Welcome to **SING ENGLISH** lyric page

If you are a member of the group, please feel welcome to download and print any of the song lyrics that you may want or need.

The songs are numbered, not in any particular order and the index is after this page.

If you are an International English Language Student from this school, please feel welcome to join us on Friday afternoons, on the 3^{rd} floor, from 1 - 3 p.m.

There is *no charge* to students from the school for this session.

Just a few words about the SING ENGLISH program.

- 1. The main purpose is to provide a safe and happy environment for students from the school to **experience singing English songs**
- 2. This is **not** an English lesson; however we will talk about songs and their meanings.
- 3. It is **not** a Singing lesson i.e. *voice training*. It doesn't matter what your voice is like, all voices are beautiful in this group. The session is **not about** <u>how</u> you sing, but rather, <u>what</u> you sing. I.e. *In English*.
- 4. The songs are not the hit songs off the radio at the moment. They are songs that have been very popular in English culture often for a long time, or modern songs that cross the boundaries of a single age group. It is the hope of the program that you will learn songs that English speaking people all over the world will also know.
- 5. Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome. If there is a particular song that you would like to learn, please do write it down and leave it with me to have a look at. I must warn you, that there are some songs that I would not choose to do with a mixed group of people for various reasons, and if this should come up, I will discuss it with you.
- 6. It **doesn't matter if you don't know the songs**. Neither did anyone else a short while ago. **We all learn together**, and we all have something to teach each other. There are new songs regularly and then everyone is a beginner again.
- 7. This is a great opportunity to **speak in English**, to **listen to native English**, and to participate in a social activity that **is fun, while you practice YOUR ENGLISH**.

I do hope I will see you there, Kind regards,

> Cushla McCreesh. Bch. Education - Music, Dip.Tch, C.E.L.T.A.

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BINGO

This is a children's song. (American) Very popular for generations, this song is well known by most native English speaking adults. If you have children of your own, this would be a happy song to sing with them.

The idea is that each time you sing the verse; one letter is left off the spelling of BINGO, and is replaced with a clap, in time with the music. At the end of the song, the spelling should be completely replaced with clapping. The fun is when people forget, and sing a letter by mistake.

Verse 1

There was a farmer had a dog, and Bingo was his name-o,

B I NGO

B I NGO

B I NGO

And Bingo was his name-o.

Verse 2

There was a farmer had a dog, and Bingo was his name-o

B I NG (clap)

B I NG (clap)

B I NG (clap)

And Bingo was his name-o.

Verse 3

There was a farmer had a dog, and Bingo was his name-o

B I N (clap) (clap)

B I N (clap) (clap)

B I N (clap) (clap)

And Bingo was his name-o.

Verse 4

There was a farmer had a dog, and Bingo was his name-o

B I (clap) (clap) (clap)

B I (clap) (clap) (clap)

B I (clap) (clap) (clap)

And Bingo was his name-o.

Verse 5

There was a farmer had a dog, and Bingo was his name-o

B (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

B (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

B (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

And Bingo was his name-o.

Verse 6

There was a farmer had a dog, and Bingo was his name-o

(clap)	(clap)	(clap) (clap) (clap)
(clap)	(clap)	(clap) (clap) (clap)
(1)	(1)	(1)(1)(1)(1)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

And Bingo was his name-o.

BLACK VELVET BAND

This is a folk song from Northern Ireland. It tells about the transportation of the Irish to Australia in the late 17^{th} century. It is has been a popular song in English culture for a very long time.

Verse 1

In a neat little town they call Belfast, Apprentice to trade I was bound, And many an hour's sweet happiness, I spent in that neat little town.

> Till sad misfortune came over me, and forced me to stray from the land, Far away from my friends and relations, to follow the black velvet band.

CHORUS

Her eyes they shone like diamonds, You'd think she was queen of the land, And her hair hung over her shoulders, Tied up with a black velvet band.

Verse 2

When I was walking one evening, not meaning to stray very far, When I met with a pretty young damsel, a walking along the highway.

A watch she took from her pocket, and put it straight into my hand,

But we both ended up in prison, bad joss to the black velvet band.

CHORUS

Verse 3

Before the judge and the jury, for trial we had to appear, And the judge he said to me "young man, your case it is perfectly clear."

Seven years of servile pentitude, far away in Van Diemen's Land,

Far away from your friends and relations, all because of the black velvet band.

CHORUS

Verse 4

So all you jolly young fellows, a warning take by me, Whenever you're out on the town me lads, stay away from the pretty colleen.

They'll fill you with strong drink of liquor my lad, until you're unable to stand, And the very next thing you know my lad, you've landed in Van Diemen's Land.

