

I. Songs with Links

	Song	Artist	Skills	Link
1	Try	Pink	Reductions: gonna, gotta, wanna	<a href="http://www.metrolyrics.com/try-official-lyric-video-pink-ml-video-xtl.html">http://www.metrolyrics.com/try-official-lyric-video-pink-ml-video-xtl.html</a>
2	Burn	Ellie Goulding	Reductions: gonna, cause Linking: light it up, put it out, got the, see us...	<a href="http://www.metrolyrics.com/burn-ellie-goulding-ml-video-vgr.html">http://www.metrolyrics.com/burn-ellie-goulding-ml-video-vgr.html</a>
3	Happy	Pharell Williams	Strong rhythm clap and move with the rhythm Reductions: bout, wanna, notten (nothing) Linking	<a href="http://www.metrolyrics.com/happy-from-despicable-me-2-pharell-williams-ml-video-mjr.html">http://www.metrolyrics.com/happy-from-despicable-me-2-pharell-williams-ml-video-mjr.html</a>
4	Human	Christina Perri	Reductions: can Endings and linking: words in /zin/, knives in /zin/	<a href="http://www.metrolyrics.com/human-christina-perri-ml-video-14h.html">http://www.metrolyrics.com/human-christina-perri-ml-video-14h.html</a>
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)	<a href="http://www.metrolyrics.com/mean-taylor-swift-ml-video-ywc.html">http://www.metrolyrics.com/mean-taylor-swift-ml-video-ywc.html</a>
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'ddo, d'ya. Song: Stress and rhythm. Reductions: gonna, got'em. Tap /t/ letter	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7JSF8e73NY">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7JSF8e73NY</a>
7	Could've Been	Tiffany	Reduction: could've Stress on content words, reduction on function words	<a href="http://www.metrolyrics.com/couldve-been-lyrics-tiffany.html#starvideo">http://www.metrolyrics.com/couldve-been-lyrics-tiffany.html#starvideo</a>
8	My Bonnie	Marsha Mitch Miller Karaoke	Linking; lies_ over, the_ ocean Final consonants: ocean, bring, back, bed, and dead.	<a href="http://sunburstmedia.com/class/pron/mybonnie.html">http://sunburstmedia.com/class/pron/mybonnie.html</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo9MPyXE2K0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo9MPyXE2K0</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUlp1xigeIQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUlp1xigeIQ</a>
9	Happy Birthday	Marsha	Voiceless TH /θ/ (every birthday person's name has this sound)	<a href="http://youtu.be/PWYXZLGNNWU">http://youtu.be/PWYXZLGNNWU</a>

**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.*

*E.g. see\_us for \_V V\_, stars\_of for \_C V\_, and turned\_down for \_C C\_*

We, we don't have to worry about 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 lights turned down  
They don't know what they heard  
Strike a 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 burn burn burn  
We gonna let it  
Burn burn burn  
Gonna let it burn burn burn burn  
We gonna let it burn burn burn burn  
We don't want to leave  
No  
We just gonna be right now  
And what we see  
Is everybody's on the floor acting crazy getting lurker to  
Turn the lights out  
Musics on, I'm waking up  
We stop the vibe  
And we bump it up  
And it's over now  
We got the love  
There's no secret now  
No secret now  
When the lights turned down  
They don't know what they heard  
Strike a match  
Play it loud  
Giving love to the world  
We'll be raising out hands  
Shining up to the sky  
Cos we got the fire, fire, fire  
Yeah we got the fire, fire, fire

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  
When the lights turned down  
They don't know what they heard  
Strike a 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  
Burn burn burn  
We can light it up up up  
So they can put it out out out  
We can light it up up up  
So they can put it out out out  
We an light it up up up  
So they can put it out out out  
We can light it up up up  
So they can put option out out out  
When the lights turned down  
They don't know what they heard  
Strike a match  
Play it loud  
Giving love to the world  
We'll be raising our hands  
Shine it up to the sky  
Cause we got the fire, fire, fire  
Yeah we got the Fire fire fire  
And we gonna let it burn burn burn burn  
We gonna let it burn burn burn  
Gonna let it burn burn burn. BUrn  
We gonna let it burn burn burn burn  
When the lights turned down  
They don't know what they heard  
Strike a 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  
I said

reprise

**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

But all you are is mean  
All you are is mean and a liar and pathetic and alone in life  
And mean, and mean, and mean, and mean  
But

reprise

## 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)

Cloze prepared by Marsha Chan

The \_\_\_\_\_ you gave me  
Are just \_\_\_\_\_ to die  
When I \_\_\_\_\_ about  
What \_\_\_\_\_ been  
It makes me want to \_\_\_\_\_

The sweet words you \_\_\_\_\_  
Didn't \_\_\_\_\_ a thing  
I guess our \_\_\_\_\_ is over  
As we \_\_\_\_\_ to sing

Chorus:  
Could've been so \_\_\_\_\_  
Could've \_\_\_\_\_ so right  
Could've been my \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of my life  
Could've been so \_\_\_\_\_  
Could've been so \_\_\_\_\_  
I'll never \_\_\_\_\_ what could've been  
On a cold and \_\_\_\_\_ night

The \_\_\_\_\_ of our lovin'  
Still \_\_\_\_\_ in the air  
Like the faded \_\_\_\_\_ of your roses  
They stay with me \_\_\_\_\_

Every time I get my \_\_\_\_\_ up  
They always \_\_\_\_\_ to fall  
Still what could've been is \_\_\_\_\_ than  
What could \_\_\_\_\_ be at all

Repeat chorus

How could I hold what \_\_\_\_\_ been  
On a cold and lonely \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER KEY

The flowers you gave me  
Are just about to die  
When I think about  
What could've been  
It makes me want to cry

The sweet words you whispered  
Didn't mean a thing  
I guess our song is over  
As we begin to sing

Chorus:

Could've been so beautiful  
Could've been so right  
Could've been my lover  
Every day of my life  
Could've been so beautiful  
Could've been so right  
I'll never hold what could've been  
On a cold and lonely night

The memories of our lovin'  
Still linger in the air  
Like the faded scent of your roses  
They stay with me everywhere

Every time I get my hopes up  
They always seem to fall  
Still what could've been is better than  
What could never be at all

Repeat chorus

How could I hold what could've been  
On a cold and lonely night?

<http://youtu.be/VZynr3XVm1k>

<http://www.metrolyrics.com/couldve-been-lyrics-tiffany.html#/startvideo>

## **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.

## II. 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)