

Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero" – Vocabulary & Memory Game

Lesson Details

Language level: B1+/B2
Learner type: Teens & Adults
Skills: speaking, listening, reading, writing
Topic: identity, self-image, feelings
Materials: Genially presentation, YouTube music video, pdf worksheet (normal and editable)
Duration: 50–60 minutes

Download Your Free Lesson Materials

Downloadable materials: [Worksheet.pdf](#), [Editable Worksheet.pdf](#)

A Step-by-Step Guide to Your Creative Song Activities

Ready to see how the magic unfolds? This lesson is broken down into seven simple, powerful steps. Each one builds on the last to create a seamless and truly IMPACTFUL learning experience.

Step 1 – The Hook (Motivation+) — 5 min

Ask students what they know about Taylor Swift and if they like her songs or not and why.

Tell them that Taylor Swift has become the first artist in history to claim every slot in the top 10 of the US singles chart. She overtakes Drake, who held the previous record of nine top 10 singles in September 2021. Before him, the Beatles scored eight top 10s in 1964. WOW!

Step 2 – Visual & Auditory Prediction — 5 min

Slide 01/02 [Genially presentation](#). With 3 pictures. Students describe the pictures quickly. Play the first minute (intro) of the song. In pairs, students choose which picture best matches the mood and explain their choice.

Step 3 – Activating the Theme (Understanding+) — 5 min

Reveal the song title: *Anti-Hero*. Ask: "What is a hero?" then "What might an anti-hero be? What does it mean to be your own anti-hero?"

Students brainstorm in pairs for 2 minutes and briefly share ideas with the class. This primes their understanding before the language focus.

Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero" – Vocabulary & Memory Game

Step 4 – Vocabulary in Context (Skills+) — 15 min

Worksheet with List of word definitions and lyrics. (see links for the **worksheet pdfs**: editable and normal, in the 'downloadable materials')

Students read the lyrics, find the words being defined, and complete the list with them. (see answers in the **instructions pdf** in the 'downloadable materials')

Step 5 – Collaborative Comprehension Game (Interaction+) — 15 min

MEMORY GAME!

Divide students into 2 groups and tell them you're going to play the music video for the song Anti-Hero by Taylor Swift, and they must pay attention to all the details for a Memory Game of questions about it!

Play the music video for them.

Memory Game Questions

1. Where is Taylor at the beginning of the video? (Kitchen)
2. What's she eating? (Eggs, broccoli and bacon)
3. How many shots of tequila do the two Taylors drink the first time? (6 – 3 each)
4. What's written on the blackboard? ("Everyone will betray you")
5. How many people are eating in the dining room when giant Taylor arrives? (5)
6. What are they drinking? (Red wine)
7. What's Taylor's son wearing around his neck at her funeral? (Headphones)
8. Which animal appears in Taylor's funeral photo? (Cat)
9. How much money does she leave her children? (13 cents)
10. What kind of house do they discuss at the funeral? (Beach house)

The team with the most correct answers wins. Use this stage to encourage negotiation of meaning (students justify answers to score points) and to recycle vocabulary.

Step 6 – Personal Response Discussion — 5 min

Play the video again (short clip or final scene) and prompt a brief whole-class discussion: "What did you think of the video?" "Which scene was most memorable and why?" Encourage short personal opinions and quick follow-up questions to practice speaking fluency.

Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero" – Vocabulary & Memory Game

Note: there's a transcript of the funeral part of the video on the [instructions.pdf](#) (see 'downloadable materials' in the description).

Step 7 – Creative Transformation (Creativity+) — 10 min (or extension)

Students choose one creative task to do in pairs/small groups. Allow 5–7 minutes to create and 2–3 groups to share quickly.

- **Choice A (Writing):** Rewrite the funeral scene—what happens next? Write a short dialogue.
- **Choice B (Visual):** Create a 3-panel comic strip that summarizes the music video's story.
- **Choice C (Conceptual):** Write a 4-line "antidote" verse titled *My Own Hero*, focusing on positive self-talk.

Invite a few groups to share their amazing work. Remember to focus your feedback not just on accuracy, but on their brave and creative use of language and vocabulary.

And that's it! You have just guided your students through an experience that is memorable, meaningful, and full of positive energy.

Author Bio:

About the Author: [Márcia Bonfim](#) is an ESL/EFL teacher and creator of the **Song Activity Factory**. She helps educators create engaging lessons using her signature BEAT+ Method, which features the MUSIC+ Framework. You can [discover her complete methodology summary here](#).