Like A Rolling Stone – Bob Dylan – Notes

- **Activity types:** Vocabulary (synonyms and definitions), listening for specific words, gap fill
- **Language:** Phrasal verbs with OUT
- **Level:** Upper-Intermediate

**Notes:** This was released as a single in 1965 and then included on the album *Highway 61 Revisited* in the same year. It lasts over six minutes and is probably Dylan’s most influential song - in 2004, *Rolling Stone* magazine declared "Like a Rolling Stone" the greatest song of all time, declaring, "No other pop song has so thoroughly challenged and transformed the commercial laws and artistic conventions of its time."

1. Tell students they are going to look at the lyrics of one of Bob Dylan’s best known songs. Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to look at the 22 words and phrases, and put them in the correct gap to complete the lyrics. Do not play the song at this stage. (Lower levels can simply listen and complete the gaps). *(Key on the Complete lyric sheet)*

2. Play the song. Students check their answers in pairs.

3. Correct in open class, play the song and sing together!

4. **Focus on phrasal verbs with “out”**. Point out the phrasal verb "hang out" in the song. Ask students if they know other phrasal verbs with "out", then hand out “Practise your phrasal verbs” worksheets.

**Key to Activity A:**


**Key to Activity B:**

Note: this may cause some discussion and possible disagreement, but as the activity is meant to raise students’ awareness of how phrasal verbs are formed, this should be encouraged.

1. d 2. d 3. f 4. a 5. a 6. a 7. c 8. g 9. b 10. g 11. d 12. g 13. e 14. e 15. a 16. e 17. b 18. e
Like A Rolling Stone – Bob Dylan

Use the words and phrases below to complete the lyrics, then listen and check:

beware        got it made        make a deal        threw the bums a dime
bound to      hanging out       pawn            tramp
chrome horse  in your prime     rags            tricks
conceal       jugglers          scavenging      vacuum
frowns        juiced            stare
get your kicks  kidding

Once upon a time you dressed so fine
(gave tramps/vagabonds money)
(when you were young/at the best time of your life) ____________________, didn't you?
People'd call, say, "(be careful) __________ doll, you're (destined to) __________ to fall”
You thought they were all (fooling/joking) __________ you
You used to laugh about
Everybody that was (doing nothing together) __________
Now you don't talk so loud
Now you don't seem so proud
About having to be (cadging/begging) ____________ your next meal.

Ah, you've gone to the finest school all right, Miss Lonely
But you know you only used to get (drunk) ____________ in it
Nobody's ever taught you how to live out on the street
And now you're gonna have to get used to it
You said you'd never compromise
With the mystery (vagabond) ____________, but now you realize
He's not selling any alibis
As you (gaze/look) ____________ into the (void) ____________ of his eyes
And say do you want to (reach an agreement/carry out a business transaction) ____________?

Ah, you never turned around to see the (unpleasant expressions) ____________
On the (performers) ____________ and the clowns
When they all did (deceptions/entertainment) ____________ for you
You never understood that it ain't no good
You shouldn't let other people (enjoy something) ____________ for you
You used to ride on the (motorcycle) ____________ with your diplomat
Who carried on his shoulder a Siamese cat
Ain't it hard when you discover that
He really wasn't where it's at
After he took from you everything he could steal.

Ah, princess on the (spire) ____________ and all the pretty people
They’re all drinkin’, thinkin’ that they’ve (reached success) ____________
Exchanging all precious gifts
But you’d better take your diamond ring, you'd better (give a valuable item to someone who lends money for it and has a right to sell it if the money is not paid back) ____________ it babe
You used to be so amused
At Napoleon in (old torn clothes) ____________ and the language that he used
Go to him now, he calls you, you can't refuse
When you ain't got nothing, you ain't got nothing to lose
You're invisible now, you got no secrets to (hide) ____________.

How does it feel
How does it feel
To be without a home
Like a complete unknown
Like a rolling stone?
Like A Rolling Stone – Bob Dylan – Complete

Once upon a time you dressed so fine
Throw the bums a dime in your prime, didn’t you?
People'd call, say, "Beware doll, you’re bound to fall"
You thought they were all kiddin’ you
You used to laugh about
Everybody that was hangin' out
Now you don’t talk so loud
Now you don’t seem so proud
About having to be scrounging your next meal.

