

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

Adele's Someone Like You

Grazie alla musica possiamo avvicinarsi a una lingua in modo diverso. Iniziamo una nuova rubrica con questo grande successo del 2011 della cantante britannica Adele, un brano personale con un buon numero di curiosità idiomatiche.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**

ON CD 18

GLOSSARY

- 1 **to spend:** trascorrere
- 2 **charts:** classifiche
- 3 **smash hit:** grande hit
- 4 **sophomore:** secondo
- 5 **track:** traccia
- 6 **break-up:** rottura, separazione
- 7 **of eighteen months:** per diciotto mesi
- 8 **to get engaged:** fidanzarsi
- 9 **closing:** ultima
- 10 **to come into terms:** scendere a patti
- 11 **estranged:** separato
- 12 **cold:** raffreddore
- 13 **to run a bath:** riempire la vasca
- 14 **to top:** arrivare in cima
- 15 **solo performance:** esibizione da solista
- 16 **to set free:** liberare
- 17 **shy:** timido
- 18 **to beg:** supplicare
- 19 **summer haze:** foschia estiva
- 20 **regrets:** rimpianti
- 21 **bittersweet:** agrodolce

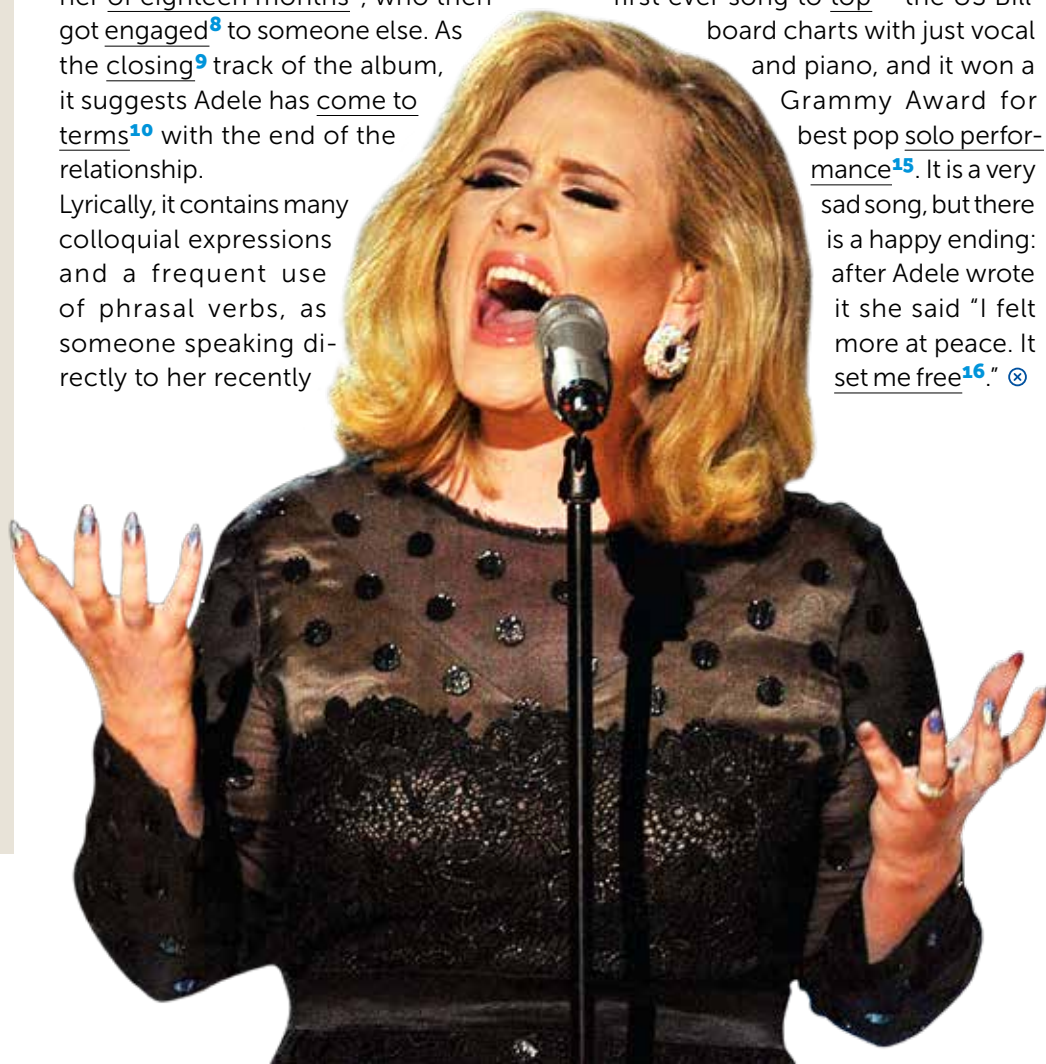
In April 2011, Adele's *Someone Like You* was everywhere, having spent¹ five weeks at number one in the UK charts², and going on to be a smash hit³ in nineteen countries.

