

How to get the most out of a song...

Take *Life for rent* , by Dido, for example...

1/ A very catchy tune that we kept hearing some time ago. I was taken by Dido’s voice , so I searched the internet for the lyrics

2/ Then I discovered a nice, melancholy song, with an interesting metaphor, especially useful to GEA students (Rent > renting) . We had indeed studied this vocabulary of OWNING/ RENTING/ LEASING etc (To belong to , to own, to owe ...)

3/ So I set out in class –from scratch- with these simple questions:

Renting vs Owning : Advantages and drawbacks ?

Which one do (would) you prefer ?

Why might one prefer renting to owning a flat , a car etc...?

Then, at the end of the debate , we laid down the arguments in a kind of table

FOR/ AGAINST OWNING	FOR / AGAINST RENTING
<p>Safety, solidity You’re your own boss / you don’t depend on anyone (if you occupy it of course)</p> <p>Long-term investment To possess, to own (ownership = an asset) Less danger Usually with real estate market on the rise, it’s a safe investment (sure to return a profit)</p> <p>Responsibilities <i>though</i> : maintenance (to keep it tidy so as to get a good price out of it when you sell it off)</p> <p>Constraints (condov(minium)’s rules , urban rules, local/ property taxes etc...)</p> <p>Efforts , expenses (painting, renovating)</p> <p>To devote time or money to maintaining this investment (= a commitment, an involvement) When it is let out, you may have problems for cashing in your rents Tenants may be unreliable , untidy etc... so there are some risks</p>	<p>You are a tenant : you just occupy and pay a rent</p> <p>It’s not permanent, it’s transitory, provisional , for an undetermined period of time</p> <p>It gives you more flexibility, you can leave when you want (a lease or a yearly contract) (To give notice), and so can travel, move , meet more people : you are not stuck in one place</p> <p>No problems : YOU don’t pay for the upkeep , the owner (landlord) pays the bill...</p> <p><i>However,</i> You don’t own anything for good You don’t draw any satisfaction from saving money etc.. You don’t make an effort to know your neighbours better for example You haven’t made a real investment and it may be a risk (jeopardy)...</p>

4/ This being done , I moved to the song (Cf Corre in Didagora > Life for Rent or vdeo on You-Tube) and studied the words with them.

They were able to understand the metaphor (My life is for rent = I don’t stay in a relationship (“ *not long enough to make it* “), = I change partners .../ I don’t learn to buy > Immaturity, no effort to settle down yet , no COMMITMENT/ INVOLVEMENT)

Then we sing the song together

5/ After that , I take them back to a discussion which I found on ELLLO.org about renting vs Owning , which covers the same points , but in a different format (Listening Comprehension)
<http://www.elllo.org/english/0501/511-Akane-Rent.html>

6/ To finish, an essay on the topic (different formulae)

Which one do you like best : Renting or Owning ?

What's **the point of buying** a second home (country home) ? Isn't it preferable to buy a caravan or a camper ? (or Would you rather buy a camper than a second home , if you could afford it !?)

Why **buy** a new car ? Isn't it a waste of money ? Why not rent one or lease one (or share !) , instead ?

Etc...