

I. Songs with Links

	Song	Artist	Skills	Link
1	Try	Pink	Reductions: gonna, gotta, wanna	http://www.metrolyrics.com/try-official-lyric-video-pink-ml-video-xtl.html
2	Burn	Ellie Goulding	/ə/ burn, turned, heard Linking: light it up, put it out, got the, see us... Reductions: gonna, cause	http://www.metrolyrics.com/burn-elli-e-goulding-ml-video-vgr.html
3	Happy	Pharell Williams	Strong rhythm clap and move with the rhythm Reductions: bout, wanna, notten (nothing)Linking	http://www.metrolyrics.com/happy-from-despicable-me-2-pharrell-williams-ml-video-mjr.html
4	Human	Christina Perri	Reductions: can Endings and linking: words in /zin/, knives in /zin/	http://www.metrolyrics.com/human-christina-perri-ml-video-14h.html
5	Mean	Taylor Swift	Reductions: wanna, gotta, gonna can/can't Endings: s/z/iz (words, knives, swords, weapons, nails, sides, flaws, lies, ends, years, things) Endings: t/d/id (knocked, wounded, pointed, pushed, washed)	http://www.metrolyrics.com/mean-taylor-swift-ml-video-ywc.html
6	I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself	Todd Carpenter	Prelude to the song (speech): /f/, /θ/, /h/ and no /h/. Reductions: dunno, whaddaya, sh'do, d'ya, gonna, got'em. Song: Stress and rhythm. Tap /t/ letter	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7J5F8e73NY
7	Could've Been	Tiffany	Reduction: could've Stress on content words, reduction on function words	http://www.metrolyrics.com/couldve-been-lyrics-tiffany.html#/startvideo
8	My Bonnie	Marsha Mitch Miller Karaoke	Linking; lies_ over, the_ ocean Final consonants: ocean, bring, back, bed, and dead.	http://sunburstmedia.com/class/pron/mybonnie.html http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I09MPyXE2K0 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIp1xigelQ
9	Happy Birthday	Marsha	Voiceless TH /θ/ (every birthday person's name has this sound)	http://youtu.be/PWyxZLGNWU

10	Shake it Off	Taylor Swift	Long /ey/ sound	http://www.metrolyrics.com/shake-it-off-lyrics-taylor-swift.html
11	If I Were a Boy	Beyoncé	Linking: If_I, were_a, roll_out_of, chase_after, could_understand -s endings: hurts/s/, rules/z/ -ed endings: destroyed/d/, confronted/id/ Theme: gender roles	Beyoncé https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWpsOqh8q0M Reba McIntyre for pronunciation http://www.metrolyrics.com/if-i-were-a-boy-lyrics-reba-mcentire.html#/st-rtvideo

1. Try, performed by Pink

Complete the song's lyrics with the following reductions: **gonna**, **gotta**, and **wanna**

Ever wonder about what he's doing
How it all turned to lies
Sometimes I think that it's better to never ask why

Where there is desire
There is _____ be a flame
Where there is a flame
Someone's bound to get burned
But just because it burns
Doesn't mean you're _____ die
You've _____ get up and try try try
_____ get up and try try try
You _____ get up and try try try

Eh, eh, eh

Funny how the heart can be deceiving
More than just a couple times
Why do we fall in love so easy
Even when it's not right

Where there is desire
There is _____ be a flame
Where there is a flame
Someone's bound to get burned
But just because it burns
Doesn't mean you're _____ die

You've _____ get up and try try try
_____ get up and try try try
You _____ get up and try try try

Ever worried that it might be ruined
And does it make you _____ cry?
When you're out there doing what you're doing
Are you just getting by?
Tell me are you just getting by by by

reprise

2. Burn, performed by Ellie Goulding

Listen to the song and mark the words that are linked. Underline the words with /ə/.
E.g. see_us for _VV_, stars_of for _CV_, and turned_down for _CC_

We, we don't have to worry 'bout nothing
'Cause we got the fire, and we're burning one hell of a something
They, they gonna see us from outer space, outer space
Light it up, like we're the stars of the human race, human race

