

Unit 11 - I Want Fame

11A Introduction

Know anybody who really wants to be famous when they grow up? Being famous for doing something really well seems like a cool thing to desire. But chasing fame just for the sake of being famous? That's what Nate wants to do, and he just might get his wish.

11B Song Lyrics

I dedicate this song to all my fans. C'mon! What's going on party people? My name is Nate. And I'm so famous I'm not even a star; I'm a comet! Only a few of you see me. Stop hating from the sidelines, and watch me get mine.

Yo, you know Nate from the coast near Portland?
 "The short one?" Nah, the one who thinks he's most important.
 He **covets** fame, wants it so bad,
 There's nothing he wouldn't do to get photographed.
 He thinks fame will **gratify** him, make him feel nice,
 You know, satisfy him, his name in lights.
 I'm not **insinuating** or hinting,
 I'm stating Nate wants his face on a building that's facing
 The street, where he'll be pushing a Rover.
 Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, he's trying to get that Oprah!
 What's **noteworthy** or memorable about the dude,
 He pays a camera crew to follow him around the school.
 Never smiles for the camera, nah, he's looking bored,
 Wants to be three times famous and maybe more.
 Why? Maybe the photos can fill the **void**,
 The emptiness that this guy feels inside.
 Yeah, he wants fame and that celebrity **status**
 That position where his opinion on everything matters.
 He doesn't care if he's celebrated like famous actors,
 Or known for his negative actions,
 You know, **notorious**, just as long as his story is
 Remembered, and everybody's sad to see
 When it's ended, like, "What a **tragedy**."
 They're like, "That's sad, man, what a **tragedy**."

*It'll be so good, good, good, good, good, good...c'mon,
 And I'm gonna be famous.
 And you'll know what my name is.
 (x2)*

Y'all can't stop me, I'm getting chased by paparazzi,
 "Man, that's just your friend Roxy."
 Well, I'll pretend to be famous till you heard of me,
 I'm not lying to the court, it's not **perjury**.
 I'm always **casual**, barely concerned,
 Too hot to handle, watch you'll get burned.
 I'm cooler than a Maytag fridge since way back when,



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But I'm not famous yet.
I'll get famous for something **substantial**,
Something important; I have my hands full.
I tried to invent a love potion of tomorrow,
But instead I sold grape juice in a bottle.
I cheated and lied; it was just my luck,
That the same guys I bribed said I'm **corrupt**.
I'm tired of fame being **dependent** on the fans,
I can't rely on them, they don't understand.
I said "Fine, I'll get famous for something unplanned,
Something **random** and subject to chance."
So I announced my latest act in a message,
And sent it to the Guinness Book of World Records,
That I'll **simultaneously** juggle 10 cats,
At the same time; I had the last laugh,
Because the doctors at the hospital asked me for my autograph.
Imagine all of that, c'mon...

Hook

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casual / corrupt / covet / dependent / gratify / insinuate / noteworthy / notorious / perjury / random / simultaneously / status / substantial / tragedy / void

11C Words Defined

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. casual (adj) showing little concern; informal

I got in trouble over a *casual* comment I made about Jenna's hair; I didn't think she'd get so mad about it!

Synonyms: relaxed

Antonyms: serious

2. corrupt (adj) not honest; willing to abuse power

The judge was totally *corrupt*: He took money from the mob and made it impossible to throw a mobster in jail.

Synonyms: crooked, untrustworthy

Antonyms: decent, honest

Other forms: In some countries, *corruption* (noun) is such a big problem, you can pay the police in order to avoid being sent to jail. *Corrupt* can also be a verb meaning "to make evil or ruin the morals of": Some people think that violent movies *corrupt* our youth in America."

3. covet (verb) to desire eagerly or wrongfully without thinking about the rights of others

Jordan won a trip to Disneyland, a prize that we all *coveted*.

Synonyms: long for, crave

4. dependent (adj) relying on another person for help or support on something in order for something else to happen

To go to the movies, we're *dependent* on my mom to give us a ride.

Synonyms: reliant, counting on

Antonyms: independent

Other forms: By drinking coffee every day, Phonte developed a *dependence* (noun) on caffeine .

5. gratify (verb) to please or satisfy

We were *gratified* to learn that we had an extra weekend to finish our science projects.

Synonyms: make happy, thrill

Antonyms: disappoint, upset

Other forms: It was such a *gratifying* (adj) feeling to be named captain of the basketball team. It was an amazing *gratification* (noun) after all the hard work I had done.

6. insinuate (verb) to suggest or hint slyly

I know you're not saying it outright, but are you *insinuating* that I'm stupid?

