verb) to purposefully leave something out or reject

The unpopular girl hated it when they *excluded* her from the lunch table.

Antonyms: to include, welcome

Other forms: Something that keeps most people out is *exclusive* (adj), like an exclusive party that only celebrities go to.

9. evolve (verb) to grow or change over time

He hoped his cousin would *evolve* into someone much cooler in his teenage years.

Synonyms: to change, develop, advance

10. idiom (noun) a phrase or saying, usually unique to a particular language

“Raining cats and dogs” was my mom’s favorite *idiom*, even though it didn’t make much sense to me.

Synonyms: expression

11. legislation (noun) a law or set of laws

New *legislation* in the town kept us from skateboarding at the mall.

Other forms: A lawmaker can be known as a *legislator* (noun).

12. subordinate (adj) below something else, usually in rank or in an organization

It was clear that the employee was *subordinate* to the manager when she yelled at her.

Synonyms: lesser, lower, inferior

Antonyms: above, superior

Other forms: *Subordinate* can also be a noun meaning “someone who is lower in rank to someone else”.

13. reluctant (adj) not willing to take action

They were reluctant to let Oliver take the bike, since he was so *clumsy*.

Synonyms: resistant, hesitant

Antonyms: eager, excited, enthusiastic

Other forms: Someone who is reluctant shows their *reluctance* (noun).

14. trait (noun) a quality or characteristic

The fact that he treated everyone the same was one of his best *traits*.

15. verdict (noun) a firm decision

The principal’s *verdict* was firm, and we knew we were in trouble.

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10D Fix the Mistake

abundant / beacon / clarity / consent / convenient / cultivate / deteriorate / evolve / exclude / idiom / legislation / reluctant / subordinate / trait / verdict

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. I felt **deteriorated** when no one asked me to be on their team in a pick-up game of basketball.

2. Lindsay's father **excluded** that his daughter could marry her longtime boyfriend.

3. During the 1930s American farmers on the Great Plains found it very difficult to **evolve** crops on the land because of dust storms and severe droughts.

4. I was **subordinate** to loan my car to Sally since she had just gotten her driver's license.

5. The judge agreed with the jury's **idiom** of "not guilty."

6. The lighthouse served as a **trait** for the ship to safely return to the harbor.

7. The city passed new **clarity** stating that ice cream trucks could not play their music once they were parked.

8. Most corn is harvested in August, so that's when it's most convenient at farm stands.

9. Honesty is an important verdict I look for in a friend.

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10. By not going to the doctor, Jesse's health **cultivated** instead of getting better.

11. Unfortunately, during slavery, slaves were **abundant** to their owners.

12. "I could eat a horse" is an example of a(n) **beacon**.

13. The guest speaker spoke with great **legislation**; he was very easy to understand.

14. The ugly duckling **consented** into a beautiful swan.

15. It is **reluctant** for me to walk to school since I only live two blocks away.

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10E Pick the Winner

abundant / beacon / clarity / consent / convenient / cultivate / deteriorate / evolve / exclude / idiom / legislation / reluctant / subordinate / trait / verdict

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. In the afternoon, my mind is sharp and all my thoughts have a certain (**clarity OR idiom**).

2. Heather enjoys (**cultivating OR excluding**) vegetables in her own personal garden.

3. The festival (**deteriorated OR evolved**) from a one-day event to a week long celebration.

4. A cougar and a panther have similar (**traits OR verdicts**).

5. It is more (**abundant OR convenient**) to take the elevator, but I prefer taking the stairs for exercise.

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10F Draw the Relationship

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In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1

give permission	consent	a saying	idiom
verdict			ruling
	abundant	in short supply	

.....

2

characteristic	trait	clearness	legislation
clarity			improve
	deteriorate	law	

.....

3

enthusiastic	not allow	consent	reluctant
convenient			cultivate
	encourage	difficult	

.....

4

stay the same	evolve	inspiration	subordinate
lower in rank			exclude
	include	beacon	

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10G Understanding What You Read

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Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

From their first day at the campsite, Sam wanted to explore the old lighthouse at the top of the cliff. His mother was reluctant. Finally, she consented, and he was allowed to climb the hill and check out the old lighthouse. Halfway up the hill, Sam started to question his judgment. The pathway was longer, steeper, and windier than he thought. The hike had looked so convenient from the bottom of the hill, but he quickly learned that this hike would take him a long time.