When the light started out they don't know what they heard
Strike the match, play it loud, giving love to the world
We'll be raising our hands, shining up to the sky
'Cause we got the fire, fire, fire
Yeah we got the fire, fire, fire

Chorus:

And we gonna let it burn, burn, burn, burn
We gonna let it burn, burn, burn, burn
Gonna let it burn, burn, burn, burn
We gonna let it burn, burn, burn, burn

We don't wanna leave, no. We just wanna be right now (right), r-r-right now
And what we see is everybody's on the floor acting crazy, getting loco 'til the lights out
Music's on, I'm waking up, we fight the fire, then we burn it up
And it's over now, we got the love, there's no sleeping now, no sleeping now, no sleeping

When the light started out they don't know what they heard
Strike the match, play it loud, giving love to the world
We'll be raising our hands, shining up to the sky
'Cause we got the fire, fire, fire
Yeah we got the fire, fire, fire

(Chorus)

When the light started out they don't know what they heard
Strike the match, play it loud, giving love to the world

We gonna let it burn burn burn burn (burn burn) burn burn burn burn (burn burn)

We can light it up, up, up So they can't put it out, out, out (4 repetitions)

When the light started out they don't know what they heard
Strike the match, play it loud, giving love to the world
We'll be raising our hands, shining up to the sky
'Cause we got the fire, fire, fire
Yeah we got the fire, fire, fire

(Chorus)

When the light started out they don't know what they heard
Strike the match, play it loud, giving love to the world
We'll be raising our hands, shining up to the sky
'Cause we got the fire, fire, fire
Yeah we got the fire, fire, fire

And we gonna let it burn

3. Happy, performed by Pharell Williams

It might seem crazy what I'm about to say
Sunshine she's here, you can take away
I'm a hot air balloon, I could go to space
With the air, like I don't care baby by the way

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Here come bad news talking this and that
Yeah, give me all you got, don't hold back
Yeah, well I should probably warn you I'll be just fine
Yeah, no offense to you don't waste your time
Here's why

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Happy, bring me down
Can't nothing, bring me down
Love is too happy to bring me down
Can't nothing, bring me down
I said bring me down
Can't nothing, bring me down
Love is too happy to bring me down
Can't nothing, bring me down

4. Human, performed by Christina Perri

Listen to the song and mark stressed and unstressed syllables. o-unstressed, O-stressed, O- focal stress.

O o O o O o o O o

E.g. I can hold my breath, I can do it

I can hold my breath
I can bite my tongue
I can stay awake for days
If that's what you want
Be your number one

I can fake a smile
I can force a laugh
I can dance and play the part
If that's what you ask
Give you all I am

I can do it
I can do it
I can do it

But I'm only human
And I bleed when I fall down
I'm only human
And I crash and I break down
Your words in my head, knives in my heart
You build me up and then I fall apart
'Cause I'm only human, yeah

I can turn it on
Be a good machine
I can hold the weight of worlds
If that's what you need
Be your everything

I can do it
I can do it
I'll get through it

reprise

5. Mean, performed by Taylor Swift

Listen to the song and mark all of the -s/-es and -ed endings. Mark linking.

E.g. knives/z/ , knocked/t/ , knives_and

You, with your words like knives and swords and weapons that you use against me
You have knocked me off my feet again got me feeling like I'm nothing
You, with your voice like nails on a chalkboard, calling me out when I'm wounded
You, pickin' on the weaker man

You can take me down
With just one single blow
But you don't know what you don't know

Someday I'll be living in a big old city
And all you're ever gonna be is mean
Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me
And all you're ever gonna be is mean
Why you gotta be so mean?

You, with your switching sides and your wildfire lies and your humiliation
You've pointed out my flaws again as if I don't already see them
I'll walk with my head down trying to block you out 'cause I'll never impress you
I just wanna feel okay again

I'll bet you got pushed around, somebody made you cold
But the cycle ends right now 'cause you can't lead me down that road
And you don't know what you don't know

Someday I'll be living in a big old city
And all you're ever gonna be is mean
Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me
And all you're ever gonna be is mean
Why you gotta be so mean?

