

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	Reductions: gonna, cause Linking: light it up, put it out, got the, see us...	http://www.metrolyrics.com/burn-ellie-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-pharell-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'ddo, d'ya. Song: Stress and rhythm. Reductions: gonna, got'em. Tap /t/ letter	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7JSF8e73NY
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#starvideo
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=lo9MPyXE2K0 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUlp1xigeIQ
9	Happy Birthday	Marsha	Voiceless TH /θ/ (every birthday person's name has this sound)	http://youtu.be/PWYXZLGNNWU

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)