

### **Teaching english with songs**

Songs are among the best ways of teaching a foreign language. They are an invaluable tool in creating a learning environment, building listening comprehension, developing speaking, reading, and writing skills, as well as increasing learners' vocabulary and expanding their cultural knowledge. Music promotes conversation since songs are based on great topics, such as love, jealousy, friendship, money, and many others.

*Listening to songs* develops in the learner understanding of English speech. One way to advance learners' listening skills is to offer them an activity in which they are asked to identify wrong words put by the teacher in a stanza. Students listen to the song, find these words and correct them. Another way of enhancing learners' listening skills is to remove all rhyming words in a stanza and put them in a box. Students first match the words which rhyme, then listen to the song and insert the rhyming words in the lyrics. Yet another way to facilitate learners' listening abilities is to challenge them to discover reductions, accent and dialect variations in songs.

Pop songs use high frequency words. This makes them an effective instrument for learners' *vocabulary enhancement*.

Sample vocabulary building activities may include the following tasks: 1) Listen to the stanza of the song and fill the blanks with the words from the box; 2) Listen to the stanza in which some words have been misplaced. Spot them and write the lines in the correct order; 3) Put the lines of the chorus in the correct order; 4) Find the word that matches the definition; 5) Match the words from the stanza to their antonyms; 6) Match the words from the stanza to their synonyms.