
Unit 3 - Road Trip

3A Introduction

There's nothing like a long road trip through beautiful countryside to clear your mind. You can stop whenever you want, make little trips to different areas of interest, and listen to radio stations until they get too fuzzy and you have to find new ones. It can be a fun adventure. But that's if you make it out of the driveway.

3B Song Lyrics

*A road trip, I'm going on a road trip,
Hitting every spot on the map,
I won't skip on the road trip.
Yep, I'm going on a road trip,
Here we go, here we go.
(x2)*

I'm about to hit the road and you know that I'm **poised**,
I'm calm, controlled, and of course self-assured.
I just got my license and Mom left the keys,
She took a trip to the Philippines overseas.
So I hop into the car, ready to ride far,
But the engine won't start, 'cause my door is **ajar**,
Just slightly open, then it became closed.
Then I hit the road, and my **saga** unfolds,
The tale of my heroic adventure.
But my tires need air, rolling low, not to mention
That I need a brake job, 'cause I got a bad rep,
I mean I'm **infamous** for causing car wrecks.
But I took driving classes to win y'all's respect,
So there won't be an **incident**—naw—that's a bet.
No individual occurrence or event
Is going to keep me from driving on the highway again.

Hook

Well here I go to back out the driveway,
Zero **uncertainty** that anything's behind me,
I have no doubt, I am so sure,
I put it in reverse, slam the gas to the floor.
Awww shoot, what did I do?
Did it sound like I hit something to you?
Now it could have been a **figment** of my imagination,
An invented mental creation.
But how would that explain the lemons and grapefruits
Covering my windows, the only escape route?
Now this is the pits 'cause, yo,
I ran through my neighbors' fence to their **citrus** grove.
It's no joke, 'cause the trees weren't **fruitless**,



I mean not a single one of them had been useless.
 They all had oranges, limes, and more.
 Put it in drive, tried to ride, now I'm for sure, I need...

*A road trip, I'm going on a road trip,
 That was just an accident,
 Nah—I won't flip on the road trip.
 Yep, I'm going on a road trip,
 Here we go, here we go.
 (x2)*

Now the day was still **radiant**, full of sunshine,
 On days like this I've got to have a fun time.
 So forget all the **prior** events,
 When I ran through the fence,
 Right there, back then, it's in the past,
 But now I've got to think fast,
 I hop on a bike that was lying in the grass.
 I'm thinking everything's fine,
 Till I hear a dog growl, y'all know, a **canine**.
 From the look in his eye, he would **annihilate** me,
 Destroy me utterly, defeat me completely.
 I'd really like to **avert** that, totally avoid it, and dodge the attack.
 But I look back and I'm thrown off track,
 And I hit the same fence going full speed.
 So you could say my trip is still **pending**,
 Waiting for the time when my bad luck is ending.

*A road trip, I wish I could have had a road trip,
 Better luck next time though,
 I'm so sick for a road trip.
 Yep, I want a road trip,
 Here we go, here we go.
 (x2)*

3C 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. **ajar**  (adj) partly open

If you leave the door *ajar* in the summertime, mosquitoes will end up in your kitchen.
 Other forms: *Ajar* can also be used as an adverb: The door was standing *ajar*.

2. annihilate (verb) to destroy completely; to leave in utter ruin

The nuclear bomb *annihilated* the city.

Synonyms: massacre, obliterate

Antonyms: help, preserve

Other forms: Anyone who challenges me to a dance competition faces total *annihilation* (noun).

3. avert (verb) 1. to turn away 2. to prevent

1. When Simone saw something gross on the TV, she always *averted* her eyes.

2. The two powerful countries barely *averted* a terrible war.

Synonyms: avoid, deter

4. canine (adj) of, or relating to, dogs

Even though Snuffles is a cat, she shows a *canine*-like loyalty to me.

Other forms: *Canine* can also be a noun meaning “a dog” or “the four pointy teeth that many animals (including humans) have”: When the *canine* opened his mouth, I could see his sharp *canines*.

5. citrus (noun) fruit of the family that includes oranges, lemons, grapefruits, and limes

If you drive through parts of Florida, you can gaze at beautiful *citrus* trees.

Other forms: *Citrus* or *citrusy* are adjectives: This soda has a very *citrusy* taste.

6. infamous (adj) having a very bad reputation; famous for something evil

One of the most *infamous* killers in New York City history was “Son of Sam.”

