

ROLE OF MUSIC IN LEARNING ENGLISH

People can learn English in different ways. Some watch films or serials in English, others prefer reading English books, articles, news. Of course, it is better to use the combination of all these methods, but people are different and everyone chooses what he or she wants. Let's consider one more way of learning English – learning through songs and music.

Why music? Firstly, everyone listens to music, even when they don't want, for example in public transport. Music is a kind of art and it doesn't matter what genre people listen to. As English is an international language, there are a lot of musical pieces in this language and you can choose your favorite genre.

Learning English through music gives you possibility to do it everywhere, any time and requires only your desire to learn something new. But it would be better if you read, translate the text of a song and do some other learning activities after listening. In general, there are a lot of pieces of advice how to do it effectively. There is a lot of information on the Internet. For example, <http://www.fluentu.com> [1] represents the article “8 Great Tips to Learn English Through Songs and Music”. There is universal advice that doesn't require considerable efforts to use. Another one is <http://englex.ru> [2]. On this web-site you can find some helpful tips how to learn English through music too. It also contains a list of useful links which will help you learn English. And the last one that we want to recommend to you is <https://skyeng.ru> [3]. There are several reviews from English teachers how to do it. In general, everything can be brought to the following:

- Choose the right song. It means that different songs can be used for different levels of study. For example, rap music includes a lot of slang words and it can be hard for beginners to understand. It would be better for them to start with pop music.
- Sing songs. Sing songs even if you aren't good at singing. It helps you improve pronunciation and it is fun. Try to sing songs from memory. It is very useful because you remember words and understand where and how they are used.
- Do it regularly. It is really important because regular lessons are the key to success.
- Be a music lover. Don't be afraid of trying something new. There are a lot of different music genres in English. And each of them contains different grammar constructions, slang words and lexicon.

Learning through music works well even if you aren't a musician or a singer. These pieces of advice can be used by everyone.

Consider the ways of working with songs if your purpose is to master your English.

The following steps must be taken in order to turn just listening into educational material:

- Listen to the song. If you feel that you really like the song, then try to find the lyrics of the song on the Internet.

- Listen to the song again reading the text. Then translate the words of the song.
 - Look at the song translated word by word. You can see that it makes no sense because there are idioms, collocations and phrasal verbs in it. Find them and find their meaning.
 - Now when you know all these word combinations, change the text: rewrite it omitting some of the words and word combinations.
 - Try to sing this song without some words.
 - Finally you will be able to sing without looking at the text, by heart. And you can be sure that you remember all the words and expressions.
- Now let`s look at some of the songs:

1. Pink Floyd – Time

There are a lot of phrasal verbs, collocations, idioms and artistic touches here.

Ticking away the moments that ***make up a dull day***
 You fritter and waste the hours in an ***off hand way***
Kicking around on a piece of ground in your home town
 Waiting for someone or something to show you the way

Every year is getting shorter, ***never seem to find the time***
 Plans that either ***come to naught*** or half a page of scribbled lines
Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way
 The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say.

make up a dull day – to create a boring day
off hand way – something is done carelessly
kick around – to drift idly from place to place
never seem to find the time – to have not enough time
come to naught – to be totally unsuccessful or amount to nothing
hang on – to wait awhile

2. Nirvana – About a girl

There is an interesting repetition of the phrase “I do” which means – “it is true”. This song also contains some phrasal verbs, collocations, idioms.

I need an easy friend
 I do.. with ***an ear to lend***
 I do.. think you ***fit this shoe***
 I do.. won't you ***have a clue***

I'll take advantage while
 You ***hang me out to dry***
 But I can't see you every night, free
 I do

I'm standing in your line
 I do.. hope you have the time
 I do.. ***pick a number*** too
 I do.. ***keep a date with you***

an ear to lend – to listen to
fit this shoe – to suit
have a clue – to understand what smb means
take advantage – to make good use, to benefit
hang smb out to dry – to betray
stand in one's line – to pursue
pick a number – to take a phone number
keep a date with smb – to meet

1. Pink Floyd – Wish you were here

There is a popular construction with the word “wish”, and again some phrasal verbs, collocations, and idioms:

So, so you think you *can tell*
Heaven *from* Hell
blue skies *from* pain
Can you tell a green field
From a cold steel rail ?
A smile *from* a veil ?
Do you think you *can tell*

And *did they get you to trade*
Your heroes *for* ghosts ?
Hot ashes *for* trees ?
Hot air *for* a cool breeze ?
Cold comfort *for* chains ?
And *did you exchange*
A walk on part in the war
for a lead role in a cage?

How I wish, how I wish you were here
We're just two lost souls
Swimming in a fish bowl,
Year after year
Running over the same old ground
What have we found ?
The same old fears
Wish you were here

to tell smth from smth – to find differences between
to trade smth for smth - (here) to exchange smth good for smth bad
did they get you to trade, did you exchange – using Past Simple
How I wish, how I wish you were here – grammar construction – **wish + [past simple](#) is used to express that we want a situation in the present (or future) to be different.**
Author means it's a pity that his friend isn't with him.

Conclusion: Learning English through music really works. You can choose a genre, a song, whatever you want. You can do it anytime and it requires only your wish. Of course, for better result you should do it regularly. There is a lot of useful information

on the Internet which will help you improve your English. You can work with your favorite songs in different ways, find grammar constructions, artistic touches. It doesn't require from you to be a professional singer or a musician because each of us just likes listening to music. It is really interesting and can be helpful for learning English.

REFERENCES

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