

If You Can Sing It, You Can Say It: Teaching English through Songs

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Our Five Goals for Today

1. Why use music to teach language?
2. Characteristics of a good song for teaching language
3. How to mine a song that you want to use to teach a concept
4. How to plan your time with your students (small groups or individuals)
5. Specific songs and teaching ideas, by grades

She Loves You (Yeah Yeah Yeah) By The Beatles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpB1PSCN6IU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHYJ4in1PvY>

She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah
She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah
She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah

You think you've lost your love
Well, I saw her yesterday-yi-yay
It's you she's thinking of
And she told me what to say-yi-yay

She says she loves you
And you know that can't be bad
Yes, she loves you
And you know you should be glad

She said you hurt her so
She almost lost her mind
And now she says she knows
You're not the hurting kind
She says she loves you
And you know that can't be bad
Yes, she loves you
And you know you should be glad

Oo, she loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah
She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah
With a love like that
You know you should be glad

You know it's up to you
I think it's only fair
Pride can hurt you too
Apologize to her
Because she loves you
And you know that can't be bad
Yes, she loves you
And you know you should be glad

Oo, she loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah
She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah

With a love like that
You know you should be glad
With a love like that
You know you should be glad
With a love like that
You know you should be glad
Yeah, yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

GOAL 1: Why use music to teach
language?

Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences (1983)



Multiple Intelligences and Language Learning

- ▶ Language ability requires abilities in hearing, linguistic and memory (Skeehan, 1998).
- ▶ In order to activate memory, begin by creating meaning and context
- ▶ When we use Multiple Intelligences, teachers can create meaning for their students in ways that resonate for them.
- ▶ Catering to Multiple Intelligences also makes the lesson more interesting and increases motivation.
- ▶ Teaching music increases achievement in other areas.
- ▶ Physical effect of teaching music helps students to focus and to create a connection with themselves.
- ▶ Teaching music increases creativity and creates a nice atmosphere in the class.

GOAL 2: Characteristics of a good song for teaching language

- ▶ Simple lyrics
- ▶ Repetition
- ▶ Grammatically correct
- ▶ Not too fast
- ▶ Have (or could have) movements (even ones you make up)
- ▶ Clean and age appropriate (both the song AND the video)

Resources:

<http://blog.tesol.org/four-tips-for-teaching-english-through-music/>

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/songs-for-teaching-english/>

GOAL 3: How to mine a song that you want to use to teach a concept

❖ The story that the song tells

- ▶ What is the song about?
- ▶ What does this song say about the culture of the society?
- ▶ How does it relate to the world of the student?
- ▶ What questions could you ask about this story that you could discuss with students?

GOAL 3: How to mine a song that you want to use to teach a concept (cont.)

❖ Elements of English language instruction

- ▶ Be familiar with the vocabulary and grammar in the books used in class.
Examples: Chunks, vocabulary, parts of speech, verb tenses, pronouns.
- ▶ Identify relevant elements in the song. Choose one or two elements to focus on for now.
- ▶ Where are those elements in the song? Does the chorus of the song reflect those elements? It's fine to focus only on the chorus.
- ▶ [You can always come back to the song at a later date not only to review but also to teach new elements.]
- ▶ Is there complicated vocabulary or chunks or ideas that should be explained?
How will you explain them?

GOAL 4: How to plan your time with your students (small groups or individuals)

Lesson Plan Template

Date:

Subject & Grade:

Lesson Topic:
Book & Unit:
Teacher:

Lesson duration:
45 min

Lesson Objective(s)

- Reading and letter sound practice
- Vocabulary learning and practice

Learning Outcome(s)

SWBATs (Students will be able to . . . read , write , act out , talk about , design, use, complete, answer, ask, match, identify, evaluate, produce, describe, recognize, present, create, etc.)

Learning Context

Small group
One-on-one learning

Assessment/Evaluation (Formative/Summative)

How will students demonstrate that they have achieved the lesson objective? .
This should be embedded throughout the lesson (formative) as well as at the end of the lesson (summative).
It can be done through worksheets, small quizzes, questions, games, etc.