CHORUS

Some of the words used in this song are 'Old English', though we understand them, it is unusual to hear themused in everyday language. (Apart from the word 'Colleen' which is still common as a name)Colleenis the Irish pronoun for GirlDamsela young woman.JossluckServileworking/behaving as a servantPentitudepunishmentVan Diemen's Land was the original English name for Australia.(Van Diemen was the first European explorer to see Australia.)

Page 2

Cockles and Mussels (Also known as) Molly Malone

This is a very old song from Dublin, Ireland. It tells the story of a young woman who lived in Dublin several hundred years ago. She was very beautiful, and was greatly missed by the people of her city when she died at the height of her beauty. (Most likely of the plague that was in Europe in the 17th Century) This is still considered the song of the city of Dublin today. It is very popular all over the world.

Verse 1 In Dublin's fair city, Where the girls are so pretty, I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone, As she wheeled her wheelbarrow, Through streets broad and narrow, Crying "cockles and mussels, Alive! Alive! Oh."

<u>CHORUS</u>

Alive! Alive! Oh, Alive! Alive! Oh, Cockles and mussels, Alive! Alive! Oh.

<u>Verse 2</u> She was a fishmonger, And sure was no wonder, For so were her mother and father before, They all wheeled their barrows, Through streets broad and narrow, Crying "cockles and mussels, Alive! Alive! Oh."

CHORUS

<u>Verse 3</u> She died of a fever, And no one could save her, And that was the end of sweet Molly Malone, Now her ghost wheels her barrow, Through streets broad and narrow, Crying "cockles and mussels, Alive! Alive! Oh."

CHORUS

DIRTY OLD TOWN

This is a very old English Folk song, originally written for the city of Salford. However, it was adopted by the Irish, and it remains to this day, a very popular song in Ireland.

Verse 1

I met my love, by the gas yard light, Dreamed a dream by the old canal, I kissed my gal, by the gas yard wall, Dirty old town, you dirty old town.

Verse 2

Clouds are drifting, across the moon, Cats are prowling all along the beat. Springs a girl to the streets at night. Dirty old town, you dirty old town.

Verse 3

I heard a siren down by the docks, Saw a train set the night on fire. I smelled the spring on the Smokey wind, Dirty old town, you dirty old town.

Verse 4

I'm gonna make a good strong axe, Shining steel tempered in the fire, I'll chop you down, like an old oak tree, Dirty old town, you dirty old town.

GYPSY ROVER

This song is hundreds of years old, and tells the story of a young noble woman who runs away with a gypsy. Her father is very upset for two reasons. 1. She won't marry the rich man he has chosen for her. 2. She has left her home and run away with someone her father thinks is unsuitable. The father travels the lands to find his daughter to bring her home. But when he finds her he discovers that his daughter was wise to choose marriage for love, the gypsy is a King, and he has made the young woman his Queen.

(Steed means horse.)

Verse 1

The gypsy rover came over the hill, down to the valley so shady, He whistled and sang till the greenwoods rang, and he won the heart of the lady.

CHORUS

Ah dee doo,Ah Dee doo dah day,Ah Dee doo,Ah dee dayee,He whistled and sang, till the greenwoods rang,And he won the heart of the lady.

Verse 2

She left her father's castle gates; she left her own true lover, She left her servants and her estates, to follow the gypsy rover. **CHORUS**

<u>Verse 3</u> Her father saddled up his fastest steed; he roamed the valleys all over, He sought his daughter with greatest speed, and the whistling gypsy rover. <u>CHORUS</u>

<u>Verse 4</u> He came at last to a mansion fine, down by the river Claedee, And there was music and there was wine, for the gypsy and his lady. **CHORUS**

<u>Verse 5</u> Oh he's no gypsy my father she said, but lord of free-lands all over, And I will stay till my dying day, with my whistling gypsy rover. <u>CHORUS.</u>

LET IT BE

Written by John Lennon. (The Beatles) An extremely popular song in the early 1970's it is still popular today.

Verse 1

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, Speaking words of wisdom, Let it be.

And in my hour of darkness, She is standing right in front of me, Speaking words of wisdom, Let it be.

CHORUS

Let it be, let it be, Whisper words of wisdom, Let it be. let it be,

let it be,

Verse 2

And when the broken hearted people, Living in the world can see, There will be an answer, Let it be.

And though there may be darkness, There is still a light that shines on me, Shine until tomorrow, Let it be.

CHORUS

(*Repeat* Verse 2 and CHORUS x 2)

WHISKY IN THE JAR

This is a very old Irish Folk Song, and tells a story about a Highway Man (Robber) who is betrayed by his lady. (Jenny) He is arrested and while in prison longs to find his brother, who he believes will help him to escape so they can both go to live in another part of the country. (Kilkenny) There is a lot of old English language in this song, and though it is understood today it is no longer used in modern conversations. This song has been constantly popular.

