

Song-based Lesson Plan:

Teaching With Songs:

Musical Biography + Song Pieces with The Weeknd, Ed Sheeran, Justin Bieber & Harry Styles

Description

This song-based STEP-BY-STEP LESSON PLAN for ENGLISH language TEACHING features the lyrics extracts of various songs by The Weeknd, Ed Sheeran, Justin Bieber and Harry Styles. Students IDENTIFY singers in photos, TALK about them, READ quotes and MATCH them to the singers, TALK about their favorite quotes in pairs, WATCH a video about them, and FILL the information in a table, ANSWER questions about the video, and LISTEN to song extracts and identify grammar structures in a team competition.

OBS: This lesson plan was made for ONLINE TEACHING, but it can be modified for face-to-face instruction, as well.

Language level: B1 and above

Learner type: All ages

Skills: speaking, reading, listening and writing

Topic: Biographical Facts about singers

Language/grammar: adjectives, verbs, simple vocabulary, dates

Materials: YouTube video, [genial.ly](https://www.genial.ly)

[presentation](#) and mp3 files

Duration: 1 hour - 1h 20 min

Download your free teaching resources:

[song extracts mp3](#)

STEP-BY-STEP LESSON PLAN

Step 1 (5 min)

Genial.ly presentation [link](#)

Photos (slide 1). Students identify the singers in the photos and say what they know about them.

Step 2 (7 min)

Quotes (slide 2).

Have random students read the quotes aloud. Help them with the vocabulary. Tell them to choose their favorite quote and prepare to explain why.

Step 3 (10 min)

In pairs, students talk about their favorite quotes and why.

Step 4 (7 min)

Back to the main room, have students share their favorite quotes and explain why.

Step 5 (5 min)

Slide 2. Students guess who said the quotes by matching them to the singers.

Answers: A: Ed Sheeran, B: Harry Styles, C: The Weeknd, D: Justin Bieber

Step 6 (5 - 7min)

Slide 3. Students watch the video and fill the information on the table

<https://youtu.be/CJ6UxLolrTk>

answers:

Name	THE WEEKND	ED SHEERAN	JUSTIN BIEBER	HARRY STYLES
Date of Birth	February 16th, 1990	February 17, 1991	March 1, 1994	February 1, 1994,
Place of Birth	Toronto, Ontario (Canada)	Yorkshire, England	London, Ontario (Canada)	Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (England)
Full name	Abel Makkonen Tesfaye	Edward Christopher Sheeran	Justin Drew Bieber	Harry Edward Styles
Number of Grammy Awards won	3	4	2	1

Optional Step 7 (7 min)

Slide 4. Have students watch the video again and answer the extra questions.

Extra Questions:

1. Who learned to play various instruments by himself? (Justin)
2. Who has a child? (Ed)
3. Who had many fans on YouTube before being famous? (Justin, Ed)
4. Who plays the trumpet? (Justin)
5. Whose parents emigrated from another country? (The Weeknd - his parents emigrated from Ethiopia to Canada)

Video script

Justin Drew Bieber was born on March 1, 1994 at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ontario, Canada. He is the son of Pattie Mallette and Jeremy Bieber. He has three younger half-siblings via his father. When Justin was growing up, he showed a strong interest in music and learned to play many instruments by himself, including, guitar, drums, piano and trumpet. His mother began posting videos of him performing musically on YouTube. The videos soon attracted a lot of fans and caught the attention of a talent agent who helped Bieber to sign a record deal. He has won 2 Grammy awards.

Harry Edward Styles was born on February 1, 1994, in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, in the West Midlands region of England. His parents, Des and Anne, divorced when he was 7 years old. He and his sister Gemma grew up in the town of Holmes Chapel in Cheshire. His mother was later remarried, to Robin Twist. His musical career began in 2010 on the British music competition series The X Factor. In the competition, he joined the boy band One Direction, which later became one of the best-selling boy bands of all time. Now, in his solo career, he has won 1 Grammy award.

The Weeknd's real name is Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, and he was born on February 16th, 1990. He grew up in Toronto, Ontario, and was raised by his mother and his grandmother after his parents separated. The Weeknd is of Ethiopian heritage, and his parents emigrated to Canada in the late '80s. He attended high school, but he didn't graduate.

He has won three Grammy Awards and eight Billboard Awards, among others

Ed Sheeran was born on February 17, 1991 in Yorkshire, England as Edward Christopher Sheeran. When he was young, he began playing guitar, and showed a lot of talent. When he was 11, Sheeran met singer-songwriter Damien Rice backstage at one concert. Damien Rice told Sheeran to write his own music, and the next day Ed Sheeran started doing just that. After first recording music in 2004, he began gaining attention through YouTube and his career took off. He has already won 4 Grammy awards. In December 2018 he married Cherry Seaborn. They have one child.