And I can see you years from now in a bar, talking over a football game
With that same big loud opinion but nobody's listening
Washed up and ranting about the same old bitter things
Drunk and grumbling on about how I can't sing

6. I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter

Performed by Todd Carpenter

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7JSF8e73NY>

Teaching suggestions for intermediate ESL

This song has easy vocabulary (94% K1 words, 6% K2 words). I present it more as a listening dictation (oral & written) and focus on stress, rhythm, and reductions besides the theme.

Play the video through once without stopping. Then play it again, asking questions and stopping to replay segments until students can answer them.

Questions can focus alternately on characters, setting, circumstance, language, and culture. For example. Where is this man? Where is he sitting? What is he doing? Is he alone? How does he feel? What's happened (or not happened) by the time of this scene?

Is he singing to the cat? Do we know the cat's name? Do we know the girl friend's name? What are the individual words? How does he actually say them – what's the reduction?

Ask them to recite the words and phrases they hear as you play them (I dunno, Faith.) Ask them to *I dunno, Faith. Whaddaya think I should do? I haven't heard from'er in a long time. D'ya think I sh'd call'er? Okay. 'couldn't hurt. t's ringing. **sigh!** Answering machine. I dunno, Faith. Maybe I sh'd give up.*

I'm gonna sit right down and write myself a letter
And make believe it came from you

I'm gonna write words oh so sweet
They're gonna knock me off my feet
A lotta kisses at the bottom
I'll be glad I got 'em

