

ENGLISH TEST PART 2
T°L - 'ANGLAIS APPROFONDI'

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Don't Give Up - Peter Gabriel (1986)

DEEPER COMPREHENSION

1. There are two voices in this song. Decide which parts (§ 1-11) are sung by voice n°1/voice n°2:

Voice n°1: 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 : they are the verses of the song.

Voice n°2: 3, 6, 7, 8, 11 : they are the chorus of the song.

2. The verses of the song **mainly** deal with:

☒ friendship	☐ a disappointment in love	☐ an escape from jail
☐ suicide	☒ life without a job	☐ life on the run

Justify by **quoting** one or two short relevant elements:

"For every job (...) so many men no ones needs" (10)

"Don't giuve up 'cus you have friends" (3)

3. Complete the following table showing how much things have changed for the man.

Do **not** quote from the song.

BEFORE	NOW
He used to be strong and he had dreams about his future.	He no longer believes in what life can offer. He no longer pursues his dreams.
He thought he would work his way up.	He can't get used to his new life on the dole.
He never imagined his life could turn upside down overnight.	Yet he still believes he can bounce back.

4. The man uses lots of negative words and phrases **in § 1 & 2**. Pick them out:

"never", "fail", "deserted", "no one", "lose", "no fight left"

Say why there are so many right from the start:

The artis wants to show us what it feels like to be unemployed. This man think he is a nobody, a good-for-nothing. He thinks he has failed. Peter Gabriel wants to convey this feeling of being useless when losing a job.

5. What does 'it' refer to in § 4 (first line)? Read **§ 4 & 10** for clues.

"It" refers to unemployment, joblessness.

Now complete the following sentences . Do **not** quote from the song.

He didn't think he could ever be laid off from his job.

He thought he'd be the last to be jobless.

6. Answer the following four questions which bear upon **§ 5, 9 & 10**.

Where was he? Why did he go there? What did he see? What did he understand?

Explain the facts in the past tense. Do **not** quote.

a) **§ 5**

He drove to his hometown because he needed to find his roots. But he saw that the trees had burned down to the ground. It symbolizes that there's nothing left of his past. He has to move forward.

b) **§ 9**

He went on a bridge, still in his hometown. He stood on that bridge, maybe thinking that the world would be better without him and that suicide might be a solution. But, looking at the river, he understood that life goes even in the toughest moments and that he had to live with it.

§ 10

He went to another town, hoping to find a new job, but nobody gives him a new opportunity. There's so many men in the same situation. He had become redundant and no one will give him a job when there's so many people asking for one.

7. Voice n°2 is supposed to embody the man's conscience while 'us' and 'we' (in § 6) probably refer to the man's family/friends.

Now find **quotes** in § 3, 6, 7 & 11 which indicate that:

they don't despise him: "We're proud of who you are" (11)

he can count on his friends: "You can fall back on us" (6)

he can still succeed: "I know you can make it good" (3)

he is not finished: "You're not beaten yet" (3)

they can get by without much: "We don't need much of anything" (3)

there's a home for them somewhere: "There's a place where we belong" (11)
