

V44 – How I Met Your Mother: Desperation Day

Part 1 – Topic Speaking: Valentine’s, Dating

Directions: Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. Do you celebrate Valentine’s Day in your country?
2. What other holiday’s or events do you celebrate that is similar to Valentine’s Day?
3. What do you like to do when you go on a date?
4. Have you ever asked someone on a date?
5. Have you ever been stood up?
6. What is the best way, or where is the best place, to meet new people?
7. How has SNS affected the way people celebrate holidays like Valentine’s Day?
8. Have you ever been on a horrible date?
9. What are some common gifts people give on Valentine’s Day or a similar holiday?
10. What are the pros and cons of Valentine’s Day or a similar holiday?

Part 2A - Vocabulary Review:

Directions: Discuss the meaning with a partner. Next, review as a class.

Vocabulary	*	Definition or Translation
1. looming	1	
2. ingredients	1	
3. threat	2	
4. insecure	7	
5. bridesmaid	7	
6. neediness	12	
7. climax	12	
8. self-esteem	12	
9. deprave	12	
10. enthusiasm	12	

*NOTE: the number indicates where the vocabulary is located in the script.

Part 2B - Vocabulary Speaking:

Directions: Choose 5 vocabulary words and create a question. Next, discuss your questions with a partner.

Word	Question
Ex: tough	What is the <i>toughest</i> course you have ever taken?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Part 3 – Script & Video

Directions: Complete Back2Back Reading (see Script below), then watch the video.

Part 4 - Comprehension Questions:

Directions: Discuss with a partner then review as a class.

1. What is Barney’s favorite day of the year?

2. What name does Barney give to February 13th?

3. Thousands of years ago, why did Saint Valentine perform secret weddings on February 14th?

4. What would happen to Saint Valentine if he was caught performing weddings by Roman officials?

5. According to Barney, who was Saint Valentine’s best friend?

6. According to Barney, what does Saint Desperatius do on February 13th?

7. In line 8, what does ‘Her body is perfect X.’ mean?

8. According to Barney, what does every woman want on Valentine’s Day?

9. According to Barney, how do women feel on February 13th if they do not have a date for Valentine’s Day?

Part 5 – Writing:

Directions: In 2 to 3 sentences, write your opinion about the video.

A – Back2Back Reading

Directions: Read 'odd' numbers +
Listen & fill in 'even' numbers



How I Met Your Mother – Desperation Day

1. Barney: Loneliness. The looming spectre of Valentine's Day fast approaching. The two key ingredients to my favourite day of the year, February 13: Desperation Day.

2. Robin: _____ .

3. Barney: It's a thing. Much like Valentine's Day itself, Desperation Day dates back thousands of years. Weddings were forbidden under ancient Roman law, so Saint Valentine performed them in secret, under threat of death.

4. Ted: _____ .

5. Barney: Wait, there's more

6. Ted: _____

7. Barney: And right by Saint Valentine's side was his best bro, Saint Desperatius, there to pick up insecure bridesmaids.

8. Saint Desperatius: Whoa. _____ . Her body is perfect X.

9. Saint Valentine: Player, play on. High V.

10. Woman: Oh, Jupiter, _____ ? 15 and still _____ .

11. Saint Desperatius: And I thought Pompeii was smokin'.

12. Barney: Every woman wants a date on Valentine's Day. _____ .
_____ . What up...on February 13. A magical night when a ten has the _____ of a four and
_____ of a two.

B – Back2Back Reading

Directions: Read 'even' numbers +
Listen & fill in 'odd' numbers



How I Met Your Mother – Desperation Day

1. **Barney:** _____. The looming spectre of Valentine's Day fast approaching. The two _____
_____ to my favourite day of the year, February 13: Desperation Day.

2. **Robin:** That's not a thing.

3. **Barney:** It's a thing. Much like Valentine's Day itself, Desperation Day dates back
thousands of years. _____, so Saint Valentine
_____.

4. **Ted:** That's actually true.

5. **Barney:** _____, _____

6. **Ted:** This won't

7. **Barney:** And right by Saint Valentine's side was his best bro, Saint Desperatius, there to
_____.

8. **Saint Desperatius:** Whoa. Check out that one. Her body is perfect X.

9. **Saint Valentine:** _____, _____ High V.

10. **Woman:** Oh, Jupiter, what are your plans for me? 15 and still unmarried.

11. **Saint Desperatius:** And _____.

12. **Barney:** Every woman wants a date on Valentine's Day. That neediness reaches its
climax. What up...on February 13. A magical night when a ten has the self-esteem of a four
and the depraved enthusiasm of a two.

V44 - ANSWER KEY



How I Met Your Mother – Desperation Day

1. Barney: Loneliness. The looming spectre of Valentine's Day fast approaching. The two key ingredients to my favourite day of the year, February 13: Desperation Day.

2. Robin: That's not a thing.

3. Barney: It's a thing. Much like Valentine's Day itself, Desperation Day dates back thousands of years. Weddings were forbidden under ancient Roman law, so Saint Valentine performed them in secret, under threat of death.

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12. Barney: Every woman wants a date on Valentine's Day. That neediness reaches its climax. What up...on February 13. A magical night when a ten has the self-esteem of a four and the depraved enthusiasm of a two.

Part 4 - Comprehension Questions & Answers

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
1. What is Barney's favorite day of the year?	His favorite day of the year is February 13 th .
2. What name does Barney give to February 13th?	He names it Desparation Day.
3. Thousands of years ago, why did Saint Valentine perform secret weddings on February 14th?	Saint Valentine performed secret weddings because it was illegal to get married under Roman law.
4. What would happen to Saint Valentine if he was caught performing weddings by Roman officials?	If he was caught performing weddings he would be killed.
5. According to Barney, who was Saint Valentine's best friend?	Saint Valentine's best friend was Saint Desperatius.
6. According to Barney, what does Saint Desperatius do on February 13th?	Saint Desperatius would pick up desperate (sad) bridesmaids at the weddings being performed by Saint Valentine.
7. In line 8, what does 'Her body is perfect X.' mean?	It means she has an amazing body. If you were to give her a score out of 10points, she would get 10/10.
8. According to Barney, what does every woman want on Valentine's Day?	He believes every woman wants a date for Valentine's Day.
9. According to Barney, how do women feel on February 13th if they do not have a date for Valentine's Day?	He believes even if a very beautiful woman does not have a date for Valentine's Day, she will then feel like sad and therefore more willing to accept a date from a man she would normally not want to date.