

SONG ACTIVITY FACTORY

[013 - 2023]



Simple Past in Songs: Engaging ESL Lesson Plan with Kelly Clarkson's "Me"



DESCRIPTION:

Discover an engaging ESL lesson focused on simple past tense verbs with **Kelly Clarkson's "Me."** This song-based activity encourages teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking in students. Starting with a lively warm-up related to the song's title, students will identify past tense verbs, create imaginative stories using them, and share their narratives with their classmates.

Language level: B1 and above

Learner type : All ages

Skills : speaking, listening, reading and writing

Topic: Music and Personal Growth

Grammar: Simple Past

Materials : YouTube video

Duration: about an hour

Downloadable Materials: none



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STEP-BY-STEP LESSON PLAN

Warm-up Activity (5 min) - Guess the Song Title

Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 students.

Tell the students that you will give them a series of clues related to a song title, and their task is to guess the title as quickly as possible.

Provide the following clues, one at a time, allowing the groups to discuss and guess the title after each clue:

Clue 1: This song is by a famous singer who won the first season of a popular singing competition show.

Clue 2: The title of the song contains a personal pronoun.

Clue 3: The song is about self-reliance and not needing someone else to make you feel complete.

The first group to guess the correct song title, "Me" by Kelly Clarkson, wins the warm-up activity.

After revealing the song title, tell the students that they will be working with this song during the lesson and move on to the main activity.

Step 1 (7 min) - Quick Review of Simple Past Tense

Have students give examples of regular and irregular verbs in the affirmative form.

Step 2 (10 min) - Identify Simple Past Verbs in the Song

Divide students into small groups and distribute blank sheets of paper. Play the song extract of the first 2 verses (excluding pre-chorus 2) **you'll find the song extract audio in the blog post for this activity**, and have teams identify as many past tense verbs as they can. The team with the most correct verbs wins. Play the lyrics video for students to check their work. **SEE THE ANSWERS IN THE LAST PAGE OF THIS PDF**

Step 3 (15 min) - Create a Creative Story Using Simple Past Verbs

Challenge the groups to come up with a creative story or situation using all the simple past verbs they identified. Give them 5 minutes to brainstorm ideas and 10 minutes to write their stories.

Step 4 (7 min) - Share and Read the Stories

Have students read their stories to the class.

Step 5 (5 min) - Vote on the Best Stories

Students vote on the funniest, most creative, and craziest stories.

That's it for this week! I hope this activity is helpful and enjoyable!

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Happy teaching! :)

Márcia Bonfim

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Are your students **ENGAGED** and **EAGER** to **LEARN ENGLISH?**

Or just bored and unmotivated?

Do you **use songs creatively** in your class?

Or just the same old gap fill worksheet?

Do you want to be **more creative** in your teaching?

Would you like to use songs in a **meaningful** way and grab your **students' attention?**

Click [HERE](#) to know how!

"me"

[Verse 1]

Buried myself into somebody else

Shut out some parts of me, **did** it so casually

I guess I **needed** that to be able to step back

I **lived** my life without me, I never **allowed** me to

[Pre-Chorus 1]

Too much I've had to live for, put my life on hold for
I'm always pleasin' someone, honestly, now I'm done

[Chorus 1]

I don't need somebody to hold me

Don't need somebody to love me

Don't need somebody to pick these pieces up

I **put** together my broken

Let go of the pain I've been holdin'

Don't need to need somebody

When I got me

[Verse 2]

Loved you so much, **took** an army to pull me up

But now on the other side, I **remembered** I **could** fly

I **told** you I wanted you (I told you)

But you **needed** me to need you (Needed me to need you)

Your insecurity **was** the death of you and me (Oh)