**Madonna’s 2016 “Woman of the Year Award” Speech at Billboard Music Awards (Part 1) – EXERCISES**

**Exercise 1. Grammar in Context**

**1.1.** **Negative Sentences**

**Reword the following sentences using negatives** (not, isn’t, don’t, nothing, etc.).

* *There was no Internet. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
* *I’m not the owner of anything. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
* *There’s no real safety. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**1.2.** **Active Vs. Passive Voice.**

**a) Underline or indicate (orally) the instances of passive voice in the following quote:**

*“In the first year, I was held up at gunpoint, raped on a rooftop with a knife digging into my throat; and I had my apartment broken into and robbed so many times I just stopped locking the door. In the years that followed, I lost almost every friend I had to AIDS or drugs or gunshot.”*

**b) Why do you think she uses passive voice here to tell her story, instead of active voice?**

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**1.3.** **Indirect Questions (Embedded Questions)**

**In the following quote, change the direct question to an indirect/embedded question:**

*“I asked myself: What can I say about being a woman in the music business?*

I asked my self \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1.4. Clauses of Purpose**

**a) Can you find the two clauses of purpose in the following quote?**

*“Everything I have is a gift from God. And even the things that happened to me, that still happen to me, are also gifts to teach me lessons to make me stronger.”*

***b) Re-express each of them using other clauses of purpose.***

**Exercise 2. Vocabulary.**

**2.1 Word Families. What are the nouns resulting from the following verbs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **VERB** | **NOUN** |
| *acknowledge* |  |
| *continue* |  |
| *start* |  |
| *move* |  |
| *rob* |  |
| *imagine* |  |
| *remind* |  |
| *teach* |  |
| *understand* |  |
| *believe* |  |
| *own* |  |
| *lock* |  |
| *rape* |  |

**2.2. Re-wording.**

**Directions: Say the bolded words/phrases another way.**

**a) “**It was 1979 and **New York was a very scary place**.”

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**b) “**In the years to follow, **I lost almost every friend I had**.”

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**c) “**I’m **receiving** an award for being “woman of the year”.

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**d)** “I **asked myself**: *What can I say about being a woman?”*

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**e) “**Thank you for **acknowledging** my ability to **continue** my career for 34 years”.

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**f) “As you can imagine**, all these unexpected events not only helped me become the daring woman that stands before you”.

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**g) “**When I started, there was no Internet; **so,** people had to say it to my face.

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**Exercise 3. Speaking (*Being a man or a woman!***

**Directions:** *Answer the following questions in the form of a brief monologue or a conversation with your teacher (either you feel comfortable with and prone to talking).*

1. Do you see yourself as a typical man or woman? Why or why not?
2. In your country are the responsibilities of a mother the same as the responsibilities of a father to their families?
3. What are the responsibilities of a father to his family?
4. What are the responsibilities of a mother to her family?
5. Are fathers capable of carrying out the duties of a mother and vice versa?
6. Are there different expectations for sons and daughters?
7. What habits are considered appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?
8. What behaviors are deemed as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?
9. What jobs are deemed as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?
10. In your opinion, are men and women equal in ability and intelligence?
11. What things can either men or women do that the other cannot do and why?
12. Do they take part in the same type of sporting activities?
13. In your home, who does the cooking, cleaning and household chores?
14. Is it possible for women to join the army in your country?
15. What jobs do men do and women not do in your country?
16. Who is regarded as the head of the family?
17. Should boys and girls be brought up differently?
18. Can a man and a woman be only friends?
19. Do men/men friendships differ from women/men or women/women friendships? How?
20. In general, who do you think has life easier, girls or guys? Why?