

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person becomes Irish for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the globe, from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has banned one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy" is ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time. It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. The song symbolizes a time when many Irish fled hunger and grim economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner griped that the song gets played too much during the month, and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition. It would be akin to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

griped	ranked	without	akin	especially
optimistic	globe	patrons	banned	frankly
spike	traditional	grim	karaoke	symbolizes

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person becomes Irish for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the (a. _____), from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a (b. _____) in all things Irish, (c. _____) purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has (d. _____) one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy" is (e. _____) as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time. It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. The song (f. _____) a time when many Irish fled hunger and (g. _____) economic conditions for more (h. _____) opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner (i. _____) that the song gets played too much during the month, and he was (j. _____) sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day (k. _____) party would receive a free Guinness for singing any (l. _____) Irish song except "Danny Boy."

Although some (m. _____) are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition. It would be (n. _____) to a December (o. _____) "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

STEP ONE

Define: What does "St. Patrick's Day" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

STEP TWO

Word Search: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

banned	frankly	ranked	optimistic	patrons
griped	grim	akin	spike	symbolizes
M E T E P Q M Y W S O K C H B S D S K E F J M E Z P X I G H J Y E N E G Q Z O X T W T X V A C M N S G I F E A I I S O J A P G B N L R X G D M H I D K K E G L O A L I E O I F M M O I T D B N L B P M L S P I K E N T M K H B I M S J M G T D J W Y L V A R O C W F D H P A H S Y A N G C E G S H E B O U A B X D V N W Q J V I K L T P R P A T R O N I Z E O N A C N J W V O S N O R T A P A S P O W N I M F M N Q S K W R R S G C V Y X L Z W Y C I M Q V W X L				

STEP THREE

Vocabulary Match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

	banned	frankly	ranked	optimistic	patrons
	griped	grim	akin	spike	symbolizes
a.	The month of March sees a () in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs.				
b.	The owner has () one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."				
c.	"Danny Boy" is () as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time.				
d.	The song () a time when many Irish fled hunger.				
e.	They fled () economic conditions, too.				
f.	They looked for more () opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere.				
g.	The bar owner () that the song gets played too much during the month.				
h.	He was () sick of "Danny Boy."				
i.	Although some () are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition.				
j.	It would be () to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."				

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	What does the article say about St. Patrick's Day?
b.	What happened at a bar in Manhattan?
c.	What is the song about?
d.	What must patrons do to receive a free Guinness at the karaoke party?
e.	How do some patrons feel about the ban?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	Is it fair that the bar owner has banned "Danny Boy?" Why/not?
c.	What do you think would happen if someone started to sing "Danny Boy" at the bar in Manhattan?
d.	What do you usually do for St. Patrick's Day?

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.