



Objection (Tango) - Shakira – Notes



- **Activity type:** vocabulary, gap fill, listening for specific words, rhyming words.
- **Time:** 40 mins.
- **Note:** Objection is taken from Shakira's 2001 album "Laundry Service". Its rhythm is similar to the Uruguayan-Argentinian tango La Cumparsita, a musical piece written by Uruguayan musician Gerardo Matos Rodríguez in 1919. La Cumparsita is one of the most famous and recognizable tango songs of all time; the Argentinean team marched to it in the Olympic Games of Sydney 2000.

Pre-listening activities:

- 1) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Students can work in pairs or small groups to complete Exercise 1) – the first to complete the exercise is the winner.

Vocabulary note: In the song Shakira erroneously sings silicon /'sɪlɪkən/ (a chemical element), although she means silicone /'sɪlɪkəʊn/, in this context meaning breast implants! That part of the music video uses subtitles – correctly.

Key: A - 2; B - 3; C - 5; D - 1; E - 6; F - 4.

- 2) Students do Exercise 2). Note: not all the words are direct rhymes.

Key: irresistible – fixable
name – care
exception – attention
mother – bother

While-listening activities:

- 3) Play the first part of the song (as far as "But you don't even bother" - 59 seconds into the original recording) – students check, correct and complete the exercise.
- 4) Students do Exercise 3). Play the next part of the song (as far as "I've got to get away" - after 1' 11" on the original recording) – students check, correct and complete the exercise.
- 5) Students do Exercise 4). Play the next part of the song, (as far as "Away from here" - at 2' 21" on the original recording) – students check, correct and complete the exercise, and follow the lyrics.

Key: A – 5; B – 4; C – 2; D – 1; E – 3.

- 6) Students do Exercise 5). Play the rest of the song – students check, correct and complete the exercise, and follow the lyrics.
- 7) Play the complete song again. Students check their answers and follow the lyrics.
- 8) Sing together.



Objection (Tango) – Shakira



1) Match the words with their definitions.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| a) FAULT | 1) tough artificial substance. |
| b) DAMAGE | 2) mistake in what someone is doing |
| c) DIZZY | 3) a harmful effect |
| d) SILICONE | 4) to practise in preparation for a public performance |
| e) ANGLE | 5) slightly confused and unable to think clearly |
| f) REHEARSE | 6) the space between two lines at the point they meet |



2) Match the rhyming pairs, and write them in the correct place in the song (rhyming words come together), then listen and check.

attention – bother – care – exception – fixable – irresistible – name - mother

It's not her fault that she's so
 But all the damage she's caused is
 Every twenty seconds you repeat her
 But when it comes to me you don't
 If I'm alive or dead, so

Chorus:

Objection
 I don't want to be the.....
 To get a bit of your.....
 Love is for free and
 I'm not your
 But you don't even

3) Listen and rewrite the words in the correct order.

Objection
 this tired triangle I'm of
 tango dancing Got dizzy
 again apart in falling hands I'm your
 way No
 got get I've away to

Objection

4) Match the two halves, then listen and check.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) Next to her cheap silicone | 1) feet on the ground |
| b) That's why in front of | 2) know small things also count |
| c) But you've got to | 3) it's about, so |
| d) Better put your | 4) your eyes I'm invisible |
| e) And see what | 5) I look minimal |

5) Listen, and sing along with the Chorus (see Exercises 2 and 3).

(Note: there is a slight change – replace *I'm tired of this triangle* with **The angles of this triangle**)

I wish there was a chance for you and me
 I wish you could find our place to be
 Away from here

6) Listen to the last part of the song, and write the following adjectives in the correct place.

sadistic sardonic psychotic pathetic

This is _____
 And _____
 And _____
 And _____

Tango is not for three
 Was never meant to be
 But you can try it
 Rehearse it
 Or train like a horse

But don't you count on me
 Don't you count on me boy

Repeat Chorus

Get away, get away, ah ha ha ha
Get away. Ah ha ha ah ha ha
I'm falling apart in your hands again
Get away.
I'm falling apart in your hands again
Get away. Get away.



Objection (Tango) - Shakira – Complete



It's not her fault that she's so irresistible
But all the damage she's caused isn't fixable
Every twenty seconds you repeat her name
But when it comes to me you don't care
If I'm alive or dead, so

[Chorus:]

Objection
I don't want to be the exception
To get a bit of your attention
I love you for free,
And I'm not your mother
But you don't even bother
Objection
I'm tired of this triangle
Got dizzy dancing tango
I'm falling apart in your hands again
No way
I've got to get away

Next to her cheap silicone I look minimal
That's why in front of your eyes I'm invisible
But you've got to know small things also count
Better put your feet on the ground
And see what it's about, so

[Repeat Chorus]

(Note: replace *I'm tired of this triangle* with *The angles of this triangle*)

I wish there was a chance for
You and me
I wish you couldn't find a place to be
away from me

This is pathetic
And sardonic
And sadistic
And psychotic
Tango is not for three
Was never meant to be
But you can try it
Rehearse it
Or train like a horse
But don't you count on me
Don't you count on me boy

[Repeat Chorus]

Get away, get away, ah ha ha ha
Get away. Ah ha ha ah ha ha

I'm falling apart in your hands again
Get away.
I'm falling apart in your hands again
Get away.
Get away.