

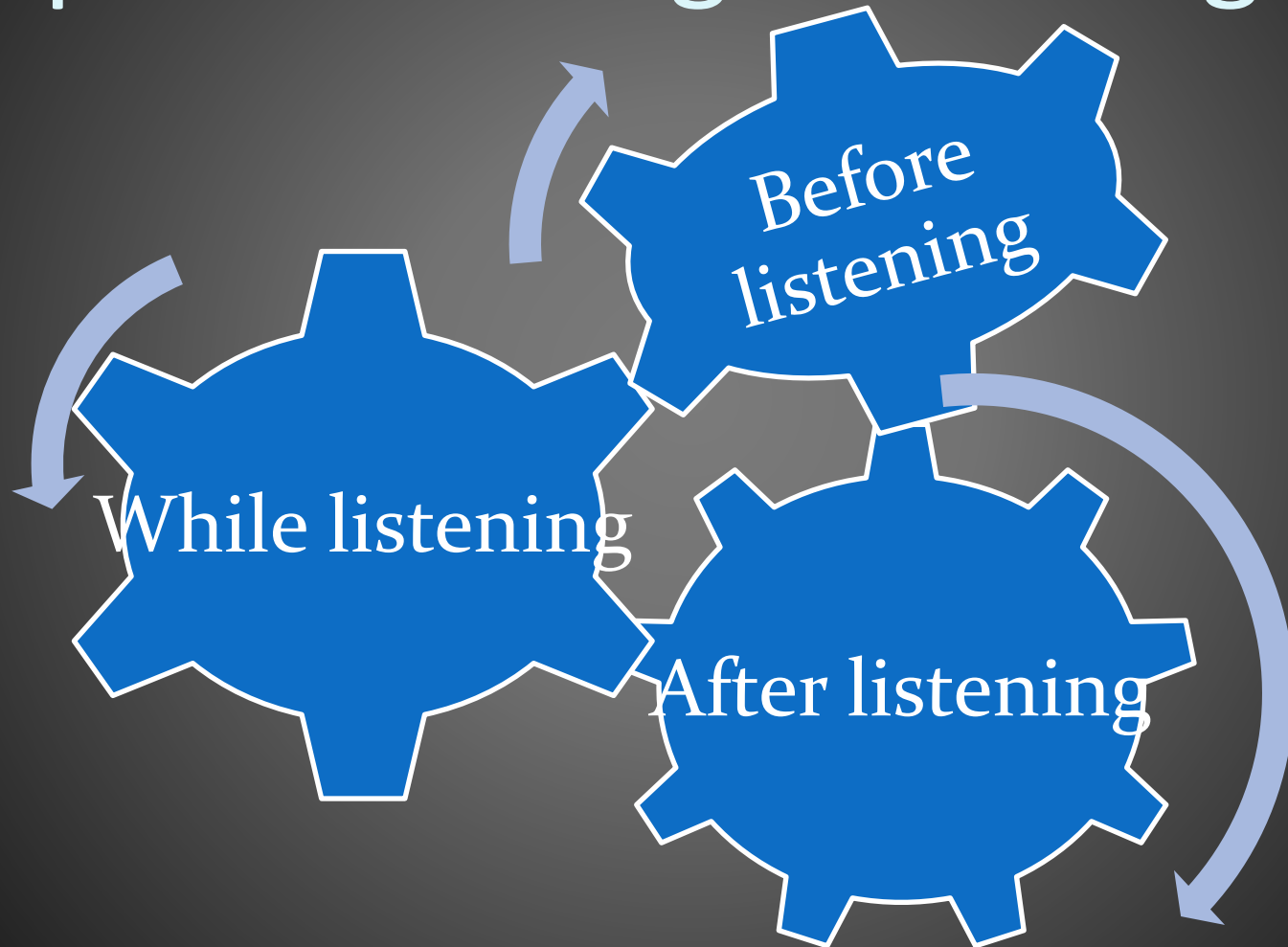
Ideas For Using Songs In The Classroom.



Why use songs to teach English?

- They are fun, they bring variety to your lesson.
- They are relaxing, they create healthy environment for learning.
- They help to achieve maximum. Everyone participates, even weaker and shy.
- Students can practice listening ,grammar, new vocabulary, phonetic in songs.
- Songs provide cultural information.
- Songs can be good discussion starters.
- Songs can lead to an interesting writing activity.

Steps in working with songs



Before listening

1. Predict what the song can be about
2. Answer before questions
3. Do lexical exercises
4. Find key words

While listening

1. Watch video (pictures)
2. Fill in the gaps
3. Guess unknown words
4. Answer the questions
5. True or false

After listening

1.Fill in the blanks-while listening and without it

e.g. “She’ll – coming round the mountain _____ she _____”

2.Put lines in correct sequence.

