

Level: B1

Focus: Pronunciation for listening

Theme: Misheard song lyrics

Activity: Match mistakes and corrections

WRONG LYRICS

This is a fun awareness-raising activity based on the Beatle's song *Something in the way she moves*. 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 – k; 2 – g; 3 – a; 4 – h; 5 – k; 6 – r; 7 – q; 8 – c; 9 – j; 10 – p; 11 – m; 12 – i; 13 – b; 14 – d; 15 – f; 16 – n; 17 – e; 18 – 0

Some thinking the way she moos

¹Some thinking the way she ²moos
³Attacks me like no ⁴udder lover
⁵Some think it's the way she ⁶views me
 I don't want ⁷a lever now
 You know ⁸I'll be leaving. How?

Somewhere in her ⁹smiley nose
¹⁰The tired old knees know of her lover
¹¹Some thinking hairstyle that ¹²chose me
 I don't want a lever now
 You know I'll be leaving. How?

You're asking me will my love ¹³groan
¹⁴I don't, no. Why? Don't know!
 You stick around now ¹⁵wit may show
 I don't, no. Why? Don't know!

¹⁶Some think in a way she knows
 And all I have to do ¹⁷with ink of her
¹⁸Some think it's the thing she shows me
 I don't want a lever now
 You know I'll be leaving. How?

a. attracts b. grow c. I believe and d. I don't know, I don't know e. is think f. it
 g. moves h. other i. shows j. smile she knows k. something in l. something in
 m. something in her style n. something in the o. something in the things
 p. that I don't need no other q. to leave her r. woos