

**ESCUELA
OFICIAL
DE
IDIOMAS
OVIEDO**

**CENTRO DE AUTOAPRENDIZAJE
IDIOMA: INGLÉS
PRÁCTICA: COMPRENSIÓN ORAL
NIVEL: NIVEL AVANZADO
MATERIAL: CINTA-CD / CUESTIONARIO / SOLUCIONES
TEMA: LÉXICO (VERBOS). PASADOS REGULARES E
IRREGULARES.**



ELTON JOHN

One of the most commercially successful entertainers of the last 30 years, pop singer Elton John, was born Reginald Dwight on March 25, 1947 to a middle-class family living in Pinner, England. His mother encouraged him to play piano as a toddler, and by age 11 Dwight won a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music. While at school he performed with a succession of small-time rock bands. Dropping out shortly before graduation, John toured England with Bluesology backing bigger-name blues performers; he also played piano in hotels and worked for a music publisher. In 1967 Dwight met lyricist Bernard Taupin through a newspaper ad, and the duo became a professional songwriting team, cranking out up to 10 songs a day. Taking the stage name Elton "Hercules" John from the first names of Bluesology's vocalist Elton Dean and saxophonist "Long" John Baldry, Dwight embarked on a solo career in mid-1968, performing songs he had written with Taupin.

Thanks to critical praise and the U.S. success of the Top 10 single "Your Song," John found himself quite popular in America, touring the country for the first time in 1970. "Rocket Man," inaugurated a string of hits for the singer-pianist, who scored 16 consecutive Top 20 hits between late 1972 and mid-1976, releasing up to three albums a year. Hits like "The Bitch Is Back," "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting," "Bernie and the Jets," "Yellow Brick Road," "Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me," "Someone Saved My Life Tonight" and "Crocodile Rock" became pop classics, turning Elton John into a bona fide superstar. He appeared on the cover of Time, performed for more than 100,000 people in Los Angeles, dueted with John Lennon in New York and appeared in the movie Tommy.

John's live shows became known for their flamboyance and energy - the singer would appear on stage wearing feather boas, garish sunglasses, platform shoes, and multi-colored hair. In 1977 he and Bernard Taupin ceased working together, with John bringing in other songwriters and Taupin penning lyrics for other artists. Elton John began a comeback tour in 1979, without his usual backup band. The extensive world tour passed through Russia, among other stops, making John the first Western artist to tour the Communist U.S.S.R.

In 1980 John and Taupin reunited. John continued releasing gold records, occasionally scoring hits like 1983's "I Guess That's Why They Call it the Blues" and 1984's "Sad Songs (Say So Much)," but moved from rock/pop to a more mellow adult contemporary sound. He also took an interest in AIDS research, forming the Elton John AIDS Foundation in 1991; he also announced that he would donate all future royalties from his singles to AIDS charities.

John mounted another comeback with 1992's *The One*, which went double platinum. In 1994 Elton John scored his biggest hit in years with "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" from *The Lion King* soundtrack, winning five Grammy nominations and three Oscar nominations.

Elton John released the album "The Big Picture" in September 1997. Earlier that month, he captured the hearts of millions when he sang a re-written version of "Candle in the Wind" at the funeral of Princess Diana. A recording of the song, released as "Candle in the Wind 1997" became the first single to outsell Bing Crosby's "White Christmas." All proceeds from the sale of the single were donated to the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

These are the lyrics of

Candle In The Wind 1997



Music by Elton John
Lyrics by Bernie Taupin
Performed at Princess Diana's funeral, Saturday September 6, 1997.

**Goodbye England's rose
May you ever grow in our hearts
You were the grace that placed itself
Where lives were torn apart
You called out to our country
And you whispered to those in pain
Now you belong to heaven
And the stars spell out your name**

**And it seems to me you lived your life
Like a candle in the wind
Never fading with the sunset
When the rain set in
And your footsteps will always fall here
Along England's greenest hills
Your candle's burned out long before
Your legend ever will**

Loveliness we've lost
These empty days without your smile
This torch we'll always carry
For our nation's golden child
And even though we try
The truth brings us to tears
All our words cannot express
The joy you brought us through the years

And it seems to me you lived your life
Like a candle in the wind
Never fading with the sunset
When the rain set in
And your footsteps will always fall here
Along England's greenest hills
Your candle's burned our long before
Your legend ever will

Goodbye England's rose
May you ever grow in our hearts
You were the grace that placed itself
Where lives were torn apart
Goodbye England's rose
From a country lost without your soul
Who'll miss the wings of your compassion
More than you'll ever know

And it seems to me...





**Now listen to the first original version of
*Candle In The Wind.***

1. Do you know in the memory of who the song was written? If you don't, listen to the song once before reading the lyrics and find out.
2. Some of the verbs in the song have been removed. Check that you know the meaning of the following by matching them with their definitions.

1. CLING (TO)	2. HOUND	3. CRAWL	4. SET (IN)	5. WHISPER
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- A. for something unpleasant to begin and seem likely to continue that way
 - B. to try hard to please in order to get an advantage / to move slowly or with difficulty, especially (of a person) with the body stretched out along the ground or on hands and knees
 - C. a way of speaking very quietly, using the breath but not the voice, so that only the person close beside you can hear you
 - D. to stick onto or hold something or someone tightly, or to refuse to stop holding them
 - E. to chase someone or refuse to leave them alone, especially because you want to get something from them; harass
3. As you listen to the song, fill in the blanks with all the missing verbs in the appropriate form.

Candle In The Wind

Music by Elton John
Lyrics by Bernie Taupin
Available on the album *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road*

Goodbye Norma Jean

Though I never _____ you at all
 You had the grace to _____ yourself
 While those around you _____
 They _____ out of the woodwork
 And they _____ into your brain
 They _____ you on the treadmill
 And they _____ you change your name

And it seems to me you _____ your life
 Like a candle in the wind
 Never knowing who to _____ to
 When the rain _____ in

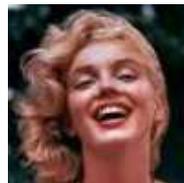
And I would have liked to have known you
 But I was just a kid
 Your candle _____ out long before
 Your legend ever did

Loneliness was tough
 The toughest role you ever _____
 Hollywood _____ a superstar
 And pain was the price you _____
 Even when you _____

Oh the press still _____ you
 All the papers had to say
 Was that Marilyn was _____ in the nude

Goodbye Norma Jean
 From the young man in the 22nd row
 Who _____ you as something as more than sexual
 More than just our Marilyn Monroe

And it seems to me...



KEY

1. Norma Jean (Marilyn Monroe)

2. 1. D / 2. E / 3. B / 4. A / 5. C

3. **Candle In The Wind**

Goodbye Norma Jean
 Though I never knew you at all
 You had the grace to hold yourself
 While those around you crawled
 They crawled out of the woodwork
 And they whispered into your brain
 They set you on the treadmill
 And they made you change your name

And it seems to me you lived your life
 Like a candle in the wind
 Never knowing who to cling to
 When the rain set in
 And I would have liked to have known you
 But I was just a kid
 Your candle burned out long before
 Your legend ever did

Loneliness was tough
 The toughest role you ever played
 Hollywood created a superstar
 And pain was the price you paid
 Even when you died
 Oh the press still hounded you
 All the papers had to say
 Was that Marilyn was found in the nude

Goodbye Norma Jean
 From the young man in the 22nd row
 Who sees you as something as more than sexual
 More than just our Marilyn Monroe

And it seems to me...