

Unit

1


Country Music

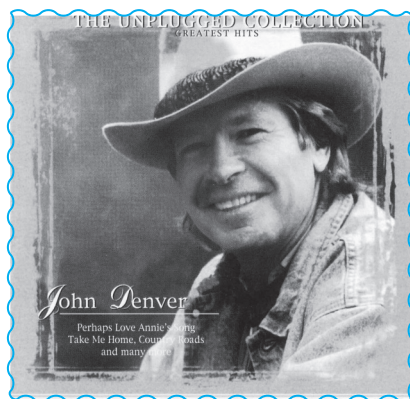


Goals

1. Understand what country music is and know how to identify it.
2. Learn to sing several country songs.
3. Enjoy some country songs and learn the cultural knowledge hidden behind.

Part 1 Warm-up

Enjoy John Denver's signature song (代表歌曲) "Take Me Home Country Roads" and do the following exercises. 



Take Me Home Country Roads

Almost heaven West Virginia,
Blue Ridge Mountains,
Shenandoah River.

Life is old there, older than the trees,
Younger than the mountains, blowin' like a breeze.

Country roads, take me home,
To the place I belong.
West Virginia, mountain momma,
Take me home country roads.

All my memories gather round her,
Miner's lady stranger to blue water^①.
Dark and dusty painted on the sky,
Misty taste of moonshine,
Teardrop in my eyes.

I hear a voice in the morning how she calls me,
The radio reminds me of my home far away.
Drivin' down the road I get a feelin',
That I should have been home yesterday yesterday...

Words and Expressions

West Virginia 西弗吉尼亚 (美国东部州名)

Blue Ridge Mountains 蓝岭山脉 (美国阿巴拉契亚山系的东部山脉)

Shenandoah River 谢南多亚河 (美国东部波托马克河最大的支流)

dusty /'dʌst/ *a.* 满是灰尘的

misty /'mɪst/ *a.* 模糊的

Note

① This line most probably refers to the singer's mother, a miner's wife who has never been to the sea.

1. Although this song is considered as a symbol (标志) of West Virginia by some fans, others argue it is not about the state of West Virginia but about the western area of its bordering state—Virginia. Can you find proof online for both sides in the lyrics and which state do you think it belongs to?



2. Some people believe that the “moonshine” in the line “misty taste of moonshine” doesn’t mean the real moonlight but a kind of high-proof spirit (烈酒) whose distillation (蒸馏) was done at night to not be caught. What do you think and why?

Part 2 What Is Country Music?

A. Definition

1. Read the following paragraph to get a rough idea about country music and replace the underlined words with their synonyms (近义词) in the box.

a. area b. include c. kind d. begin e. journey f. name

Country music is a major genre (1) () of American popular music that originated (2) () in the rural regions (3) () of the Southern United States in the 1920s. Born out of the folk music of Southern Appalachia (阿巴拉契亚 (美国东部高原地区)), it encompasses (4) () the styles known as Western swing (西部摇摆乐), honky-tonk (乡村酒吧乐), bluegrass (蓝草乐), rockabilly (乡村摇滚), and new country (新农村乐). Although originally known by the derisive (嘲弄的) label (5) () “hillbilly music” (山地音乐), country has since moved into the popular music mainstream (主流) and gained wide international acceptance. In 2009 country music was the most listened to rush hour (上下班高峰时间) radio genre during the evening commute (6) (), and second most popular in the morning commute in the United States.

2. Read to learn more information about country music.

Musically speaking, country music is one of the simplest styles to create and one of the least intimidating (令人生畏的) to listen to, and it is these features that contribute to its popularity. Perhaps the most essential (本质的) quality of country music and the source of its lasting appeal (吸引力) is its simplicity and direct commentary on the everyday problems of its audience.

Country harmony relies for the most part on a simple selection of repeated chords (和弦)—usually three, although additional chords or as few as two may be used. Most country music is written in 4/4 time (节拍), with the first and third beats receiving emphasis. Melodies are typically just as basic as the rhythm.

The lyrics of country songs commonly talk about the lives of ordinary, working-class Americans and cover such subjects as love and relationships, loneliness, religion, poverty, and

English Songs

work. Most country lyrics are very economical (简洁的), using 150 or fewer words, and the result is often poetic and evocative (引起共鸣的).