Verse 1

As I was going over the Cork and Kerry mountains, I met Captain Farrell, and his money he was counting, I first produced my rapier; I then produced my pistol, Saying "stand and deliver, for you are a bold deceiver".

CHORUS

Mush a ring dumb-a-doo dumb-a dah (clap, clap, clap, clap.) Wack for the daddio (clap, clap.) wack for the daddio, There's whisky in the Jar.

Verse 2

I counted out the money, and it made a pretty penny, I put it in my pocket and I took it home to Jenny. She sighed and she swore, she said she'd never leave me, But the devil take that woman, for she never can be easy. **CHORUS**

Verse 3

I went into my chamber, for to take myself a slumber, I dreamt of gold and jewels and for sure it was no wonder. Jenny took my charges and she filled them up with water, And sent for Captain Farrell to be ready for the slaughter. **CHORUS**

Verse 4

'Twas early in the morning, before I rose to travel, Up came a band of footmen, and likewise Captain Farrell, I then produced my pistol, for she's stolen away my rapier, But I couldn't shoot the water, so a prisoner I was taken, **CHORUS**

Verse 5

If anyone can help me, it's my brother in the army. If I could find his station, be it Cork or in Killarney. Then he'll come to join me and we'll go roving in Kilkenny, And sure he'll treat me better than my lying sporting Jenny. **CHORUS**

Verse 6

Well some men like the hurling, and some men like the bowling, And some men like the sound of the carriages a rolling, But me I like the taste and the juice of the barley, And courting handsome girls in the morning bright and early. **CHORUS**

YESTERDAY

Written by Paul McCartney (The Beatles) Considered one of the classic pop songs of its age. This song was a huge hit when it was released, and has remained a popular song in modern English culture.

Verse 1

Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away, Now it looks as though they're here to stay. Oh, I believe in yesterday.

Verse 2

Suddenly, I'm not half the man I used to be, There's a shadow hanging over me, Oh, yesterday came suddenly.

BRIDGE

Why – she – had to go I don't know, she wouldn't say, I – said – something wrong Now I long, for yesterday.

Verse 3

Yesterday, love was such an easy game to play, Now I need a place to hide away, Oh, I believe in yesterday.

(Repeat BRIDGE and Verse 3) Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

An American popular song.

This is one of those songs that everyone just seems to know. It is a very good 'sing-a-long' song.

CHORUS

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, You make me happy, when skies are grey, You'll never know dear, how much I love you, Please don't take my sunshine away.

Verse

The other night dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamt I held you in my arms, When I awoke dear, I was mistaken, So I hung my head, and cried.

CHORUS

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, You make me happy, when skies are grey, You'll never know dear, how much I love you, Please don't take my sunshine away.

(To end repeat: Oh please don't take my sunshine away.)

WHEN YOU'RE SMILING

This is another American popular song that most people seem to know. This is also a popular 'sing-a-long' song.

When you're smiling, when you're smiling, The whole world smiles with you,

When you're laughing, when you're laughing, The sun comes shining through.

But when you're crying you bring on the rain, So stop you're crying, be happy again,

Oh when you're smiling, when you're smiling, The whole world smiles with you.

TAKE IT EASY

This song is a contemporary popular song, written and recorded by the Eagles. (An American Country/Rock band)

Verse 1

Well I was running down the road, trying to loosen my load, I've got seven women on my mind. Four who want to own me, Two who want to stone me, one says she's a friend of mine. Take it easy, take it easy, Don't let the sound of your own wheels drive you crazy.

BRIDGE

Lighten up while you still can, Don't even try to understand, Just find a place to make your stand, And take it easy.

Verse 2

Well I was standing on a corner in Winslow Arizona. Such a fine sight to see, It's a girl my lord in a flat deck ford, slowing down to take a look at me, Come on baby, don't say maybe.

I've got to know if your sweet love is gonna save me.

BRIDGE

We may lose and we may win, But we will never be here again, So open up, I'm coming in, And take it easy.

Verse 3

Well I was running down the road trying to loosen my load, got a world of trouble on my mind, Looking for a lover who won't blow my cover she's so hard to find. Take it easy, take it easy, don't let the sound of your own wheels drive your crazy.

Come on Baby, don't say maybe, I gotta know if your sweet love is gonna save me.

Do do do, do do do, do do, etc. You ought a take it easy..... You ought a take it easy.....

TAKE ME HOME COUNTRY ROADS

This song was written and recorded by John Denver. It is an American country song. A huge hit in the 1970's, this song still remains popular today.