Synonyms: indicate, hint at

7. noteworthy (adj) worthy of notice; outstanding because of some special excellence

Most of the lyrics the rapper spit were unoriginal, but there were a few *noteworthy* lines.

Synonyms: exceptional, extraordinary, notable

Antonyms: common, ordinary

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8. notorious  (adj) widely known because of bad behavior

Al Capone was one of the most *notorious* gangsters of the 1920s.

Synonyms: infamous

9. perjury  (noun) lying in a court of law after taking an oath not to lie

It is well known that criminals sometimes commit *perjury*, but some police officers have also been caught lying to a judge or jury.

10. random  (adj) by chance; not planned or prearranged; irregular

I'm going to type a *random* sentence right now: That milkshake hates country music!

Synonyms: unplanned, haphazard

Antonyms: purposeful, deliberate

Other forms: Jo was really proud of the *randomness* (noun) of her sticker collection.

11. simultaneously  (adverb) existing, occurring, or operating at the same time

Charly claims he can do his homework while *simultaneously* talking on the phone.

Other forms: The terrorists launched *simultaneous* (adj) attacks on the harbor and train station.

12. status  (noun) 1. a situation or state of affairs 2. position relative to that of others; standing

1. The *status* of our field trip to the zoo was up in the air when we weren't able to raise enough money.

2. Amy worked hard to improve her *status* in society.

Synonyms: 1. condition, state 2. rank, worth


13. substantial  (adj) large, important; major

Ludacris has given a *substantial* amount of money to charities.

Synonyms: significant

Antonyms: small, minor

Other forms: To really become a painter, Rosa realized she'd need *substantially* (adverb) more focus.

14. tragedy  (noun) 1. a thing or event that is disastrous or terrible 2. a play that has a sad ending

1. The real *tragedy* of Hurricane Katrina was that the government was so slow to act.

2. Even though Romeo and Juliet is a love story, it's considered a *tragedy* since it ends so sadly.

Synonyms: catastrophe, failure

Antonyms: success, blessing

Other forms: Drinking and driving can have *tragic* (adj) consequences.

15. void  (noun) empty or unfilled space

When my brother left for college, we all felt the *void* at the dinner table.

Synonyms: nothingness, gap, blankness

Other forms: *Void* can be a verb meaning "to cancel or nullify": Realizing I didn't actually need a radio shaped like a waffle, I tried to *void* my online purchase.

Void can also be an adjective meaning "empty or without": His life was *void* of happiness.

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11D Fix the Mistake

casual / corrupt / covet / dependent / gratify / insinuate / noteworthy / notorious / perjury / random / simultaneously / status / substantial / tragedy / void

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. My father's **tragedy** in the community is impressive; everyone in town respects him for his volunteer work.

2. The magician instructed me to choose a **casual** number between 1 and 100.

3. The man at the store told me he wouldn't take my TV back because I **insinuated** my warranty when I smashed the screen with a hammer.

4. My teacher said the language in my paper was too **noteworthy** and that I should avoid using slang words in my writing.

5. The speaker at my sister's graduation is a **dependent** scientist whom *The New York Times* called "one of the smartest people in the world."

6. Cynthia went to a **notorious** amount of trouble to get Kanye tickets: She and her mother waited in line overnight in the rain.

7. Malcolm **gratified** that Kari had stolen his cell phone, but he didn't go into details because he had no proof.

8. The football game ended with a **perjury**, as the quarterback became paralyzed by a devastating tackle.

9. The iPhone is especially **substantial** by people for all of its cool applications.

10. Corbin is sick right now, so he's **corrupt** on me to bring him his homework assignments every day after school.

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11. Can you **randomly** pat your head and rub your belly?

12. I caught my little cousin trying to **covet** her younger brother: She was encouraging him to steal cookies for her from the cookie jar .

13. Mr. Gibbons was convicted of **status** after lying to the court about his income.

14. Osama bin Laden is **simultaneous** for his hatred of Americans.

15. It is nearly impossible to **void** my little brother; if we're having pizza, he wants tacos, and if we're having tacos, he wants pizza.

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11E Pick the Winner

casual / corrupt / covet / dependent / gratify / insinuate / noteworthy / notorious / perjury / random / simultaneously / status / substantial / tragedy / void

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. The witness worried that he might be accused of **(perjury OR tragedy)** during his trial, but he honestly had no memory of the accident.

2. My dad's company allows him to wear **(casual OR substantial)** clothing on Fridays instead of his normal business suits.

3. Pete **(covets OR gratifies)** those new sneakers so badly that he keeps trying them on at the store just so he can walk around in them.

