

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

Katy Perry's Roar

La cantante californiana con questo gioiello pop abbina la rinascita personale con l'emancipazione femminile. Un grande inno contemporaneo che compie dieci anni.

hen, on New Year's Eve¹ in 2011, American recording artist Katy Perry's marriage to English comedian Russell Brand ended by text message after just fourteen months, fans wondered how she would respond musically. The answer came in August 2013 when Roar, the first single from "Prism", Perry's fourth album, was released3. Co-writer Bonnie McKee

describeditasasongabout self-empowerment4, telling MTV it is a "pick yourself up5 and dust yourself off⁶ and keep going⁷" song. Perry also revealed that after therapy she was "sick of

keeping all these feelings inside and not speaking up for myself9."

The song opens with the 'used to' form and four idioms 10, describing what the singer was like in the past, but no longer 11 is. The first two verses continue largely in the past simple, before the chorus¹² triumphantly reveals how strong and independent she now feels. It refers to the movie Rocky III's motivational theme tune 13 Eye of the Tiger as well as Helen Reddy's 1971 feminist anthem 14 I Am a

> Woman, with the line "hear me roar¹⁵". The song goes on to refer to iconic boxer Mohammed Ali's catchphrase 16 "Float like a butterfly, sting¹⁷ like a bee." ⊗



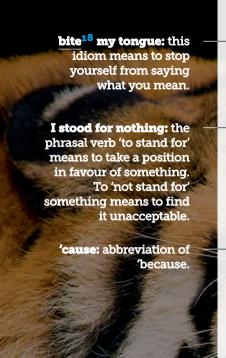
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LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**



∠I GLOSSARY

- 1 New Year's Eve: Capodanno
- **2** to wonder: chiedersi
- **3 to release**: pubblicare
- 4 empowerment: emancipazione femminile
- 5 to pick oneself up: tirasi su
- 6 to dust oneself off: darsi una spolverata
- 7 to keep going: andare avanti
- 8 to be sick of: essere stufo di
- 9 to speak up for oneself: parlare per se stessi
- 10 idioms: espressioni idiomatiche
- 11 no longer: non più
- 12 chorus: inno
- 13 theme tune: colonna sonora
- 14 anthem: inno
- **15 to roar:** ruggire
- 16 catchphrase: tormentone
- **17 to sting:** pungere
- 18 to bite: mordere
- 19 to rock: ondeggiare
- 20 stripes: galloni (decorazione militare)



I used to bite my tongue and hold my breath Scared to rock the boat and make a mess So I sat quietly, agreed politely I guess that I forgot I had a choice I let you push me past the breaking point I stood for nothing, so I fell for everything

You held me down, but I got up (hey) Already brushing off the dust You hear my voice, you hear that sound Like thunder, gonna shake the ground You held me down, but I got up (hey) Get ready 'cause I've had enough I see it all, I see it now

I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter Dancing through the fire 'Cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear Louder, louder than a lion Cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear me roar

Chorus Oh-oh-oh-oh Oh-oh-oh-oh Oh-oh-oh-oh You're gonna hear me roar

Now I'm floatin' like a butterfly Stinging like a bee, learned my stripes I went from zero, to my own hero You held me down, but I got up (hey) Already brushing off the dust You hear my voice, you hear that sound Like thunder, gonna shake the ground You held me down, but I got up (hey) Get ready 'cause I've had enough I see it all, I see it now I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter Dancing through the fire 'Cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear me roar Louder, louder than a lion 'Cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear me roar

Chorus 2

rock¹⁹ the boat: this idiom means to cause problems.

I fell for everything: the phrasal verb 'to fall for' means to naively cept something. To fall for someone means to fall in love.

I earned my stripes²⁰:

the idiom 'to earn your

stripes' means to have

something. It derives

worked to deserve

from the military.







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Katy Perry performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl on 1 February, 2015.