

MUSIC

IN THE ESL CLASSROOM

LESSON IDEAS – CONVERSATION

Here are some conversation pieces, literally 😊 I have suggested some topics that you might explore with your students in connection to these pieces. These are suggestions and not an exhaustive list. Here are some topics that you wish to explore with other pieces: cultural expectations (Canadian vs. other countries, subcultures), cultural values or traditions, etiquette (add to this list as your particular teaching context and learners' needs dictate).

- *Lean on Me* – Bill Withers (human relationships, how people handle difficult times/situations)
- *Lohengrin – Act 3: Bridal Chorus* – Wagner (wedding traditions, expectations, cost)
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream – Wedding March*, Op. 61, No. 9 – Mendelssohn (wedding traditions, expectations, cost)
- *Rock-a-bye Baby* – Anonymous (lullabies, bedtime rituals and traditions)
- *Baby, It's Cold Outside* – Dean Martin (cultural expectations for dating, sexual harassment, date rape)

LESSON IDEAS – GRAMMAR

Here are the songs that were covered during the webinar and some possible activities and grammar topics that you might wish to explore with your students. Each of these songs also works well as a conversation piece or the introduction to a unit or theme. For example, Dolly Parton's *9 to 5* would make an interesting introduction to a unit on employment or workplace ethics, employee rights, etc. These are possible topics and activities that touch on grammar and other skills that you may wish to explore with your students using other songs: verbs – tenses, forms, identification, idioms, adjectives, adverbs, clauses, vocabulary, similes, metaphors, sentence structure/diagramming or breakdown, reading, oral communication (presentation), verb tense change or adjective change (rewrite a sentence or two of the song in a different tense to see if the meaning changes or stays the same, adjective/adverb substitution (replace the adjectives or adverbs in a sentence to see how it affects the meaning of the song)

- *Ring around the Rosie* (16th century nursery rhyme/folk song) – Anonymous (vocabulary, reading comprehension, sentence structure, adjectives/adverbs, idioms)
- *Don't You Know You're Beautiful* – One Direction (vocabulary, reading comprehension, sentence structure, adjectives/adverbs, idioms)
- *Fight Song* – Rachel Platten (vocabulary, reading comprehension, sentence structure, adjectives/adverbs, idioms)
- *Cheerleader* – Felix Jaehn (vocabulary, adjectives/adverbs, sentence, reading comprehension)
- *Lean on Me* – Bill Withers (idioms, verbs, vocabulary, adjectives/adverbs)



- 9 to 5 – Dolly Parton (work vocabulary, verbs – identification, conjugation, sentence identification/definition, idioms)

MUSIC LESSON PLAN WEBSITES

Below you will find websites that offered music lesson plans. Some focus more on developing conversation skills while others focus more on vocabulary development, reading comprehension and grammar practice. Still others combine the best of both worlds.

- Music - ESL (Dave's ESL Cafe) <https://www.eslcafe.com/resources/lesson-plans/music>
- FluentU <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/esl-song-activities/>
- ESL Library <https://blog.esllibrary.com/esl-music-musicians/>
- LinguaHouse <https://www.linguahouse.com/esl-lesson-plans/topic/sound-and-music>
- Teaching ESL with Music - ESL Partyland <http://eslpartytown.com/teachers/nov/music.html>
- Sandra Heyer Songs <https://sandraheyersongs.com/lesson-plans-for-recent-hits/>
- Topic: Music - OneStopEnglish <https://www.onestopenglish.com/general-english/topics-music/552008.article>
- English ESL Music Sheets <https://en.islcollective.com/english-esl-worksheets/vocabulary/music>
- Music Lesson Plan <https://film-english.com/2014/01/13/music/>
- Conversation Lesson - Music <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/conversation-lesson-music>

SUPPLEMENTARY READING/VIEWING

If you are interested in further exploring the relationship between music and the mind, especially in relation to learning, I suggest you read the following books or articles.