When Sam finally reached the top, he was completely stunned. The lighthouse was huge. He had to lean his head all the way back in order to see the top of the lighthouse, where the beacon light once glowed. Next to the lighthouse, he noticed a shack whose structure had deteriorated so much, it was hardly standing. Sam figured it was due to the saltwater air, harsh coastal weather storms and the fact that it probably hadn't been used in a very long time. Despite the roughness outside, Sam was excited to explore the inside of the lighthouse.

Sam entered with caution. He soon found himself in a dark, silent and round room with no windows. He slowly walked in a circle and ran his palm across the interior walls before heading over to the spiral staircase. He gently took his first step up onto the stairs but tightly clinched onto the hand railing since he could not see a thing. He gradually took a second step and then a third, and soon he had counted approximately twelve steps. Just as Sam went to take his thirteenth step, a loud "screeeeeeeeeeech" echoed throughout the lighthouse! A cat jumped down from one of the rafters to the steps in front of him. Sam quickly turned around and without hesitation or light to guide him, he stumbled down all 13 stairs and went running and screaming out of the lighthouse.

This time he ran down the steep hill without looking back! Sam ran faster and faster, picking up speed as he traveled down the hill. But just as he was about to make the last switchback turn on the winding path, Sam missed the turn and fell flat on his face! He carefully lifted his head up from the dirt and his eyes made full contact with the lighthouse. To his surprise he saw a beacon of light beaming from it. Sam was sure the lighthouse hadn't worked in at least twenty years. He laid there in disbelief as the signal faded from view. Finally, Sam picked himself up, wiped the dirt off his clothes, and walked the rest of the way down the hill.

When Sam finally returned to his campsite, he was still in disbelief over his experience at the lighthouse. His mom turned to him and asked, "Hey Sammy, how was your hike?" but he didn't respond; he just sat there on the lawn chair. She leaned in a little closer and this time used an idiom that she liked: "What's the matter son? Cat got your tongue?"

1. According to the text, Sam

- (A) is 13 years old
- (B) is an only child in his family
- (C) got permission from his mom to go on the hike
- (D) is a lighthouse expert

2. Which of the following statements is true?

- (A) Sam examined the inside of the lighthouse first.
- (B) Sam fell at the beginning of the story.
- (C) Sam found climbing to the lighthouse difficult.
- (D) Sam had a black cat as a pet.

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3. Which line has a double meaning in the story?

- (A) "What's the matter son? Cat got your tongue?"
- (B) The hike had looked so convenient from the bottom of the hill.
- (C) This time he ran down the steep hill without looking back!
- (D) His mother was reluctant.

4. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by facts from the reading passage?

- (A) Sam encountered a cat during the story.
- (B) Sam examined the shack next to the lighthouse.
- (C) Sam fell on his way down the hill.
- (D) Sam climbed to the top of the lighthouse.

5. How did Sam's thoughts evolve during the story?

- (A) Originally scared, Sam becomes anxious.
- (B) Originally happy, Sam becomes enthusiastic.
- (C) Originally reluctant, he becomes scared.
- (D) Originally excited, he becomes fearful.

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10H Thinking Creatively

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Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

1. Can a person be a **beacon**? Explain why or why not.

2. Is it possible for a teacher to be **subordinate** to his students? Explain why or why not.

3. Describe **legislation** you would like to see approved in the near future.

4. Describe the plot of a movie named *The Most Evolved Trait*.

5. Think of an **idiom** that people commonly use (that's not mentioned so far in this unit).

Word Breakdown

The word *exclude* contains two parts: *ex-clude*, both from Latin. The prefix *ex* means "out or outside." The root *clude* means "to shut or close." So *exclude* means to close the door and leave someone outside. The opposite is *include*. That's when you shut the door and the person is on the *inside*.

A nightclub in New York City might be very *exclusive*: You can only get in if you are dressed right or know the doorman. A newspaper can get an *exclusive* if it has the only story about something. In the song "On the Boulevard," Dr. Dre notes that he's "more exclusive than surgery," which doesn't exactly make sense.