
Lesson 3

A. Pre-Reading Preparation

Cultural Context

The action of this text happens in a North American context. The narrator has been educated in a North American secondary institution (i.e. college or university). A first-year student is called a “freshman” and a second-year student is called a “sophomore.”

“Pamela Anderson” is an American actress. She was originally from British Columbia, Canada, but she moved to Hollywood when she joined the cast of the popular television series “Baywatch.”

“Baywatch” is about a group of lifeguards who work on California beaches. The show is particularly famous for the beautiful and busty women and the handsome and muscular men that it displays. Pamela Anderson is the most popular actress of the show.

About the text

This text is presented in the form of a scene taken from a play. It contains elements particular to the genre of drama, such as dialogues, soliloquy and stage directions.

- 1) What do you know about the genre of drama? What form does it have? Can you define the following concepts: tragedy, comedy, act, scene, cast, main characters, secondary characters, conflict, action, plot, denouement?
- 2) What plays have you read?
- 3) What famous playwrights do you know?
- 4) Have you ever been to a live performance? What play was it? Did you enjoy it? Why?
- 5) Would you like to be an actor or actress? Why?
- 6) If you were involved in the production of a play, who would you prefer to be: the playwright, the director, the actor, the producer, the costume designer, the make-up artist or one of the stage technicians? Why?

B. Reading

Read the text a couple of times and try to deduce the meaning of the words that you do not understand from the context in which they appear. The following vocabulary and comprehension sections will help you understand the new words that this text contains.

Seen Once Forever

By B. Devon Cooke

- 1 (A actor comes on stage in **nondescript** clothing and sits down in single spot. There's obviously something wrong, and he hesitates before beginning to speak.)
- 2 I can't remember when I first saw her. I wish I could say I do, but I'm not about to lie to you. She probably just walked by me with one of my old classmates. I don't know why she always dates my old classmates.
- 3 I do remember when I first noticed her, though. I mean, NOTICED her. Like noticing Pamela Anderson walking down the sidewalk in a bikini. Yeah. That's the kind of girl she is. She looks good anytime, anywhere, but always seems to be **inaccessible**, like she's behind an **invisible** wall or something. It was my freshman year at university. My friends and I had some free time, and we were just hanging out and talking, the girls **gabbing** away, and us guys just sitting there in the background, sort of waiting to be noticed, if you know what I mean. Anyway, that's when she said it. She was thinking of breaking up with her boyfriend. Now, when a girl who looks like that says she's even dreaming of breaking up, you notice. You notice BIG time! Yeah. That's when I first noticed her.
- 4 Well, the semester went on, and she broke up with her boyfriend like she said she would. I never got the courage to ask her out, though. But she definitely made my top five list of hot girls in the freshman class.

(END OF SAMPLER)