4. I got angry when my sister **(corrupted OR insinuated)** that I was pretending to be sick just to get out of school.

5. The **(random OR notorious)** bank robber terrified bank employees around the city until he was finally caught.

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11F Draw the Relationships

casual / corrupt / covet / dependent / gratify / insinuate / noteworthy / notorious / perjury / random / simultaneously / status / substantial / tragedy / void

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1	disaster	deception	reliant	tragedy
	dependent	hint	perjury	insinuate
.....				
2	corrupt	planned	do not want	status
	rank	honest	random	covet
.....				
3	please	ordinary	substantial	noteworthy
	gratify	minor	nothingness	void
.....				
4	casual	covet	crave	notorious
	infamous	serious	simultaneous	at the same time

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11G Understanding What You Read

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Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

The Year of the Whistleblower

Every year, *Time Magazine* chooses one noteworthy person or group to be the “Person of the Year.” The editors give the award to the person or group of people who has had the most substantial impact on news that year. In 2002, for the first time in its history, the magazine simultaneously chose three women to be the “Person of the Year.” Called “The Whistleblowers,” these brave women took great personal risks to stand up for their beliefs.

A “whistleblower” is someone who exposes corruption in his or her workplace. The term comes from English police officers who would blow their whistles when they saw a crime being committed. Whistleblowers today do not literally blow whistles, but they expose illegal activities in their workplace. Sometimes these illegal activities are committed by powerful executives. For this reason, it can be quite dangerous to be a whistleblower. One famous whistleblower, Karen Silkwood, died in a car accident shortly after she went public with problems at the nuclear power plant where she worked. Her relatives say she had documents in her car that proved that executives at the power plant were acting illegally. After the accident, the documents mysteriously disappeared. The police determined the accident to be a random tragedy, but some people think the power plant was responsible.

The “Year of the Whistleblower” began in January 2002 with Sherron Watkins. Watkins was a vice president at Enron, an energy company. After discovering problems with the company’s finances, Watkins wrote a concerned email to the chairman of the company. It was later discovered that the people in charge of Enron had been lying about the amount of money the company made. The legal case against the executives was partly dependent on Watkins’s testimony. Today, Enron is a notorious example of corporate corruption.

In May, Coleen Rowley became the second whistleblower to gain attention. Rowley was an FBI agent who studied terrorism. She wrote a memo that documented how the FBI had ignored warnings from her office about one of the September 11th hijackers. Her testimony before Congress led to major changes at the FBI. The next month, Cynthia Cooper went public with problems at her company, WorldCom. She discovered 3.8 billion dollars’ worth of fraud at the company. A few years later, the company’s CEO was found guilty of several crimes because of Cooper’s work.

Watkins, Rowley and Cooper were not looking to become famous. All three of them brought their concerns up in private before going public. When the problems were ignored, however, they were not content to just go back to their desks. They risked losing their jobs and angering their fellow employees because they all believed in doing the right thing. These three women showed that, no matter how high or low one’s status is, everyone has the power to make a difference.

1. According to the passage, 2002 marked the first time that Time’s “Person of the Year” award was given to

- (A) Ordinary people
- (B) Three women
- (C) A group of people
- (D) Someone who had an impact on news

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2. Why do some people think executives at the power plant were responsible for Karen Silkwood's car accident?

- (A) Silkwood was trying to get rid of documents that could have helped the executives.
- (B) The police determined that the crash was not really an accident.
- (C) Executives at the power plant had a history of getting into car accidents.
- (D) Silkwood knew information that could get people at the power plant in trouble.

3. Watkins first revealed her concerns in

- (A) Court testimony
- (B) A phone call
- (C) An email
- (D) A letter

4. The author believes that whistleblowers are

- (A) Heroes
- (B) Looking for fame
- (C) Usually not in danger
- (D) Overpaid

5. What is the theme of this passage?

- (A) Honesty is the best policy.
- (B) Money makes the world go around.
- (C) Sometimes you need to cheat to succeed.
- (D) Everybody makes mistakes.

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11H Thinking Creatively

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Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

1. What's a good name for a **notorious** pirate?

2. What would you do if you had a **substantial** amount of power?

3. Write a completely **random** statement.

4. What is one thing you **covet**?

5. Who are you **dependent** upon?

Word Breakdown

The word *covet* is descended from an Old French word, *coveitier*, which in turn comes from a Latin word, *cupidus*, meaning "desirous." If you think the word *cupidous* looks familiar, you're right: *Cupid* is the name of the mythological imp who makes people fall in love (or desire one another) by shooting them with arrows.

The word *tragedy* has an interesting origin, too. It comes from the Greek word *tragodia*, which means, literally, "goat song." In ancient Greece, the storyteller who sang the best song would be given the prize of a goat. Today, you might consider it a real *tragedy* if someone tried to give you a goat as a prize!