

TAYLOR SWIFT MAKES GRAMMY HISTORY

Feb 16th, 2024

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What do you know about Taylor Swift?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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| 1. Prowess | a) an important stage or event in the life or development of something |
| 2. Milestone | b) awards and praise for achievements |
| 3. Critically acclaimed | c) wanted by many people |
| 4. Prestigious | d) how a person is seen after they die, retire, or as time passes |
| 5. Coveted | e) to give a name |
| 6. Solidify | f) to present someone's qualities in a positive way |
| 7. Accolade | g) a disagreement |
| 8. Dispute | h) praised by critics |
| 9. Dub | i) strong ability |
| 10. Legacy | j) to make something solid or certain |
| 11. Captivate | k) to be so interesting that people pay close attention |
| 12. Showcase | l) highly respected |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

Taylor Swift continues to shine. At the _____ Grammy Awards, she proved her musical prowess once again, achieving remarkable milestones. Her latest album, "Midnights," wasn't just critically acclaimed, it also received two prestigious _____: *Best Pop Vocal Album* and the most coveted *Album of the Year*. This win marks her 14th Grammy, solidifying her position as one of the most awarded artists of all time.

With "Midnights," Swift became the first _____ ever to win the *Album of the Year* award four times. Her previous victories came with "Fearless", "1989", and "Folklore", highlighting her incredible artistic evolution and ability to connect with audiences _____ genres.

Swift's impact extends beyond new accolades. In a bold move to reclaim ownership of her earlier work, she has been re-recording her first six albums. A dispute arose over _____ of the original recordings. By creating new recordings of her songs, dubbed "Taylor's Versions," Swift now owns these versions and their future royalties. This project empowers her artistically, while allowing fans to experience her music with a fresh perspective and support her ownership of her artistic legacy.

The accolades don't stop there: her record-breaking "Eras Tour" _____ to captivate fans worldwide. It has become the highest grossing tour of all time, surpassing \$1 billion in revenue, and a film version has become the highest-grossing concert film of all time. Additionally, Swift's recent romance with NFL player Travis Kelce has showcased a relatable side of her _____.

Taylor Swift shows no signs of slowing down. While accepting her recent *Best Pop Vocal Album* grammy, she announced that another album will be released in the near future.

WORD FORMS: Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an **x**, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
x	prestigious		
	coveted	x	x
solidify			
captivate			

FULL STORY:

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With "Midnights," Swift became the first artist ever to win the *Album of the Year* award four times. Her previous victories came with "Fearless", "1989", and "Folklore", highlighting her incredible artistic evolution and ability to connect with audiences across genres.

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The accolades don't stop there: her record-breaking "Eras Tour" continues to captivate fans worldwide. It has become the highest grossing tour of all time, surpassing \$1 billion in revenue, and a film version has become the highest-grossing concert film of all time. Additionally, Swift's recent romance with NFL player Travis Kelce has showcased a relatable side of her personality.

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Sources: wikipedia.org, cncbc.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. Taylor Swift won *Album of the Year* for *Midnights*. (T / F)
2. Six of her albums have won *Album of the Year*. (T / F)
3. Taylor is in a relationship with another musician. (T / F)
4. Taylor announced that she will retire. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. year / fourth / swift / won / album / the / time / of / a
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2. re-recording / is / taylor / albums / her / six / first
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. What genres of music do you like?