Lesson Outline	
<p>Engagement - Opening (Warm-up) Activities: Describe how the teacher will capture students' interest. What kind of questions should the students ask themselves after the engagement?</p>	5 min
<p>Teaching & Lesson Procedure: Describe the topic and teach the new material.</p> <p>What kind of questions should the students ask themselves after the engagement?</p> <p>Exercises Games</p>	10 min 20 min
<p>Closing: Assess what the students have learned this lesson. Was it successful? Describe what the students have learned very shortly - summarize. Suggestion: Give positive feedback about their effort.</p>	10 min

Other tips for preparing your lesson

- ▶ If you are showing a video, watch it all the way through before the lesson to make sure it's appropriate.
- ▶ Print out the lyrics for the students. But - before you print, make sure that the printed lyrics match the music video or the audio.
- ▶ Prepare all your explanations beforehand - complicated words, grammar, background info, etc.
- ▶ Make sure that all your materials are ready before you start your lesson.
- ▶ Always always always check technology beforehand.
- ▶ Set up the videos, PowerPoint presentation and any other technology **BEFORE** the lesson begins.

GOAL 5: Specific songs and teaching ideas, by grades

Kitah Gimel (Third Grade)

- ▶ Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (ABCs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPWk3SjKRAs>
- ▶ Busy beavers ABC song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwBKVmj2Mog>
- ▶ Animals https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6HzoUcx3eo
- ▶ Food/Do you like? Yes I do, no I don't. Super simple songs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13mftBvRmvM>
- ▶ Prepositions - In On Under
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYerFOnPxu8&list=PL0JjqI02IiiK4Q_I0tQgzwwaxy6rw17PF
- ▶ Prepositions - Yellow Submarine
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2uTFF_3MaA
- ▶ All I Really Need - Raffi (I need)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8Qj82Sx2zl>

GOAL 5: Specific songs and teaching ideas, by grades (cont.)

Kitah Dalet (Fourth Grade)

- ▶ Days of the week/months - Busy Beavers -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyg6L6X5JPQ&list=PLUgHK1I7rOzWFBJ1L4RFDkEmBe1M6PMU6>
- ▶ Rooms - Busy Beavers the House Song -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DR5qPNPGCmY>
- ▶ Feelings - Happy (Pharrell Williams/Minions)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOWDb2TBYDg>
- ▶ Prepositions - Yellow Submarine
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2uTFF_3MaA

GOAL 5: Specific songs and teaching ideas, by grades (cont.)

Kitah Hay (Fifth Grade)

- ▶ Days of the week/months - Busy Beavers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyg6L6X5JPQ&list=PLUgHK1I7rOzWFBJ1L4RFDkEmBe1M6PMU6>
- ▶ Weather https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SA_zWo5LGF0
- ▶ Saving water - There's a Hole in my Bucket <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijc1eJVR9Qw>
- ▶ Am/Is/Are - Happy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOwDb2TBYDg>
- ▶ Present Simple - She Loves You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHYJ4in1PvY>
and Hello, Goodbye https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rblYSKz_Vnl
- ▶ Present Progressive - Sailing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOt3oQ_k008

GOAL 5: Specific songs and teaching ideas, by grades (cont.)

Kitah Vav (Sixth Grade)

- ▶ Art - Vincent Van Gogh - Vincent
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNdYLGAXcWA> or
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxHnRfhDmrk&list=RDoxHnRfhDmrk&start_radio=1
- ▶ Word Chunks (clap along, bring me down) - Happy (Pharrell Williams)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOWDb2TBVDg>
- ▶ Word chunks (wake up, caught up, open up) - Wake Me Up (Avicii)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcrbM1l_Bol
- ▶ What About Us (Pink) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClU3fctbGls>

Now it's your turn!

- ▶ Split up into groups of 3.
- ▶ Choose a song that's appropriate for your students.
- ▶ Using the lesson plan template, create a lesson plan.

And most importantly, enjoy the process! Bring your love of music, your culture, your interests, and your sense of adventure to your students!

Good luck!