I'm gonna smile and say
I hope you're feeling better
I'll close with love the way you do
I'm gonna sit right down and write myself a letter
And make believe it came from you

~~~ musical interlude ~~~

I'm gonna write words oh so sweet  
They're gonna knock me off my feet  
A lotta kisses on the bottom  
I'll be glad I got 'em

I'm gonna smile and say  
I hope you're feeling better  
I'll close with love the way you do  
I'm gonna sit right down and write myself a letter  
And make believe it came, make believe it came, make believe it came from you  
*Yep, I'm a loser.*

7. **Could've Been** Performed by Tiffany  
(Lois Blaisch)

| LISTENING CLOZE                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ANSWER KEY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The _____ you gave me<br>Are just _____ to die<br>When I _____ about<br>What _____ been<br>It makes me want to _____                                                                                                                   | The flowers you gave me<br>Are just about to die<br>When I think about<br>What could've been<br>It makes me want to cry                                                                                                                       |
| The sweet words you _____<br>Didn't _____ a thing<br>I guess our _____ is over<br>As we _____ to sing                                                                                                                                  | The sweet words you whispered<br>Didn't mean a thing<br>I guess our song is over<br>As we begin to sing                                                                                                                                       |
| Chorus:<br>Could've been so _____<br>Could've _____ so right<br>Could've been my _____<br>_____ day of my life<br>Could've been so _____<br>Could've been so _____<br>I'll never _____ what could've been<br>On a cold and _____ night | Chorus:<br>Could've been so beautiful<br>Could've been so right<br>Could've been my lover<br>Every day of my life<br>Could've been so beautiful<br>Could've been so right<br>I'll never hold what could've been<br>On a cold and lonely night |
| The _____ of our lovin'<br>Still _____ in the air<br>Like the faded _____ of your roses<br>They stay with me _____                                                                                                                     | The memories of our lovin'<br>Still linger in the air<br>Like the faded scent of your roses<br>They stay with me everywhere                                                                                                                   |
| Every time I get my _____ up<br>They always _____ to fall<br>Still what could've been is _____ than<br>What could _____ be at all                                                                                                      | Every time I get my hopes up<br>They always seem to fall<br>Still what could've been is better than<br>What could never be at all                                                                                                             |
| Repeat chorus                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Repeat chorus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| How could I hold what _____ been<br>On a cold and lonely _____                                                                                                                                                                         | How could I hold what could've been<br>On a cold and lonely night?                                                                                                                                                                            |

### **8. My Bonnie, many performers**

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.  
My Bonnie lies over the sea.  
My Bonnie lies over the ocean,  
Please bring back my Bonnie to me.

Chorus  
Bring back, bring back,  
Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me, to me.  
Bring back, bring back,  
Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me.

Last night as I lay on my pillow,  
Last night as I lay on my bed,  
Last night as I lay on my pillow,  
I dreamed that my Bonnie was dead.

Chorus

The winds have blown over the ocean,  
The winds have blown over the sea,  
The winds have blown the ocean,  
And brought back my Bonnie to me.

Chorus

### 9. Happy Birthday

Write the names of all the people in the birthday song. They all contain the sound TH /θ/. Practice pronouncing the names. Sing the song.

### 10. "\_\_\_\_\_ It Off"

Performed by \_\_\_\_\_ Swift

Sound /ey/ review

Listen to the song and fill in the missing words. Then sing the song paying attention to the /ey/ sound.

I \_\_\_\_\_ out too \_\_\_\_\_  
Got nothing in my \_\_\_\_\_  
That's what people \_\_\_\_\_, mmm-mmm  
That's what people \_\_\_\_\_, mmm-mmm

I go on too many \_\_\_\_\_ [chuckle]  
But I can't \_\_\_\_\_ 'em \_\_\_\_\_  
At least that's what people \_\_\_\_\_, mmm-mmm  
That's what people \_\_\_\_\_, mmm-mmm

But I keep cruising  
Can't stop, won't stop moving  
It's like I got this music  
In my mind \_\_\_\_\_, "It's gonna be alright."

'Cause the \_\_\_\_\_ gonna \_\_\_\_\_  
And the \_\_\_\_\_ gonna \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, I'm just gonna \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_ it off, I \_\_\_\_\_ it off  
Heart-\_\_\_\_\_ gonna \_\_\_\_\_  
And the \_\_\_\_\_ gonna \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, I'm just gonna \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_ it off, I \_\_\_\_\_ it off

**11. If I were a Boy, performed by Beyonce or Reba McEntire**

*Listen to the song and raise your hand when you hear a word with focal stress. Answer the discussion questions.*

If I were a boy even just for a day  
I'd roll out of bed in the morning  
And throw on what I wanted and go

I'd drink beer with the guys and chase after girls  
I'd kick it with who I wanted  
And I'd never get confronted for it  
'Cause they'd stick up for me

If I were a boy, I think I would understand  
How it feels to love a girl  
I swear I'd be a, a better man

If I were a boy I would turn off my phone  
Tell everyone it's broken  
So they'd think that I was sleeping alone

I'd put myself first and make the rules as I go  
Oh, 'cause I know that she'll be faithful  
Waiting for me to come home  
Whoa, to come home

If I were a boy, I think I would understand  
How it feels to love a girl  
I swear I'd be a, a better man

And I'd listen to her 'cause I know how it hurts  
When you lose the one you wanted  
'Cause he's taking you for granted  
And everything you had got destroyed

It's a little too late for you to come back  
Say it's just a mistake, think I'd forgive you like that  
If you thought I would wait for you, you thought  
wrong

But you're just a boy, you don't understand  
How it feels to love a girl someday  
You wish you were a, a better man

Oh, you don't listen to her  
And you don't care how it hurts  
Until you lose the one you wanted  
'Cause you've taken her for granted  
And everything you had got destroyed  
But you're just a boy

**II. Songs with faulty, questionable pronunciation**

1. Katy Perry [Unconditionally](#)
2. A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera [Say Something](#)

**III. Assessment ideas and links**

1. Voicethread. Students chose a song they liked and prepared to record it in class.  
<https://voicethread.com/share/5134069/>
2. Voxopop. Students sang My Bonnie  
<http://www.voxopop.com/topic/34a6866f-7d31-4126-a114-07e2117f1f19>
3. Google Voice: For part of the midterm exam, students either sang or recited (with rhythm) parts of I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter
4. Pronunciation Doctor: Teacher and students sing children's songs  
[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqCkG27JV0f08evMHH\\_COUeqKBw-UNJcP](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqCkG27JV0f08evMHH_COUeqKBw-UNJcP)