B. Music Time

1. Enjoy the moving love song “Wonderful Tonight” (Don Williams’ version), and learn to sing the song together in class. 🎵



Wonderful Tonight

It's late in the evening,
She's wondering what clothes to wear,
She puts on her make-up,
Brushes her long blonde hair,
And then she asks me, "Do I look all right?"
I say, "Yes, you look wonderful tonight."

We go to a party,
And everyone turns to see
This beautiful lady walking around with me.
And then she asks me, "Do you feel all right?"
I say, "Yes, I feel wonderful tonight."

I feel wonderful, because I see
The love light in your eyes,
And the wonder of it all,
You just don't realize how much I love you.

It's time to go home now, and I've got an aching head.
 So I give her the car keys^①, she helps me to bed.
 And then I tell her, as I turn out the light,
 "Oh my darling, you were wonderful tonight."

Words

make-up /'meɪkʌp/ *n.* 化妆品

blonde /blɒnd/ *a.* 金色的

aching /'eɪkɪŋ/ *a.* 疼痛的

Note

① It implies that the man was a little drunk and asked his wife to drive for him.

2. Listen to the audio clips of the following typical country instruments.



Banjo (五弦琴)



fiddle (小提琴)



guitar (吉他)



harmonica (口琴)



accordion (手风琴)




mandolin (曼陀林)

3. With all the above exercises done, talk about your general impression on country music.

Part 3 Songs and Cultures

A. Westward Movement

1. Song-enjoying

Enjoy and learn to sing the state song of Kansas “Home on the Range”. 



Home on the Range

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Words

range /reɪndʒ/ *n.* 牧场

buffalo /'bʌfəloʊ/ *n.* 北美野牛

roam /rəʊm/ *v.* 漫步

antelope /'æntɪləʊp/ *n.* 羚羊

2. Cultures Behind

Seemingly, the song is about the love for Kansas. Watch the documentary movie clip titled “Westward Movement”, read the following passage and talk about the real theme of the song. (Hint: The lyrics was written in 1873 when Westward Movement was underway.) 🎬

In the mid-19th century, Kansas still had varied and abundant wildlife, including numerous large game animals (狩猎动物). Huge herds of American bison (北美野牛), commonly called buffalo, roamed the open plains. There were also white-tailed deer (白尾鹿), elk (or wapiti) (麋鹿), and antelope, and wild horses that were descendants of stock brought to America by early Spanish explorers. By the end of the 19th century, indiscriminate (胡乱的) hunting and changes in the natural habitat (自然栖息地) had resulted in the near extinction (灭绝) of all the large mammals (哺乳动物) except for deer. Today, small herds of buffalo and elk are preserved in wildlife management areas and private ranches (牧场).

B. Cajun Culture

1. Song-enjoying

Enjoy the song “Jambalaya (On the Bayou)” written by Honky-tonk star Hank Williams and sung by the Carpenters, describe in your own words the scene depicted by the lyrics. 🎵



Jambalaya (On the Bayou)

Good-bye Joe, he gotta go, me oh my oh^①,
 He gotta go, pole the pirogue,
 Down the bayou,
 His Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh my oh
 Son of a gun^②, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

Thibodaux, Fontaineaux,
The place is buzzin',
A kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the dozen,
Dress in style they go hog wild, me oh my oh,
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

Jambalaya and a crawfish pie and filé gumbo^③,
For tonight, I'm gonna see my ma cher ami-o^④,
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be gay-o,
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

Settle down far from town, get him a pirogue,
And he'll catch all the fish in the bayou,
Swap his mon to buy Yvonne what she need-o,
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

Words and Expressions

pole /pəʊl/ *v.* 用篙撑船

pirogue /pɪ'rəʊg/ *n.* 独木舟

bayou /'baɪjuː/ *n.* (尤指美国东南部) 水流缓慢、水草繁多的小河

Fontaineaux 路易斯安那州南部城镇名

buzzin' /'bʌzɪŋ/ *a.* 嘈杂的

kinfolk /'kɪnfəʊk/ *n.* 亲属

go hog wild (美口) 极度兴奋

Jambalaya /ˌdʒʌm'bəlaɪə/ *n.* 什锦烩饭

crawfish pie 小龙虾派

filé gumbo 秋葵浓汤

swap /swɒp/ *v.* 交换

mon /mɒn/ *n.* (凯京语) 东西

Notes

①“Me oh my oh” doesn't have any real meaning but just achieves a certain sound effect in singing.