Barber, David W. *If it ain't baroque: more music history as it ought to be taught*. Toronto: Sound & Vision, 1992.

Bernstein, Leonard. *The Joy of Music*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1959.

Blesser, Barry and Salter, Linda-Ruth. *Questions and Answers about: Spaces Speak, Are You Listening? Experiencing Aural Architecture*. 2006. 2011 <<http://mitpress.mit.edu>>.

Bobrovskii, V. P. "Musical Form." *The Great Soviet Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition*. Moscow: The Gale Group, Inc., 2010.

Campbell, Don. *L'effet Mozart Les bienfaits de la musique sur le corps et l'esprit*. Montreal: Le Jour editeur, 1997.

—. *The Mozart Effect*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc., 1997.

—. *The Mozart Effect for children: awakening Your child's mind, health and creativity with music*. New York: William Morrow, 2000.

Cohen, Alan. "Architecture and Music." Buzzle.com. 3 April 2011 <<http://www.buzzle.com/editorials/7-27-2004-57157.asp>>.

Haas, Karl. Inside Music How to Understand, Listen to, and Enjoy Good Music. New York: Anchor Books Doubleday, 1984.

Habermeyer, Sharlene. Good music, brighter children : simple and practical ideas to help transform your child's life through the power of music . Rocklin, CA: Prima Publishing, 1999.

Jacques, Eugene. La musique et ses effets. Outremont, QC: Les Editions Quebecor, 2006.

Levitin, Daniel J. The World in Six Songs How the Musical Brain Ccreated Human Nature. Toronto: Penguin Group, 2008.

—. This Is Your Brain On Music: The Science of a Science of a Human Obsession. New York: Dutton, 2006.

McKay, Paul. "Music and the Brain." The Ottawa Citizen 18 November 2002.

Oak, Manali. "Effects of Music on the Mind and Brain."

O'Donnell, Laurence. "Music and the Brain." 1999. Music Power. <<http://users.characterlink.net/odonnell/report.html>>.

Ortiz, John M. Nurturing your child with music : how sound awareness creates happy, smart, and confident children . Hillsboro, Oregon: Beyond Words Publishing, 1999.

Powell, John. How Music Works A listener's guide to harmony, keys, broken chords, perfect pitch and the secrets of a good tune. Toronto: Penguin Group, 2010.

Pudewa, Andrew. "The Profound Influence of Music on life." Institute for Excellence in Writing. Locust Grove, Oklahoma, 2001.

Ripley, Colin with Marco polo and Arthur Wigglesworth. In the Place of Sound: Architecture I Music I Acoustics. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007

Sacks, Oliver. Musophilia. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007.

Sethna, Dhun H. Classical Music for Everybody A Companion to Good Listening. Sierra Madre, CA: Fitzwilliam Press, 1997.

Wikipedia. Music and the brain. Retrieved: 23 September 2011 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_and_the_brain>.

YOUTUBE PLAYLISTS

Below you will find a YouTube channel and some ready-made playlists labelled according to the type of activities. The playlists include the songs from the webinar and many more.

- YouTube Channel – Music in the ESL Classroom - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnay13Ehymh7Y5xCcQuoYgA/featured>
- Music in the ESL Classroom – Background (facilitate) – <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMgmqE7533kpsCU4Cfa2307Aq8QYt8ouU>
- Music in the ESL Classroom – Conversation – <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMgmqE7533kqtfCiX0SGY05uS6O94IzwW>
- Music in the ESL Classroom – Creative Learning (Enhance) - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMgmqE7533kqjhutTGGuFIFIJYE8wpwxs>
- Music in the ESL Classroom – Grammar - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMgmqE7533kqxA9jKCXU2eG7DBhFLYBt2>



Here are the resources, websites, playlists, song lists from the TESL Ontario webinar, *Music in the ESL Classroom*. If you would like to make suggestions or have questions, please contact me.

