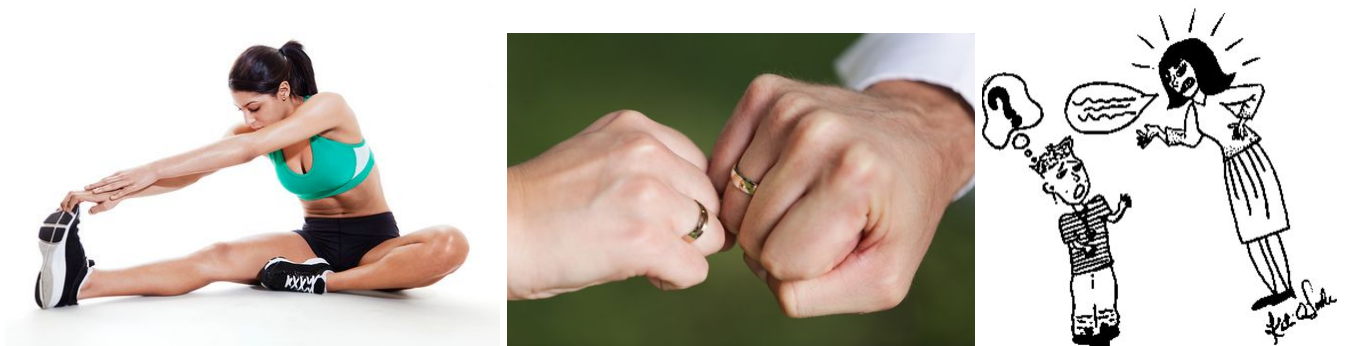
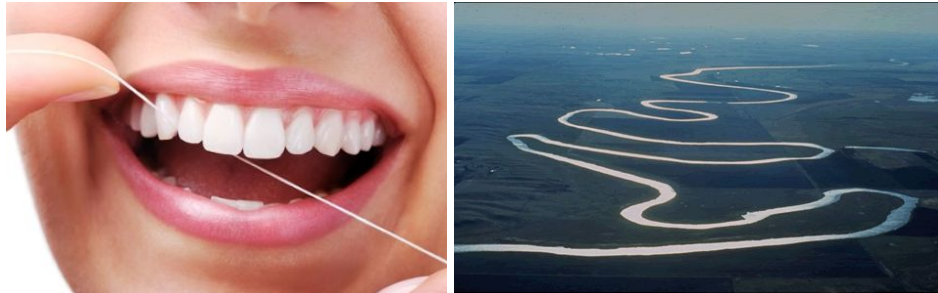


Baz Luhrmann – Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)

Background:

Released March 9th 1999, based on a newspaper essay in the *Chicago Tribune* by Mary Schmich named 'Advice, like youth, probably just wasted on the young'. The song features a spoken-word track, narrated by Australian voice actor Lee Perry. Australian film director Baz Luhrmann remixed the essay and released a song, which became a big hit and was a number one in the UK.



**Wealthy (adj) // Meander (v) // Floss (v) // Philander (v) // Idle (adj) // Spouse (n)
For good (adv) // Trust Fund (n) // Stretch (v) // Berate (v)**

Ladies and gentlemen of the class of '99: Wear sunscreen.

If I could offer you only one **tip** for the future, sunscreen would be it. (1)
The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists,
whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own **meandering** experience.
I will dispense this advice now.

Enjoy the power and beauty of your youth. Oh, never mind...
You will not understand the power and beauty of your youth until they've faded.
But trust me, in 20 years, you'll look back at photos of yourself
and recall in a way you can't **grasp** now how much possibility lay before you
and how fabulous you really looked. (2)

You are not as fat as you imagine.

Don't worry about the future.
Or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing
bubble gum. (3)
The real troubles in your life are **apt** to be things that never crossed your worried mind,
the kind that **blind sides** you at 4 p.m. on some **idle** Tuesday.

Do one thing every day that scares you.

Sing.

Don't be **reckless** with other people's hearts.
Don't **put up with** people who are reckless with yours. (4)

Floss.

Don't waste your time on jealousy.
Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind.
The race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself... (5)

Remember compliments you receive.
Forget the insults.
If you succeed in doing this, tell me how. (6)

Keep your old love letters.
Throw away your old bank statements.

Stretch.

Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life.
The most interesting people I know didn't know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives.
Some of the most interesting 40-year-olds I know still don't.

Get plenty of calcium.
Be kind to your knees; you'll miss them when they're gone.

Maybe you'll marry, maybe you won't. (7)
Maybe you'll have children, maybe you won't.

Maybe you'll divorce at 40, maybe you'll dance the funky chicken on your 75th wedding anniversary.
Whatever you do, don't congratulate yourself too much, or **berate** yourself either.
Your choices are half chance. So are everybody else's. (8)

Enjoy your body. Use it every way you can.
Don't be afraid of it or of what other people think of it.
It's the greatest instrument you'll ever own.

Dance, even if you have nowhere to do it but your living room.

Read the directions, even if you don't follow them.

Do not read beauty magazines; they will only make you feel ugly.

Get to know your parents; you never know when they'll be gone **for good**.
Be nice to your siblings;
they're your best link to your past and the people most likely to stick with you in the future.

Understand that friends **come and go**, but with a precious few you should **hold on**. (9)
Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle,
because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young.

Live in New York City once, but leave before it makes you hard.
Live in Northern California once, but leave before it makes you soft.

Travel.

Accept certain **inalienable** truths:
Prices will rise. Politicians will **philander**.
You, too, will get old.
And when you do, you'll fantasise that when you were young,
prices were reasonable, politicians were noble and children respected their **elders**.

Respect your elders.

Don't expect anyone else to support you.
Maybe you have a **trust fund**.
Maybe you'll have a **wealthy spouse**.
But you never know when either one might **run out**.

Don't **mess** too much **with** your hair or by the time you're 40, it will look 85.

Be careful whose advice you buy, but be patient with those who supply it.
Advice is a form of nostalgia;
dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal,
wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts and recycling it for more than it's worth.

But trust me on the sunscreen.

Questions:



- 1) At **(1)**, what type of conditional sentence is this? Why is it used?
- 2) Discuss what you think about verse **(2)**. Do young people not appreciate what they have? Do you think you'll regret not doing enough with your youth in later life?
- 3) Discuss what you think the song is trying to say in line **(3)**.
- 4) There is a phrasal verb at number **(4)**. What does this mean?
- 5) "The race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself..." What does the writer mean at this point? **(5)**
- 6) There is another conditional sentence at **(6)**. Which conditional is it, and how is it constructed?
- 7) At line **(7)**, why is the writer using 'will' and not 'going to'?
- 8) "Your choices are half chance. So are everybody else's." **(8)** Do you agree with this?
- 9) In line **(9)** the writer uses phrases / verbs such as 'come and go' and 'hold on'. How could you rewrite this line in English?
- 10) Which piece of advice do you agree / disagree with the most? Would you add anything to the song?