Step 8 (20 - 30 min)

Song Pieces. (with Ed Sheeran's, Justin Bieber's, The Weeknd's and Harry's greatest hits)

Instructions

Divide students into pairs or trios (it can also be done individually, depending on the number of students), and tell them they are going to listen to various extracts of songs and in each one they have to listen to different things and write them down on a blank sheet of paper.

1- Before playing each extract, say what you want the students to listen to and make sure they know it. In order to do that, ask them if they can give you examples of the words they must listen to.

Example:

Students, in this first extract, you have to listen to a frequency adverb! Do you remember what this is? Give me some examples.

2- Tell them they have 3 chances to try to get the right word. Then, play the first extract 3 times and they write down the answer for number 1. (give them an extra point if they can say the name of the singer, too!)

3- Check what the teams wrote down (you can use the chat feature of the application you're using with your online students. ex: in-meeting chat in zoom , and ask them to use it to send you the answers. Assign points. (1 for each right word, if there is more than 1 word in the recording)

4 - Repeat steps 2, 3, 4 for the next song extracts. The team with more points, in the end, is the winner!

SUGGESTIONS OF THINGS TO BE FOUND IN EACH SONG EXTRACT:

(OBS: choose **ONLY ONE** of the suggestions for each song, according to your class level - of course, you can choose more - it all depends on your students)

SONG EXTRACT 1 (Never say never - Justin Bieber)

suggestions:

1- **adjectives: free, strong, fast (the highest) superlative**

lyrics:

*Ne-never say never
Never say it
Never, Never say it
I never thought I
Could feel this power
I never thought that I
Could feel this **free***

*I'm **strong** enough to climb
The highest tower
And I'm **fast** enough to run
Across the sea*

SONG EXTRACT 2 (I can't feel my face - the weekend)

suggestions:

- 1- frequency adverbs: always, never
- 2 - superlative: the best, the worst
- 3 - simple past: told

lyrics:

*And I know she'll be the death of me
At least we'll both be numb
And she'll **always** get **the best** of me
The worst is yet to come
But at least we'll both be beautiful and stay forever young
This I know, yeah, this I know*

*She **told** me, "Don't worry about it"
She told me, "Don't worry no more"
We both know we can't go without it
She told me, "You'll **never** be alone", oh, oh, woo*

SONG EXTRACT 3 (Thinking out loud - Ed Sheeran)

suggestions:

- 1-parts of the body: arms, head, heart
- 2- a number (a thousand)
- 3- simple past; found

lyrics:

*And I just wanna tell you I am
So honey now
Take me into your loving **arms**
Kiss me under the light of **a thousand** stars
Place your **head** on my beating **heart***

*I'm thinking out loud
Maybe we **found** love right where we are*

SONG EXTRACT 4 (Love yourself - Justin Bieber)

suggestions:

- 1- verbs in the simple past: told, hated, was, tried, came

lyrics:

*And when you **told** me that you **hated** my friends
The only problem **was** with you and not them
And every time you told me my opinion was wrong*

*And **tried** to make me forget where I **came** from*

SONG EXTRACT 5 (falling - Harry Styles)

suggestions:

- 1- verb to be: I'm, you're not, there's, it's not
- 2- object in a house; bed
- 3- part of the body: hands

lyrics:

*I'm in my **bed**
And **you're not** here
And **there's** no one to blame
But the drink in my wandering **hands**
Forget what I said*

*It's **not** what I meant
And I can't take it back
I can't unpack the baggage you left*

SONG EXTRACT 6 (I feel it coming - The weekend)

suggestions:

- 1- present perfect: you've been
- 2 simple present: don't have, I feel, you're

lyrics:

*You've **been** scared of love
And what it did to you
You **don't have** to run
I know what you've **been** through
Just a simple touch
And it can set you free*

*We don't have to rush
When you're alone with me
I **feel** it coming (I feel it coming)
I feel it coming babe (I feel it coming, babe)*

SONG EXTRACT 7 (watermelon sugar - Harry Styles)

suggestions:

- 1- season: summer
- 2- month: June
- 3: fruit: strawberries, watermelon

lyrics:

*Strawberries on a **summer** evenin'
Baby, you're the end of **June**
I want your belly
And that summer feelin'
Getting washed away in you
Breathe me in, breathe me out
I don't know if I could ever go without*

Watermelon sugar high
Watermelon sugar high
Watermelon sugar high

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

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Happy teaching! :)

A promotional image for a book titled '10 Song Activity Ideas for ELT' by Maria Borfin. The book is shown in a 3D perspective, with a smartphone next to it displaying the same cover. The cover features a glowing lightbulb and the title in red and black text. The author's name 'Maria Borfin' and the SAF logo are also visible on the book cover.

Innovative and fresh ways to get your students Thinking critically, creatively and boost the interactivity factor of your classes 10X!