Synonyms: notorious

Antonyms: well-liked, beloved

Other forms: Al Capone got a lot of *infamy* (noun) from running a powerful gang in Chicago.

7. incident (noun) something that happens in real life or in a story; an event, sometimes one that is a slight problem

Because of the *incident* with my exploding can of Pepsi, Lauren never invites me to her parties anymore.

Synonyms: occurrence

8. figment (noun) something that is made up in the mind but has no connection to reality

You think she likes you? Ha! That’s just a *figment* of your imagination.

Synonyms: dream, fantasy

Antonyms: reality

9. fruitless (adj) useless; unsuccessful

Devon made a *fruitless* attempt to hit a half-court shot for \$1,000.

Synonyms: ineffective, futile

Antonyms: productive, successful

Other forms: I searched for my cat *fruitlessly* (adverb) for many days before realizing the *fruitlessness* (noun) of the situation.

10. pending (adj) unfinished; remaining to be decided

The school was all talking about the *pending* decision on whether students would be allowed to wear tank tops.

Synonyms: forthcoming, undetermined

Other forms: *Pending* can also be a preposition: I will be the new king, pending King Arthur's return.

11. poised (adj) 1. balanced or ready for action 2. calm and controlled

1. The superhero, *poised* on the edge of the cliff, suddenly jumped into action.

2. Even though everyone was yelling insults at the star, she remained *poised*.

Synonyms: self-confident, self-assured

Other forms: Jason showed a lot of *poise* (noun) when he saved that kid.

12. prior (adj) earlier, former

Because of a *prior* delay, the trains were all running late.

Antonyms: after, later

13. radiant (adj) shining, bright; giving off light or energy

During the day, the sun is the most *radiant* star in the sky.

Synonyms: beaming, brilliant, glowing

Antonyms: cloudy, dark, dim

Other forms: The young actress seemed to glow *radiantly* (adverb) when she walked down the red carpet, but the photos couldn't capture the *radiance* (noun) of her expression.

14. saga (noun) a story of heroic exploits; a long, detailed account

I can tell you the *saga* of Harriet Tubman's life, but it might take a while.

Synonyms: tale, history, epic

15. uncertainty (noun) doubt; the state of being unsure

Locked in his *uncertainty* about whom he wanted to ask to the dance, Juan waited too long and had to go alone.

Synonyms: indecision, ambiguity

Antonyms: certainty, sureness

Other forms: Juan was *uncertain* (adj) he wanted to go to the dance at all.

3D Fix the Mistake

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. The ballerina was **ajar** and confident as she waited for the orchestra to begin the first number.

2. Jake completely forgot to study for the math test, and now he's filled with **incident** about his grade.

3. It was hard to **annihilate** my eyes from the man sitting at the table next to us; he must have been at least seven feet tall!

4. I know you believe you were kidnapped by aliens, but I think it's all just a **canine** of your imagination.

5. The banker became **radiant** around the world after he stole billions of dollars from his clients.

6. Jarrod would have loved to come to your party, but he had a **fruitless** commitment on the other side of town.

7. The warlord told his troops to continue attacking until the enemy was completely **pending**.

8. Not yet resolved, Allysa's **prior** court case was making it hard for her to find a job.

9. The beautiful young bride flashed an **uncertain** smile at her husband as they walked happily along the beach.

10. Today our class got a special visit from Officer Janowski and his dog Bilbo from the police department's **citrus** unit.

11. This morning a strange **figment** occurred in Ms. Orso's class when Brian walked in to find his desk filled with pudding.

12. I knew what I was getting for my birthday because my mom left the door slightly **averted** when she was wrapping my presents.

13. Sit down and I will tell you the **infamy** of Thorak, the ancient hero who saved the world from the mighty dragon.

14. Eileen's first attempt to get concert tickets was **poised**, but she may be able to buy them from someone on Craigslist.

15. The perfume had a strong **saga** smell that reminded me of lemons and oranges.

3E Pick the Winner

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. **(Pending OR Prior)** to yesterday, I had no idea that Bradley was planning to move to Ohio.

2. _____

3. Janine apologized to Stacy, but her efforts were **(fruitless OR citrus)**; Stacy's just too upset right now to listen.

4. _____

5. "I'll smash him! I'll **(avert OR annihilate)** him!" the wrestler screamed, to the cheers of the adoring crowd.

