

"Chandelier" — Sia

Extended analysis · vocabulary, idioms & pronunciation · Level B1-B2 · Australian accent

How to use this PDF: play the song on the website, then study these notes. Every example sentence here is our own — for the real thing, listen to the track.

1 · Extended vocabulary

chandelier	<i>noun</i>	A large decorative light hanging from the ceiling — in the song, the image of glamorous excess. <i>A crystal chandelier dominated the hotel lobby.</i>
party girl	<i>noun</i>	A woman known for constant partying — in the song, a mask that hides pain. <i>The tabloids painted her as a party girl, but she was working two jobs.</i>
to exist	<i>verb</i>	To be real; to live. <i>That word doesn't exist in formal English.</i>
shame	<i>noun</i>	The painful feeling of having done something wrong or embarrassing. <i>He felt a wave of shame when he remembered the argument.</i>
to count	<i>verb</i>	To say numbers in order; also 'to lose count' = to no longer know how many. <i>I've lost count of how many times she's helped me.</i>
glass	<i>noun</i>	A drinking container — 'keep someone's glass full' means keep serving them. <i>The waiter kept everyone's glass full all evening.</i>
doorbell	<i>noun</i>	The bell visitors ring at a door. <i>The doorbell rang three times before he woke up.</i>
to hold on	<i>phrasal verb</i>	To grip firmly; figuratively, to survive a hard moment. <i>Hold on — the storm will pass.</i>
dawn	<i>noun</i>	First light of the morning. <i>They talked until dawn without noticing the time.</i>
tears	<i>noun</i>	The drops that fall when you cry. <i>There were tears of joy at the reunion.</i>
numb	<i>adjective</i>	Unable to feel — physically or emotionally. <i>After the news, she felt completely numb.</i>
excess	<i>noun</i>	Too much of something; a lifestyle without limits. <i>The documentary shows the excess of the 80s music scene.</i>

2 · Idioms & expressions

● to swing from the chandelier

To party in the wildest possible way — the image of total abandon.

Example: It was that kind of wedding: by midnight people were practically swinging from the chandeliers.

● to live like tomorrow doesn't exist

To act with zero thought for consequences.

Example: That summer we lived like tomorrow didn't exist.

● **to hold on for dear life**

To grip desperately — literally or emotionally.

Example: The market crashed and investors held on for dear life.

● **to push something down**

To suppress a feeling instead of dealing with it.

Example: He pushed the grief down for years, and it cost him.

● **to lose count**

To stop being able to count how many — usually because there are too many.

Example: I've lost count of the excuses he's given.

● **one for the road**

A last drink before leaving — part of the drinking-culture vocabulary the song critiques.

Example: 'One for the road?' he offered, but she was already at the door.

3 - Pronunciation & connected speech

◆ **Australian vowels on display**

Sia is from Adelaide. Listen to the long A in 'chandelier's' verses and the shifting vowels — Australian English sits between British (non-rhotic, like Adele) and its own system of stretched vowels. A third accent for your collection.

◆ **The cry-crack technique**

Sia's signature is letting the voice crack under emotion. Vowels distort and syllables smear — decoding imperfect, emotional vocals is elite listening practice.

◆ **1-2-3 as rhythm**

The counting sections show how English numbers compress in rhythm: 'one-two-three' becomes a single beat unit 'wuh-tuh-three'. Numbers are reduced in real speech too — phone numbers, prices, addresses.

◆ **Gonna at full volume**

'Going to' is 'gonna' even at the top of Sia's range. Reductions are not laziness — they survive at any volume and any emotion.

4 - Keep going

Cards, synced video and games for this song live at

youenglishtoolbox.com/learn-english-with-music/learn-english-with-chandelier-sia/. Lyrics are not reproduced in this document — enjoy them inside the official video.