How does it feel
How does it feel
To be without a home
Like a complete unknown
Like a rolling stone?

Ah, you’ve gone to the finest school all right, Miss Lonely
But you know you only used to get juiced in it
Nobody’s ever taught you how to live out on the street
And now you're gonna have to get used to it
You said you'd never compromise
With the mystery tramp, but now you realize
He's not selling any alibis
As you stare into the vacuum of his eyes
And say do you want to make a deal?

How does it feel
How does it feel
To be on your own
With no direction home
A complete unknown
Like a rolling stone?

Ah, you never turned around to see the frowns
On the jugglers and the clowns
When they all did tricks for you
You never understood that it ain't no good
You shouldn't let other people get your kicks for you
You used to ride on the chrome horse with your diplomat
Who carried on his shoulder a Siamese cat
Ain't it hard when you discover that
He really wasn't where it's at
After he took from you everything he could steal.

How does it feel
How does it feel
To have you on your own
With no direction home
Like a complete unknown
Like a rolling stone?

Ah, princess on the steeple and all the pretty people
They're all drinkin', thinkin' that they've got it made
Exchanging all precious gifts
But you’d better take your diamond ring, you’d better pawn it babe
You used to be so amused
At Napoleon in rags and the language that he used
Go to him now, he calls you, you can’t refuse
When you ain’t got nothing, you got nothing to lose
You’re invisible now, you got no secrets to conceal.

How does it feel
Ah, how does it feel
To be on your own
With no direction home
Like a complete unknown
Like a rolling stone?
PRACTISE YOUR PHRASAL VERBS

A. Complete the following sentences by adding a verb from the list below to form a phrasal verb with out. You may have to change the form or the tense of the verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>verb</th>
<th>verb</th>
<th>verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dig</td>
<td>look</td>
<td>show</td>
<td>wear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drop</td>
<td>make</td>
<td>speak</td>
<td>wipe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dry</td>
<td>pass</td>
<td>stand</td>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall</td>
<td>rub</td>
<td>take</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>throw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. You can use a pencil to write, so that, if you make a mistake, you can just ________ it out.
2. The village was completely ________ out by the tsunami.
3. Some people ________ out at the sight of blood.
4. They were buried under the ruins of the house and had to be ________ out.
5. To celebrate our wedding anniversary, I’m ________ my wife out tonight.
6. Your red dress makes you ________ out from the crowd.
7. It was hot! The laundry soon ________ out in the sun.
8. Don’t worry! Everything will ________ out for the best.
9. Some MPs have ________ out against the law.
10. Although it was dark, I could ________ out his face in the crowd.
11. Do you really want all these old newspapers or can I ________ them out?
12. She was really in trouble, so we decided to ________ her out.
13. You’ve ________ out another pair of shoes!
14. The boy has ________ out of school and gone to work.
15. You needn’t ________ me out; I know my way.
16. Peter and Ann ________ out at the party and never spoke to each other again.
17. ________ out! That wall is collapsing!
18. Stop at the next petrol station! We’ve ________ out of petrol.

B. Read the following and say how out is used in each of the exercises above.

PHRASAL VERBS WITH "OUT”.

a. Out = outwards, away from the top or side of something, bend out, stick out
   Be careful. There is a sharp nail sticking out.

b. Out = in all directions or to several people, pour out, hand out
   Can you hand out the worksheets to your classmates, please?

c. Out = extinguish, blow (a candle) out, put (a fire) out
   This is a no-smoking area. Please put your cigarette out.

d. Out = (make) disappear, wash (a stain) out, clean (a room) out
   This room is in a terrible mess! You must clean it out!

e. Out = completely (done or finished), cross out, run out
   Buy some milk when you go to the shops. We have run out of it.

f. Out = losing consciousness, black out, knock out
   After falling off the ladder, I just blacked out.

g. Out = generally concerned with solutions to difficulties, sort out, turn out
   This crossword is too difficult. I can’t work it out!