



## Leaving On A Jet Plane – John Denver – Notes



- **Activity type:** storytelling, gap fill, vocabulary with pictures, listening for specific words.
- **Grammar:** Present Continuous
- **Level:** Elementary / Pre-Intermediate.
- **Note:** Written by John Denver, this was a Number One for Peter, Paul and Mary in 1969. Denver subsequently released his own version the same year.

- 1) Students work in groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a folded copy of the worksheet. Ask them to invent a story using the pictures.
- 2) Feedback, then ask them to work on the Present Continuous activity.
- 3) Play the song and ask them to check, as well as to order the pictures and the sentences. (Note, the sentences are all in the first two verses and chorus.)

**Key:**

*Pictures:*

1. my bags are packed
2. the taxi's waiting
3. leaving on a jet plane
4. you'll wear my wedding ring
5. close your eyes

*Sentences:*

1. I'm standing here outside your door
2. the dawn is breaking, it's early morn
3. the taxi's waiting
4. he's blowing his horn
5. I'm leaving on a jet plane

- 4) Ask them to unfold the page and to read the lyrics, the complete the True/False activity.

**Key:**

1. T, 2. T, 3. F, 4. ?, 5. ?, 6. F, 7. F, 8. F, 9 ?, 10. T

- 5) Feedback, then sing the song together.

**Follow up:** Do students like travelling? What or who do they miss when they are away?



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Create a story using these pictures, then listen to the song and order them:



Complete the following sentences using the given verbs in the Present Continuous.

blow – break – leave – stand – wait

- The taxi\_\_\_\_\_.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ on a jet plane.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ here outside your door.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ his horn.
- The dawn \_\_\_\_\_, it's early morn (*morning*).

Listen to the song, in what order do you hear the pictures and the sentences?

FOLD

All my bags are packed, I'm ready to go  
 I'm standing here outside your door  
 I hate to wake you up to say goodbye

But the dawn is breaking, it's early morn  
 The taxi's waiting, he's blowing his horn  
 Already I'm so lonesome I could die

So kiss me and smile for me  
 Tell me that you'll wait for me  
 Hold me like you'll never let me go  
 'Cause I'm leaving on a jet plane  
 Don't know when I'll be back again  
 Oh, babe, I hate to go

There's so many times I've let you down  
 So many times I've played around  
 I'll tell you now, they don't mean a thing

Every place I go, I think of you  
 Every song I sing, I'll sing for you  
 When I come back I'll bring your wedding ring

So kiss me and smile for me  
 Tell me that you'll wait for me  
 Hold me like you'll never let me go  
 'Cause I'm leaving on a jet plane  
 Don't know when I'll be back again  
 Oh, babe, I hate to go

Now the time has come to leave you  
 One more time, let me kiss you  
 And close your eyes and I'll be on my way

Dream about the days to come  
 When I won't have to leave alone  
 About the times I won't have to say ...

Kiss me and smile for me  
 Tell me that you'll wait for me  
 Hold me like you'll never let me go  
 'Cause I'm leaving on a jet plane  
 Don't know when I'll be back again  
 Oh, babe, I hate to go  
 I'm leaving on a jet plane  
 Don't know when I'll be back again  
 Oh, babe, I hate to go

Write T (True), F (False) or ? (Don't Know) beside the following sentences.

- The singer is at his girlfriend's house.   T
- She is asleep.
- The taxi is driving along the road.
- The singer loves flying.
- He is going away for work.
- His previous relationships are very important to him.
- He never sings songs for other girls.
- He hasn't got time to kiss his girlfriend.
- He works as a doctor.
- He wants to marry his girlfriend.