②Back in the early 1800s, the British initiated a policy known as impressment (强行征召). During the Napoleonic wars, the British considered any ship that traded with the French an enemy. They would steal the supplies and capture the crew (船员). They impressed the crew into the navy (海军) for life (终身). These guys would work as sailors (海员) for the rest of their lives and never step on dry land again. If they had a wife, the British would bring the wife aboard. If the wife was pregnant (怀孕的), they would

place her on the gun deck (炮甲板) near the cannons (大炮). When she started having contractions (宫缩), they would fire the cannons to make her push to have the baby. When the baby was born, it was called a “son of a gun”. This term is very negative.

③



jambalaya



crawfish pie



filé gumbo

④ “ma cher ami-o” is Cajun French for “my good girlfriend” (“ma chère amie” in French). Williams uses the term “ma cher ami” as one word, thus the “my” in front of it. The “o” at the end of “ami” is just for rhyming (押韵).

2. Cultures Behind

The above song is the most famous song about Cajun (凯京人，定居于美国路易斯安纳州的法国人后裔). Read the following passage to learn about Cajun culture and answer the questions.



The state of Louisiana (美国南部的路易斯安那州) is widely known for its rich history, musical traditions, good food and fun spirit. Its largest city, New Orleans, is considered one of the best cities for food in the world. Many famous cooks began their careers in restaurants that offer the rich traditions of Cajun and Creole cooking.

The word “Creole” refers to French colonists and their descendants (后裔) who came to what is now Louisiana starting in the early eighteenth century. The roots of Creole cooking come from the traditional French foods these colonists would have made. They had to change their cooking to use the food sources that were available in the hot, wet climate of Louisiana.

Other settlers came from countries including Spain, Germany, Italy and England. The food traditions of those countries also influenced Creole cooking.

One group of settlers came to Louisiana during the eighteenth century from an area of Canada

known at the time as Acadia. The Acadians were from France and still spoke their native language. They were forced to leave Canada when the British took over. Many Acadians travelled south to Louisiana. The French and Spanish settlers there permitted them to speak their language and follow their religion. Some Acadians settled in rural parts of the state. Over time, the term “Acadien” developed into the word “Cajun”.

Cajuns living in rural areas made and continue to make hearty dishes like gumbo and jambalaya that usually contain seafood, vegetables, rice and spices. These are prepared in one cooking pot. Cajun cooking uses whatever foods are nearby and available, like crawfish, duck, alligator (短吻鳄), okra (秋葵), corn or tomatoes, just as someone says: “When a Cajun cook is planning a meal, he or she simply opens the kitchen door and whatever is flying, swimming, walking by or growing in their gardens may well end up in the pot.”

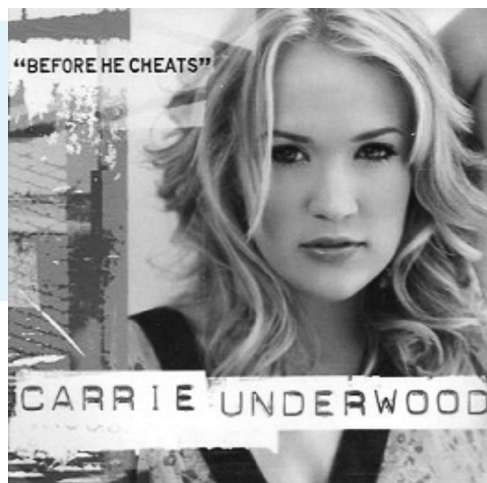
Creole and Cajun cooking have influenced one another. So it is hard to make set rules about their differences. One thing the two cultures have always had in common is a love of good food.

- (1) What do Creole and Cajun have in common?
- (2) What is the difference between Creole cooking and French cooking?
- (3) What is the origin of the word “Cajun”?
- (4) What is the sharp feature of Cajun cooking?
- (5) What do Creole cooking and Cajun cooking have in common?

C. Men & Women

1. Song-enjoying

Enjoy the song “Before He Cheats” by Carrie Underwood, a song about a girl’s revenge to her cheating boyfriend. 🎵



Before He Cheats

Right now he’s probably slow dancin’
with a bleached-blond tramp,

and she's probably getting frisky,
Right now, he's probably buying her
some fruity little drink,
'Cause she can't shoot whiskey,
Right now, he's probably up
behind her with a pool-stick,
Showin' her how to shoot a combo.
And he don't know...

I dug my key into the side of his
pretty little souped-up 4-wheel drive,
Carved my name into his leather seats,
I took a Louisville slugger
to both headlights, slashed a hole in all 4 tires.
Maybe next time he'll think before he cheats.