6. _____

7. The **(uncertainty OR saga)** of how my grandfather met my grandmother is a long and fascinating story.

8. _____

9. The **(radiant OR poised)** sun shone down upon the field, making the dewdrops sparkle in the light.

10. _____

3F Draw the Relationships

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

self-assured	massacre	annihilate	ajar
prior	closed	later	poised

2

infamous	dull	successful	fruitless
uncertainty	well-liked	doubt	radiant

3

sure	incident	forthcoming	occurrence
avert	turn away	uncertain	pending

4

tale	notorious	prior	reality
figment	infamous	saga	previous

3G Understanding What You Read

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

What Power is Often Made Of

Sit back, my friends, and let me tell you the saga of Omani, the canine who overthrew the infamous ruler Bosheba. Long ago, when the world was young, King Bosheba ruled the city of Bangal with an iron fist. Bosheba always carried with him a magic wand that was given to him by a powerful sorcerer. Legend had it that the owner of the wand could turn anyone who looked at him into dust. When Bosheba walked through the town square, his subjects averted their eyes, for fear that they would be annihilated by the cruel ruler.

One day, Omani strode into Bangal, hunting for some food. Prior to that day, Omani had never

heard of Bosheba or his legendary powers. So when Bosheba came walking through the square, his crown gleaming in the radiant sunlight, Omani couldn't help but stare directly at him.

"What's this?" shouted Bosheba. He stopped in his tracks and pointed his wand at Omani. "Avert your eyes, dog! Don't you know of my powers?"

Omani remained poised, looking at the king. Bosheba didn't look very powerful to him. In fact, in his oversize crown and patchwork cape, the king looked rather comical. Omani found his appearance so amusing that he started to laugh.

"You dare laugh at the king?" Bosheba shouted with fury. "Very well! You shall be turned to dust!"

The king pointed his wand at Omani and screamed, "To dust!" Omani cocked his head and stared at him. "To dust!" Bosheba shouted again. "To dust! To dust!" But much to the king's surprise, his attempts were fruitless. The wand was nothing more than a sparkly stick, not even long enough to be a cane.

When the people of Bangal heard what was happening, they too turned their eyes to look at the king. As they saw him directly for the first time, they realized that he did not seem powerful at all. He was simply a small man in a silly outfit waving a useless stick in the air.

On that day, the people of Bangal took their city back from their cruel king. And forever afterward, they remembered the lesson taught to them by Omani: You might be surprised by what you will see if you only have the courage to look.

1. What type of story is this?

- (A) Biography
- (B) Folktale
- (C) Historical nonfiction
- (D) Science fiction

2. Why did Omani come to Bangal?

- (A) He wanted to challenge the king.
- (B) He had family in Bangal.
- (C) He wanted to work for the king.
- (D) He was looking for food.

3. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The wand was nothing more than a sparkly stick, not even long enough to be a cane." The author means that the wand

- (A) Was not very pretty
- (B) Could be used for walking
- (C) Was completely useless
- (D) Could be used to make fire

4. Based on information in the story, you can tell that

- (A) The king truly believed his wand was powerful.
- (B) The wand had lost its power after years of misuse.
- (C) The king had lost his real wand.
- (D) The wand only worked for people whose hearts were pure.

5. What is the moral of the story?

- (A) Learn to be happy with what you have.
- (B) Don't believe everything you're told.
- (C) Do not listen to your elders.
- (D) Dogs are sometimes smarter than humans.

3H Thinking Creatively

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

1. Write the first sentence to a novel in which **canines** take over the world.

2. When was the last time you made a **fruitless** attempt at something?

3. What is something you are **uncertain** about?

4. How might you become **infamous**?

5. Name an exciting **incident** that happened to you recently.

Word Breakdown

The word *fruitless* comes from the world of agriculture. If a tree is *fruitless*, it cannot grow any fruit and will soon die. This meaning gave rise to the current meaning—“useless.” The rapper Illogic has used the word to describe his search for truth: “The harvest fruitless / Only the Tree of Life flourishing / Wanting to take a bite but I’m toothless.”

The word *infamous* is an interesting word. The prefix *in-* means “not.” So it is easy to assume that *infamous* means “not famous” or “unknown.” In this case, however, the word comes from the original meaning of famous, which is to “have a good reputation.” So to be *infamous* is to “have a bad reputation.”