3.Find the errors and correct .Use typical S errors

e.g. “She’ll be coming round the mountain when she will come.”

4.Dictation

Write the missing lines.

Finish the line.

Transcribe the story(good group activity)

5.Create your own verse (whole class or group)

6. Focus on vocabulary

- Learn new words in context.
- Paraphrase lines with new words.
- Find synonyms and antonyms for new words.
- Learn collocations.

7. Focus on Grammar

- Practice new grammar points
- Learn word order, nouns, articles, prepositions, etc.

8. Draw a picture of the song story.

Draw here this song makes you feel.

Draw pictures of the sequence of events or lines.

9. Discuss feelings and attitudes toward ideas and events in lyrics.

10. Write about your opinion of the ideas and events expressed in lyrics. Write about how you feel when you listen to this song.

11. Independent project—individuals, groups.

A. Research the history or cultural setting of a song.

Students can write their findings in a report and present this orally of the class.

B. Students can record a song of their choice. They transcribe the lyrics, then teach the song to the class.

3

Tom's diner

1

A *diner* is a type of restaurant in the United States of America. In the pictures, can you see anyone:

- sitting at a table?
- pouring coffee?
- kissing someone?
- talking?
- eating?

- hitching up her skirt?
- reading a newspaper?
- looking out of the window?
- straightening her stockings?
- doing the washing up?

You can use your dictionary or ask your teacher for help.

a)



b)



What are the differences between the two pictures?

Example: *In picture (a), the woman is sitting alone but in picture (b) she is with a friend.*

3 Read the song.
Which picture shows what is happening?
Tom's Diner

I am sitting In the morning At the diner On the comer

5 I am waiting At the counter For the man To pour the coffee

And he Ms it 10 Only halfway " And before I even argue

He is looking Out the window 15 At somebody > Coming in

'It is always Nice to see you' Says the man 20 Behind the counter

To the woman Who has come in She is shaking Her umbrella

25 And Hook The other way As they are kissing Their hellos

I'm pretending 30 Not to see them And instead I pour the milk

I open Up the paper 35 There's a story Of an actor

Who had died While he was drinking It was no one 40 I had heard of

And I'm turning To the horoscope And looking For the funnies

Wnen I'm feeling Someone watching me And so I raise my head

There's a woman On the outside Looking inside Does she see me?

No she does not Really see me 'Cause she sees Her own reflection

And I'm trying Not to notice That she's hitching Up her skirt

And while she's Straightening her stockings Her hair Has gotten wet

Oh, this rain , It will continue Through the morning As I'm listening

To the bells Of the cathedral

I am thinking Of your voice

45

55 And of the midnight picnic Once upon a time Before the rain began ... 75

eo And I finish up my coffee It's time to catch the train

(Suzanne Vega)

65

70

4 Write down in your own language what you think these words from the song mean.

corner counter funnies reflection midnight picnic

Check in your dictionary.

5 Are these statements about the song true or false?

- 1 It's a bright and sunny day.
- 2 The singer is having dinner.
- 3 The man works at Tom's Diner.
- 4 The woman who comes in does not know the man well.
- 5 The woman outside is concerned about how she looks.
- 6 The singer is thinking about someone she knows well.
- 7 The singer is waiting to take a train.

6 Read these lines from the song. Who do the words in *italics* refer to?

- 1 *He* is looking / Out the window / At *somebody* I Coming in (lines 13-16)
- 2 Who had died / While *he* was drinking (lines 37-38)
- 3 *She* is shaking / Her umbrella (lines 23-24)
- 4 No *she* does not / Really see *me* (lines 53-54)
- 5 'It is always / Nice to see *you*' (lines 17-18)
- 6 I am thinking / Of *your* voice (lines 71-72)

7

Which is the best summary of the song?

1 A woman is reading a newspaper while she is having coffee in a diner when she sees the man behind the counter kissing a woman who has just come in. Outside another woman is using the window as a mirror. The first woman finishes her coffee and leaves.

2 A woman is having coffee in a diner because it is raining. She is very interested in what everyone else is doing, but she pretends that she is reading a newspaper. She leaves to get her train.

3 A woman is waiting to catch her; train. She is leaving town after the end of a relationship. As she drinks her coffee, she is watching what other people are doing, but she cannot stop herself from thinking about her ex-boyfriend.

8

Read the song again and write down the ten most important words.

Does the song have a happy or a sad ending?

Imagine that this is not the end of the song. How do you think it continues?