Right now, she's probably up
singin' some white-trash version
of Shania karaoke,
Right now, she's probably sayin' "I'm drunk"
and he's a thinkin' that he's gonna get lucky,
Right now, he's probably dabbin' on 3 dollars worth
of that bathroom polo.
Oh and he don't know oh...

I might have saved a little trouble for the next girl,
'Cause the next time that he cheats,
Oh, you know it won't be on me,
No... not on me...

Words and Expressions

bleach /bli:tʃ/ v. 使漂白; 使变白
tramp /'træmp/ n. (美口) 荡妇
frisky /'frɪskɪ/ a. (美口) 情欲高涨的
shoot /ʃu:t/ v. (美口) 喝
pool-stick 台球棒
combo /'kɒmbəʊ/ n. 组合球
souped-up 改装的
4-wheel drive 四轮驱动车
carve /kɑ:v/ v. 刻
leather /'leðə(r)/ n. 皮革
Louisville slugger 路易维尔强击者 (美国职棒大联盟官方球棒品牌)
white-trash (贬) 对美国南方穷苦白人的蔑称
version /'vɜ:ʃn/ n. 版本
Shania 仙妮亚·唐恩 (美国乡村音乐天后)
bathroom polo (在厕所售货机上都能买到的) 廉价古龙香水

2. Cultures Behind

I. *Enjoy a funny video titled “Man Woman Difference” and the following passage, discuss with your partners about the differences between male and female.* 🗣️

The Differences between Male and Female

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he wants. A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't want.

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband. A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

Any married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing.

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't. A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change and she does.

A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

II. Put the following proverbs implying sex discrimination (性别歧视) into either Chinese or English.

(1) A man of straw is worth a woman of gold.

(2) Deeds are males, and words are females.

(3) A woman conceals what she knows not.

(4) A woman's mind and winter wind change oft.

(5) 女子无才便是德。

(6) 三从：未嫁从父、既嫁从夫、夫死从子。

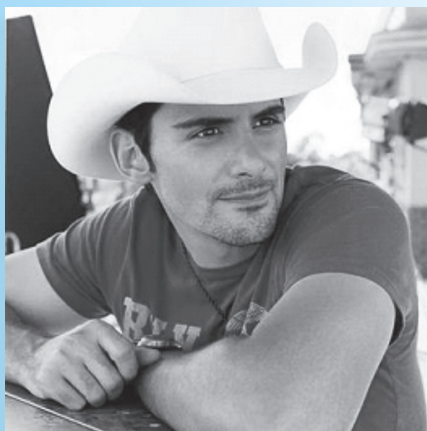
III. Nowadays, feminism (女权主义) has not only influenced women's way of dealing with intersexual relationship (两性关系) (like what the singer did to her boyfriend), but also brought about many changes in the English language. Fill in the blanks of the following paragraph about language and feminism.

Feminism has brought about many changes in the English language. Many words for job titles that included "man" have been replaced, for example, "police (1) _____" is used instead of "policeman", "fire (2) _____" for "fireman (消防员)", "weather (3) _____" for "weatherman (气象预报员)", "(4) _____" for "chairman", "(5) _____ attendant" for steward (空乘人员) and "mail (6) _____" for "mailman (邮递员)". "He" is now rarely used to refer to a person when the person could be either a man or a woman. The title "(7) _____" is used for women instead of "Miss" or "Mrs.", since it does not show whether a woman is married or not.

D. Drinking Culture

1. Song-enjoying

Enjoy the fun song "Alcohol" by Brad Paisley twice and fill in the blanks with the missing lyrics. 🎵



Alcohol

I can make anybody (1) _____, I can make you believe any lie,
I can make you pick a fight with somebody twice your (2) _____.
Well I've been known to cause a few (3) _____,
And I've been known to cause a few (4) _____,
I can make you new friends or get you (5) _____ from work.

And since the day I left Milwaukee, Lynchburg, Bordeaux, France,
Been makin' the bars with lots of big money and helpin' white people dance.
I got you in trouble in high school and college now that was a ball,
You had some of the best times, you'll never remember with me,
Alcohol, Alcohol...

I got blamed at your (6) _____ reception,
For your best man's (7) _____ speech,
And also for those (8) _____ pictures of you at the beach.
I've (9) _____ kings and world leaders,
I helped Hemingway write like he did.
And I'll (10) _____ you a drink or two,
That I can make you put that lampshade on your head.

