

## 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**

**3. Human performed by Christina Perri**

1. Listen to the beginning of the song and decide if you hear CAN or CAN'T.
2. Listen again and write down the lyrics; pay attention to the stressed words.

3. 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 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**

I can fake a smile  
 I can force a laugh

**4. Mean performed by Taylor Swift**

1. Listen to the song and write down the words with -s/-es and -ed endings in the correct column.

| /s/ | /z/ | /iz/ | /t/ | /d/ | /id/ |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|
|     |     |      |     |     |      |
|     |     |      |     |     |      |

2. Listen again 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

## 5. I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter performed by Todd Carpenter

### 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.*