This ballad is the second single from Adele's sophomore⁴ album, *21*. The track⁵, like most of the album, was inspired by the break-up⁶ with her partner of eighteen months⁷, who then got engaged⁸ to someone else. As the closing⁹ track of the album, it suggests Adele has come to terms¹⁰ with the end of the relationship.

Lyrically, it contains many colloquial expressions and a frequent use of phrasal verbs, as someone speaking directly to her recently

estranged¹¹ lover. The song was written quickly, as soon as Adele heard about the engagement. In fact, she told *Q Magazine* that she wrote that song sitting "on the end of my bed. I had a cold¹². I was waiting for my bath to run¹³. I'd found out he'd got engaged."

The music was written by Dan Wilson, who played the piano on it. This became the first ever song to top¹⁴ the US Billboard charts with just vocal and piano, and it won a Grammy Award for best pop solo performance¹⁵. It is a very sad song, but there is a happy ending: after Adele wrote it she said "I felt more at peace. It set me free¹⁶." ☒



guess: Adele doesn't use the subject 'I' here, as it is implied. This is very informal and the subject is often omitted in songs.

ain't: this is also informal and often used in songs, meaning "it isn't."

to turn up is a phrasal verb meaning 'to arrive' or 'appear'.

to stay away: is also a phrasal verb meaning 'to not return'.

The use of the past perfect here (formed with the verb **have** in past form plus the past participle of **hope**) demonstrates that she no longer hopes this, and has accepted she needs to move on.

I heard that you're settled down ←
That you found a girl and you're married now
I heard that your dreams came true ←
Guess she gave you things I didn't give to you
Old friend, why are you so shy¹⁷?

Ain't like you to hold back or hide from the light

I hate to turn up out of the blue, uninvited
But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it
I had hoped you'd see my face

And that you'd be reminded that for me, it isn't over

Never mind, I'll find someone like you
I wish nothing but the best for you, too
"Don't forget me," I beg¹⁸

"I'll remember," you said
"Sometimes it lasts in love, but sometimes it hurts instead."
"Sometimes it lasts in love, but sometimes it hurts instead."

You know how the time flies
Only yesterday was the time of our lives ←
We were born and raised in a summer haze¹⁹
Bound by the surprise of our glory days

Nothing compares, no worries or cares
Regrets²⁰ and mistakes, they're
memories made
Who would have known how bittersweet²¹
this would taste?

to settle down: a phrasal verb meaning 'to have a steady life', with a regular job and maybe marriage and kids.

to come true: when your dreams come true things go exactly as you want them to.

to hold back: a phrasal verb meaning 'not to reveal' something.

These are basically two ways of saying the same thing, since **out of the blue** means that 'something happens unexpectedly'.

you'd be reminded: Adele uses the passive form here because her ex-partner's reaction is more important than its cause.

In order to tell him that it's OK, she uses an idiomatic phrase **never mind**, which means 'don't worry'; she will find someone who is just like him.

the time of our lives: an extremely enjoyable experience.



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