And since the day I left Milwaukee, Lynchburg, Bordeaux, France,
Been makin' a fool out of folks just like you and helpin' white people dance.
I am medicine and I am poison, I can help you up or make you fall,
You had some of the best times, you'll never remember with me,
Alcohol, alcohol...

Words and Expressions

Milwaukee 密尔沃基市 (美国著名啤酒中心)

Lynchburg 林奇堡 (美国弗吉尼亚州中西部城市, 杰克·丹尼酿酒厂所在地)

Bordeaux 波尔多 (法国西南部港市, 被誉为世界葡萄酒中心)

reception /rɪ'sepʃn/ *n.* 婚宴

best man 伴郎

Hemingway 海明威 (美国小说家, 酷爱饮酒)

lampshade /læmpʃeɪd/ *n.* 灯罩

2. Cultures Behind

I. Put the following English sayings into corresponding (对应的) Chinese idioms including “酒”.

(1) Fasting comes after feasting.

(2) To kiss the baby for the nurse's sake.

II. Read the following myths (流行的错误看法) about alcohol, search for related information on Mobile Internet and discuss with your partners whether they make sense or not.

(1) A “beer belly” is caused by drinking beer.

(2) Switching between beer, wine and spirits will lead to intoxication more quickly than sticking to one type of alcohol beverage.

(3) Drinking coffee or tea will help a drunken person sober up.

III. Read the following alcohol facts for fun.

White wine gets darker as it ages while red wine gets lighter.

Drinking alcohol in moderation (适度地) reduces the risk of heart disease by an average of about 40%.

The national anthem (国歌) of the US, the “Star-Spangled Banner (《星条旗永不落》)”, was written to the tune (曲调) of a drinking song.

In the 1600's thermometers (温度计) were filled with brandy (白兰地, 一种高度蒸馏酒, 常以葡萄为原料) instead of mercury (水银).

Bubbles (气泡) in Champagne (香槟酒, 原产于法国东北部一地区的著名起泡葡萄酒) were seen by early wine makers as a highly undesirable (不受欢迎的) defect (缺点) to be prevented.

The average number of grapes (葡萄) it takes to make a bottle of wine is 600.

The Mayflower (五月花号船), well-known for bringing the Pilgrims (清教徒) to the New World, ordinarily transported alcohol beverage (饮料) between Spain and England. The Pilgrims landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts (美国马萨诸塞州), rather than continue sailing because they were running out of supplies, especially alcohol beverage.

National Prohibition (国家禁酒令) led to a boom (繁荣) in the cruise industry (游轮产业). By taking what were advertised as “cruises to nowhere”, people could legally (合法地) consume alcohol as soon as the ship entered international waters (公海) where they would typically cruise in circles. The cruises quickly became known as “booze (豪饮) cruises”.

The soil of one famous vineyard (葡萄园) in France is considered so precious that vineyard workers are required to scrape (刮) it from their shoes before they leave for home each night.

IV. Fill in the blanks with the following alcohol-related terms, and write down your understanding of the present meanings of these terms in Chinese in the box.

a. mind one's P's and Q's _____
b. wet one's whistle _____
c. toast _____
d. brand name _____
e. rule of thumb _____

The term “(1) _____” originated among American distillers, who branded their names and emblems (徽章) on their kegs (小桶) before shipment.


In old England, a whistle was baked into the rim or handle of ceramic cups (陶瓷杯) used by pub patrons (老主顾). When they wanted a refill, they used the whistle to get service. So when people went drinking, they would “(2) _____”.

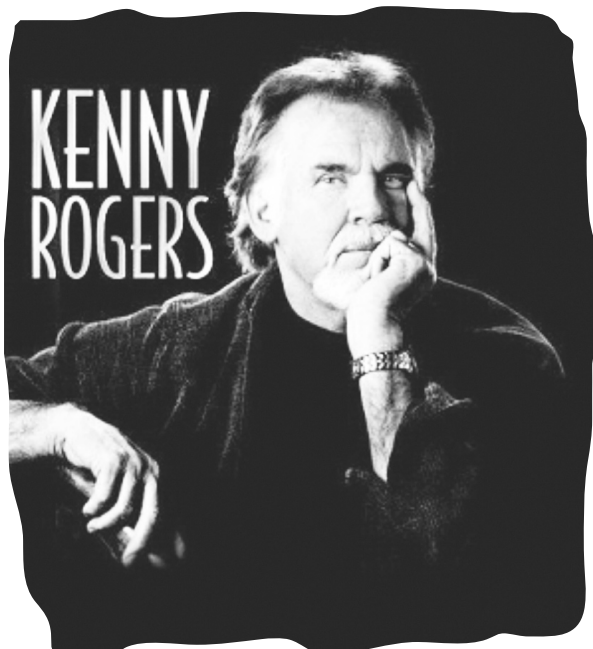
In English pubs drinks are served in pints (品脱) and quarts (夸脱). In old England, bartenders would advise unruly customers to mind their own pints and quarts. It's the origin of “(3) _____”.

