



Level: B1

Focus: Pronunciation for listening

Theme: Misheard song lyrics

Activity: Match mistakes and corrections

WRONG LYRICS 2

This is a fun awareness-raising activity based on the Beatle's song *Hey Jude*. Most people have had the experience of hearing a song in their own or another language, and misunderstanding some of the lines of the lyric. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, we may hear wrongly, either because the singer pronounces strangely, or because the language has in-built ambiguities and homophones. Secondly, we may interpret wrongly. We think the singer is singing about X when in fact s/he is singing about something else completely. This causes us to think we heard one thing when in fact we heard another. This activity raises awareness of these kinds of misunderstanding.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask the students if they can recall any examples of when they have misunderstood the words of a song. Prompt them by sharing with them an example of your own.
2. Explain to the students that they will hear a famous song which has been badly misunderstood. Ask them to spot the mistakes. Then play the video or audio, once or twice.
3. Give out the worksheet. You could cut off the 'clues' in the box at the bottom of the page if you think the students will be able to correct mistakes 1-14 without them: many students will know the real lyrics fairly well already.
4. Go through the answers. Ask students if they can see how the word or phrase was misunderstood.

Key 1 - 9; 2 - e; 3 - a; 4 - j; 5 - n; 6 - m; 7 - o; 8 - d; 9 - q; 10 - f; 11 - k; 12 - s; 13 - l; 14 - r; 15 - i; 16 - c; 17 - p; 18 - h; 19 - b

NOTES

A common cause of ambiguity in English is that you can't always tell if a consonant sound is at the end of one word or at the beginning of the next. For example, in number 3, the correct phrase is *a sad*, but it has been written wrongly as *us at*. The listener thought that the S at the start of *sad* was the S at the end of *us*.

HAY CHEWED

¹Hay chewed
²Dough may get bad
 Take ³us at song
 And ⁴may get better
 Remember
⁵Two leather rings to your heart
⁶The new gun starred
⁷Do make the bed up

Hay chewed
⁸Don't be a phrase
 You, ⁹a mate too!
 Go out and get ¹⁰hurt
¹¹Them, innit?
¹²You'll let her run to your skin
¹³The new big inn
 Do make the bed up

And any time, ¹⁴new field o' pain
 Hey, ¹⁵dude, refrain!
 Don't ¹⁶care, either world, upon your shoulder
 For ¹⁷welders know daddy's a fool
 Who plays ¹⁸at school
¹⁹I'm aching as well, a little colder

^aa sad ^bby making this world ^ccarry the ^ddon't be afraid
^edon't make it ^fher ^ghey Jude ^hit cool ⁱJude ^jmake it
^kthe minute ^lthen you begin ^mthen you can start
ⁿto let her into ^oto make it better ^pwell you know that it's
^qwere made to ^ryou feel the pain ^syou let her under