

Relative Clauses: Celine Dion

**READING
TEXT**

Music, not English, is the world's true global language. No contemporary artist better exemplifies this than the Canadian phenomenon Celine Dion. Born into humble beginnings in the small town of Charlemagne, Quebec, east of Montreal, Dion has achieved a level of international success that very few people ever achieve. Growing up, Dion spoke only French. Her albums, recorded both in French and English, have helped her gain international superstardom. She has been called the premier pop singer of the Nineties and has earned music industry awards and accolades from around the world: Grammy Awards in the US, Juno and Félix Awards in Canada, and World Music Awards in Europe. Her songs are among the most recognizable in the world. Her name is a household name known around the world.

Celine Dion was born the youngest of 14 children. Her parents, both musicians, operated a small music club where her entire family performed. At the age of five, Dion began singing with her brothers and sisters. She soon found herself enjoying performing in front of a live audience. At the age of twelve, she wrote and composed her first song in French. Later, she recorded a demo tape with the song on it and sent it to some music managers. That demo would prove to be more magical than she could possibly imagine. Her life's course was set. She was on her way to a life of music.

In January of 1981, famed music manager René Angelil heard the tape and was enraptured by Dion's magnificent voice. He was so convinced that Dion was a one-in-a-million talent that he decided to personally finance her debut album. He risked everything to ensure that others discovered her talent. He began to produce her music and manage her career. He encouraged her to participate in music contests and to record songs. In 1982, Dion won the Gold Medal at the Yamaha World Song Festival in Tokyo as well as the cherished Musician's Award for Top Performer. In 1983, she became the first Canadian ever to receive a Gold Record in France. However, her extraordinary career had only just begun.

By 1988, Celine had a strong reputation in her native Quebec, where she enjoyed local celebrity status, won numerous Félix Awards and recorded platinum-selling (more than 1,000,000 copies) albums. That same year, Celine won the prestigious Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin, Ireland, and performed live before a worldwide audience of 600 million. In September

1990, Celine released her first English-language album, *Unison*, and scored an immediate hit with her single “Where Does My Heart Beat Now”. However, her great international breakthrough came when she recorded the title track for the soundtrack to the Walt Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*. The song shot up the charts to Number One and went on to win both an Academy Award and a Grammy Award. The song "Beauty and the Beast" became the heart of Celine’s second English album, entitled *Celine Dion*, and produced four more hit singles including "Love Can Move Mountains," "Water From The Moon," "If You Asked Me To" and "Did You Give Enough Love." In Canada alone, the album sold more than 6,000,000 copies and won many Juno Awards. On December 17, 1994, Celine Dion married René Angelil, her manager and the man who had first believed in her when she was a young girl. It appeared that Dion’s life was a real life fairy tale.

Gifted with one of pop music's great voices, Dion has crossed all barriers, including language, with her extraordinary string of international hits. In March of 1996, her album *Falling Into You* became the best-selling album of the year, topped the musical charts in 11 countries, and was voted Album of the Year and Best Pop Album at the 39th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony. To date, the album has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide.

Dion followed up her success with the album *Let's Talk About Love* which included the theme song to the film *Titanic*, “My Heart Will Go On.” Both her album and the movie soundtrack, jettisoned by the enormous success of the film’s single, went on to sell more than 27 million copies. The song also won Dion a second Oscar and catapulted her into the stratosphere of fame and fortune.

Dion continued to record and achieve enormous success, but by the end of 1999, she had become exhausted from her touring and recording efforts. On New Year's Eve 1999, in Montreal, Celine Dion gave her last public performance before beginning a temporary hiatus from show business to enjoy her private life. Then on January 25, 2001, Dion achieved her greatest joy and success. She gave birth to her son, René Charles. Her life had reached its crowning moment.

After a two-year hiatus, Dion returned to recording and continued to achieve phenomenal success. With each successive album, she challenged herself musically, venturing into other musical genres such as jazz, classical, be-bop and show tunes. With each effort came more and more success. In October, 2004, Celine's released her latest album *Miracle*. The album was

Advanced 1 – Reading Exercise 3 – Relative Clauses: Celine Dion

Dion’s effort to write and sing about the love between a mother and child. Indeed, her life had come full circle.

With each new stage in her life, Celine has managed to top her previous successes. Her voice has, indeed, become a global voice, heard and sung through the world and in all languages. From a small Quebec town to the height of international success, Dion is one of Canada’s greatest achievers.

Find examples of RELATIVE CLAUSES in the passage above. Identify what type of relative clause each is.

Write a sentence with each of the following words and expressions.

- 1. **CONTEMPORARY** _____
- 2. **HUMBLE** _____
- 3. **ACCOLADES** _____
- 4. **TO COMPOSE** _____
- 5. **TO BE** _____
- 6. **ENRAPTURED BY** _____
- 7. **REPUTATION** _____
- 8. **PRESIGIOUS** _____
- 9. **BARRIERS** _____
- 10. **TO BE JETTISONED** _____
- 11. **BY** _____
- 12. **HIATUS** _____
- 13. **A HOUSEHOLD** _____
- 14. **NAME** _____
- 15. **A LIVE AUDIENCE** _____
- 16. **A DEMO** _____
- 17. **TO BE CONVINCED** _____
- 18. **THAT** _____

15. **TO BE GIFTED**

WITH

16. **TO CATAPULT**

Answer the following comprehension questions.

1. Describe the beginning of Celine Dion’s music career, before she became a household name.

2. What can Dion’s initial success be attributed to?

3. What were important milestones in Dion’s personal life?

4. What can Dion’s ongoing success be attributed to?