Before thermometers were invented, brewers (酿酒者) would dip (浸) a thumb or finger into the liquid to determine the ideal (理想的) temperature, to make sure it was neither too hot nor too cold before putting in yeast (酵母). From this we get the phrase “(4) _____”.

The word “(5) _____”, meaning a wish of good health, started in ancient Rome, where a piece of toasted bread was dropped into wine.

Part 4 Online Research

Enjoy the song “The Last Ten Years (Superman)” by Kenny Rogers and do the following culture-exploring exercises. 



The Last Ten Years (Superman)

Oh, the last ten years, it's been quite a trip.
 Over thirty-six-hundred spins around
 without a cosmic slip.
 But within the realm of our atmosphere,
 We're about as out of whack
 as we've ever been in a million years.

We watched the Y2K scare in the panic,
 An' we watched as time proved Nostradamus wrong,
 An' we watched as Mother Nature shook the planet,
 An' cellular replaced the telephone.
 We lost Charlie Brown, Ray Charles and Johnny Cash,
 We even lost Superman.

Well, the last ten years, look at the hills we've climbed.

The best golfer's black, the best rapper's white,
An' it's about damn time.
But we best beware, there's a brand new fight, you see,
And I hate to say we might be our own worst enemy.

We watched Oklahoma sifting through the damage,
An' we watched a US President get caught,
We watched shareholders watched their savings vanish,
We all cried when we watched those towers fall.
We lost Minnie Pearl, Ron Reagan and Sam-I-Am,
We even lost Superman.

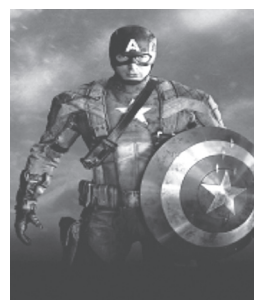
Expensive gas and free downloads,
The dot-com boom and reality shows,
What's gonna happen next is anybody's guess.
Satellite radio and hybrid cars,
Hand-held computers an' a trip to Mars,
It's all become a part of who we are.

In the last ten years, in the last ten years
We lost George Harrison, John Paul and June Carter-Cash,
Hell, we even lost Superman.
(Gonna miss you. Chris...)

Words and Expressions

- spin /spɪn/ v. 旋转
- cosmic /'kɒzɪk/ a. 太空的
- slip /slɪp/ n. 失误
- realm /'reɪlɪm/ n. 领域
- whack /wæk/ n. (美口) 紊乱
- cellular /'seljʊlə/ n. 手机
- shareholder /'ʃeəhəʊldə(r)/ n. 股东
- vanish /'vænɪʃ/ v. 消失
- the dot-com boom 互联网飞速发展
- reality show 真人秀
- satellite radio 卫星无线电
- hybrid car 混合动力汽车

1. In the above song, “the last ten years” refers to the period from the early 1990’s to about 2005. Search information after class about the social phenomena and characters (the underlined parts) mentioned in the lyrics and give a group presentation on them in next class.
2. This song’s composition (创作) is inspired (启发) by the death of Christopher Reeve, the most successful actor starring (扮演) Superman. Identify the following American superheroes, do some related reading and online searching, and write a short essay on “American Superhero Complex (情结)”.



Part 5 Closure

Watch the music video “When You Say Nothing at All” by the bluegrass (蓝草音乐) singer Alison Krauss, learn to sing it together and compete for the best Chinese translation. 🎬



When You Say Nothing at All

It’s amazing how you can speak right to my heart,
Without saying a word, you can light up the dark.

Try as I may I could never explain,
What I hear when you don’t say a thing.

The smile on your face lets me know that you need me,
There's a truth in your eyes saying you'll never leave me.
A touch of your hand says you'll catch me whenever I fall,
You say it best when you say nothing at all.

All day long I can hear people talking out loud,
But when you hold me near, you drown out the crowd.
Old Mr. Webster^① could never define,
What's being said between your heart and mine.

Note

①“Old Mr. Webster” refers to the Webster’s Dictionary.