

# Practicing The Simple Future With Songs: OneRepublic – Better Days

## ESL Song Lesson Plan at a Glance

Here is a quick overview of what this lesson covers:

- **Estimated Time:** 60–90 minutes
- **Language Level:** B1 (Intermediate)
- **Learner Type:** Teens and Adults
- **Skills Focus:** Speaking, Reading, Listening, and Writing
- **Topic:** Hopes for a Better Future
- **Grammar Focus:** Future with WILL/WON'T
- **Materials:** YouTube videos, Google Doc, Google Slides

## Download Your Free Lesson Materials

To get started, you'll need these resources. I've prepared everything for you.

- **Word Cloud Activity:** [Google Doc – Word Cloud](#) (to make a copy you can edit);
- **Lyrics Exercise:** [Google slide Lyrics](#)

## About the Song: “Better Days” by OneRepublic

“Better Days” was written by Ryan Tedder during the 2020 quarantine. According to [genius.com](#), the song carries a hopeful message that things will inevitably improve and we will all rejoice together. This theme of looking forward to a brighter future makes it a perfect and relatable choice for practicing the future tense.

## How to Teach with this “Better Days” Lesson Plan: Step-by-Step

Follow these simple steps to deliver a successful and engaging lesson.

### Step 1: Warm-up with a Game (5 min)

Start the class with a fun game of hangman. Use the whiteboard feature in Zoom to have students guess the song title: “Better Days.” Don't reveal the artist's name yet—save that for later! (step 7)

### Step 2: Introduce Vocabulary with a Word Cloud (5 min)

Share the link to the Google Doc Word Cloud. Explain that the bigger words appear more frequently in the song's lyrics. This is a great way to pre-teach vocabulary.

Explain that “shed” is used as a verb in the lyrics with the word “tear”. SHED A TEAR means CRY.





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## Step 6: Review and Correct as a Class (10 min)

Review the sentences together. Ask students to explain the corrections, and then edit the sentences on the document. This step reinforces the grammar rules for everyone.

## Step 7: First Listening and Discussion (7-10 min)

Ask students to predict the song's mood (happy, sad, fast, slow). Then, play the audio for "Better Days." Afterward, ask if their predictions were correct and if they recognize the band, OneRepublic.

Play the song again, but this time students see if there was any sentence in the lyrics that was similar to the ones they wrote in step 4.

## Step 8: Focused Grammar Practice (10-20 min)

Share your screen with the Google Slide lyrics exercise. Students must fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses using **will** or **won't**. Go slide by slide and give time for students to write down their answers in the **chat**. However, don't correct them yet. as they are going to do this by watching the lyrics video later.

## Step 9: Check Answers with the Lyrics Video

Play the official lyrics video. Students can now check their own answers as they listen and read along. This provides instant feedback and connects the grammar directly to the song.

Answer key: 1- there'll be 2- there'll be 3- won't go 4- 'll wash 5- will tell

## Step 10: Wrap-Up and Creative Homework (10 min)

End with a class discussion about the song's positive message. For homework, ask students to express their own ideas about "better days" after a difficult time. They can create a drawing, poem, song, or short story. This allows for free, creative expression!

In the next class, you can hold a "Class Exhibit" to share their amazing work.

## Author Bio:

**About the Author:** [Márcia Bonfim](#) is an ESL/EFL teacher and creator of the **Song Activity Factory**. She helps educators create engaging lessons using her signature BEAT+ Method, which features the MUSIC+ Framework. You can [discover her complete methodology summary here](#).