

SONG ACTIVITY FACTORY

[006 - 22]



Teaching With Songs: Musical Biography + Song Pieces with Billie Eilish, Katy Perry, Britney Spears & Avril Lavigne

Description

This song-based STEP-BY-STEP LESSON PLAN for ENGLISH language TEACHING features the lyrics extracts of various songs by Billie Eilish, Katy Perry, Britney Spears and Avril Lavigne. Students IDENTIFY singers in photos, TALK about them, READ quotes and MATCH them to the singers, TALK about their favorite quotes in pairs, MATCH singers and their childhood pictures, WATCH a video about them, and FILL the information in a table, and LISTEN to song extracts and identify comparative adjectives 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: B2 and above

Learner type: All ages

Skills: speaking, reading, listening and writing

Topic: Biographical Facts about singers

Language/grammar: comparatives

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

Duration: 1 hour - 1h 20 min

Downloadable materials: NONE

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. Have them write down who they think is the oldest/youngest to check later.

answers: 1- Billie Eilish 2- Avril Lavigne 3 - Britney Spears 4 - Katy Perry

Step 2 (5 min)

Childhood pictures (slide 2).

Have random students match the singers and their childhood photos.

answers

1 D, 2 a , 3b, 4C

Step 3 (7 min)

Quotes (slide 3).

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 4 (10 min)

In pairs (breakout rooms), students talk about their favorite quotes and why.

Step 5(7 min)

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

Step 6 (5 min)

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

Answers: A: Katy Perry, B: Britney Spears, C: Billie Eilish, D: Avril Lavigne

Step 7 (5 - 7min)

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

VIDEO [LINK](#)

[answers](#)

Name	BILLIE	KATY	BRITNEY	AVRIL
Date of Birth	Dec 18, 2001	Oct 25, 1984	Dec 2, 1981	Sep 27, 1984
Place of Birth	LA, California, US	Sta Barbara, California, US	McComb, Mississippi, US	Belleville, Ontario, Canada
Siblings' first names	Finneas (brother)	David, Angela	Brian, Jamie	Matthew, Michelle
Homeschooled (yes/no)	yes	no	no	no
Sang in church (yes/no)	no	yes	yes	no
Musical instrument(s)	ukulele <input type="checkbox"/>	guitar	-----	Drums, keyboard, guitar

Have students say if their guesses about the oldest and the youngest were right
The youngest: Billie Eilish The oldest: Britney Spears

Video script

Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell was born in Los Angeles California on December 18, 2001. Her mother is actress and teacher Maggie Baird, and her father is actor Patrick O'Connell. Both are also musicians and work on Eilish's tours.

Eilish and her brother Finneas were homeschooled by their mother, a decision their parents made to spend time with them, and give them the freedom to pursue their interests. Their mother, Maggie, taught Eilish and Finneas the basics of songwriting. Eilish said her brother and mother inspired her to get into music. Their parents encouraged the siblings to express themselves and explore whatever they wanted, including art, dancing, and acting.

At the age of 6, she started playing the ukulele. She wrote her first "real" song at age 11 for her mother's songwriting class. The song was about the zombie apocalypse, inspired by the television series *The Walking Dead*.

Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson was born on October 25, 1984, in Santa Barbara California, to Pentecostal pastors Mary Christine and Maurice Keith Hudson. She has a younger brother named David, who is a singer, and an older sister, Angela.

As she grew up, she attended religious schools, including Paradise Valley Christian School in Arizona, and Santa Barbara Christian School in California, during her elementary years.

Initially, Perry primarily listened to gospel music, as secular music was generally discouraged in the family's home. She only discovered popular music through CDs she sneaked from her friends.

Because she wanted to be like her sister Angela, Perry began singing by practicing with her sister's cassette tapes. Her parents let her train her singing seriously at age nine, and from then on, she sang in church until the age of 17. When she was 13 years old, she got her first guitar for her birthday. She also started performing the songs she wrote.

Britney Jean Spears was born on December 2, 1981, in McComb, Mississippi, as the second child of James Parnell Spears and Lynne Irene Bridges. Her siblings are Bryan James Spears and Jamie Lynn Spears. Britney used to sing in an evangelical protestant church choir as a child. Later on in her life, she converted to Catholicism.

At age three, Spears began attending dance lessons and was selected to perform as a solo artist at the annual recital. Aged five, she made her local stage debut, singing at her kindergarten graduation. During her childhood, she also had gymnastics and voice lessons, and won many state-level competitions and children's talent shows.

When Spears was 8, she and her mother, Lynne, traveled to Atlanta to audition for the 1990s revival of *The Mickey Mouse Club*, but she was too young to get in.

In December 1992, she was finally cast in *The Mickey Mouse Club*, alongside Christina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake, Ryan Gosling, and Keri Russell.

Avril Ramona Lavigne was born on September 27, 1984 in Belleville, Ontario Canada. She was named Avril (the French word for April) by her father. He, and Lavigne's mother, recognized their child's vocal abilities when she was two years old, and sang "Jesus Loves me" on the way home from church. Lavigne has an older brother named Matthew and a younger sister named Michelle.

Her parents have always supported her singing. Her father bought her a microphone, a drum kit, a keyboard, and several guitars, and he converted their basement into a studio. When Lavigne was 14 years old, her parents took her to karaoke sessions.

Lavigne performed at country fairs, singing songs by Garth Brooks and Shania Twain. Then, She began writing her own songs. Her first song was called "Can't Stop Thinking About You", about a teenage crush.

Step 8 (20 - 30 min)

Song Pieces COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES. (with Billie's, Avril's, Katy's and Britney's song extracts) slide 04

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 comparative adjectives and write them down on a blank sheet of paper.

1- Before playing the extracts, review comparatives and ask them to give you examples . Write them on the board.

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!



ANSWERS

SONG 1 Firework - Katy Perry

Boom, boom, boom
Even **BRIGHTER** than the moon,
moon, moon
It's always been inside of you, you, you
And now it's time to let it through
'Cause, baby, you're a firework
Come on, show 'em what you're worth

SONG 2 Hold it against me - Britney

Hate to stare, but you're winning
And they're playing my favorite
song
So come here, a little **CLOSER**
Wanna whisper in your ear
Make it clear, a little question
Wanna know just how you feel

SONG 3 You Should See Me In A Crown - Billie Eilish

Blood on a marble wall
I like the way they all
Scream
Tell me which one is **WORSE**
Living or dying first
Sleeping inside a hearse

SONG 4 Girlfriend - Avril Lavigne

She's, like, so whatever.
You can do so much **BETTER**.
I think we should get together now.
And that's what everyone's talking
about.

SONG 5 Bellyache - Billie Eilish

Maybe it's in the gutter
Where I left my lover
What an expensive fake
My V is for Vendetta
Thought that I'd feel **BETTER**
But now I got a bellyache

SONG 6 California Gurls - Katy Perry

Greetings loved ones
Let's take a journey
I know a place
Where the grass is really **GREENER**
Warm, wet n' wild
There must be something in the water

SONG 7 We are warriors - Avril Lavigne

'Cause we are warriors, we'll fight for our lives
Like soldiers all through the night
And we won't give up, we will survive, we are
warriors
And we're **STRONGER**, that's why we're alive
We will conquer, time after time
We'll never falter, we will survive, we are warriors

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

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Happy teaching! :)