Verse 1

Almost heaven, West Virginia, Blue Ridge Mountains Shenandoah River, Life is old there, older than the trees, Younger than the mountains, Growing like a breeze.

<u>CHORUS</u>

Country roads, take me home, To the place, I belong, West Virginia, mountain momma, Take me home, country roads.

Verse 2

All my memories, gather round her, Miner's lady, stranger to blue waters, Dark and dusty, painted on the sky, Misty taste of moonshine, Teardrops in my eye.

CHORUS.

BRIDGE I hear her voice in the morning hour she calls me, Radio reminds me of my home far away, Driving down the road, I get a feeling, That I should have been home yesterday, yesterday.

CHORUS.

ANNIE'S SONG

This is an American Country song, written and recorded by John Denver.

<u>Verse 1</u> You fill up my senses,

Like a night in a forest,

Like a mountain in springtime,

Like a walk in the rain.

Like a storm in a desert,

Like the sleepy blue ocean,

You fill up my senses,

Come fill me again.

<u>Verse 2</u> Come let me love you,

Let me give my life to you.

Let me drown in your laughter,

Let me lie in your arms.

Let me lay down beside you,

Let me always be with you.

Come let me love you,

Come love me again.

GREENSLEEVES

Written by King Henry the 8th of England. This is an English Folk song.

Verse 1

Alas my love you do me wrong,

To cast me off, discourteously.

And I have loved you for so long,

Delighting in your company.

CHORUS

Green sleeves was all my joy,Green sleeves was my delight.Green sleeves was my heart of gold,And who but my lady, Green sleeves.

DESPERADO

This is an American pop song from the 1970's; it was written by Don Henley, and recorded by The Eagles. Very popular when it was first released, it is still a well known song today.

Verse 1

Desperado, why don't you come to your senses, You've been out riding fences for so long now, Oh you're a hard one – I know that you've got your reasons, These things that are pleasing you can hurt you somehow.

CHORUS

Don't you draw the Queen of Diamonds boy, She'll beat you if she's able, You know the Queen of Hearts is always your best bet. It seems to me some fine things have been laid upon your table, But you always want the ones that you can't get.

Verse 2

Desperado, Oh you ain't getting no younger, Your pain and your hunger, their driving you home, And freedom (yeah freedom) well that's just some people talking, Your prison is walking through this world all alone.

CHORUS

Don't your feet get cold in the winter time, When the sky won't snow, and the sun won't shine, And it's hard to tell the night time from the day. You're losing all your highs and lows, It's funny how the feeling goes.....away.

Verse 3

Desperado, why don't you come to your senses, Come down from the fences and open the gate, It may be raining, but there's a rainbow above you, You'd better let somebody love you. (*Let somebody love you*) You'd better let somebody love you, before it's too late.

SEALED WITH A KISS

This song was first recorded in America in the 1960's; it was later re-recorded in 2002, and became a hit song again.

Verse 1

Though we've got to say goodbye for the summer, Darling I promise you this, I'll send you all my love, every day in a letter, Sealed with a kiss.

Verse 2

Yes, it's going to be a cold, lonely summer, But I feel the emptiness, I'll send you all my love, every day in a letter, Sealed with a kiss.

BRIDGE

I'll see you in the sunlight, I'll hear your voice everywhere, I'll run to tenderly hold you, But darling, you won't be there.

Verse 3

I don't want to say goodbye for the summer. Knowing the love we'll miss, (Well) let us make a pledge to meet in September, And seal it with a kiss.

Repeat the BRIDGE and Verse 3

(repeat to end) Seal it with a kiss.

MY LOVE

This is a 'pop' song that was recorded by 'Westlife'

Verse 1

An empty street, and empty house, a hole inside my heart, I'm all alone, the rooms are getting smaller. I wonder how, I wonder why, I wonder where they are. The days we had, the songs we sang together.

> And Oh! My love, I'm holding on forever, Reaching for a love that seems so far.

CHORUS

So I say a little prayer, and hope my dreams will take me there, Where the skies are blue, to see you once again my love, Overseas and coast to coast, to find a place I love the most. Where the fields are green, to see you once again......My love.

Verse 2

I try to read, I go to work, I'm laughing with my friends, But I can't stop to keep myself from thinking. I wonder how, I wonder why, I wonder where they are, The days we had, the times we spent together. And Oh! My love, I'm holding on forever,

Reaching for a love that seems so far.

CHORUS

BRIDGE

To hold you in my arms, to promise you my love, To tell you from the start, you're all I'm thinking of.

(Wait for 4 bars: then sing)

.....I'm reaching for a love that seems so far.

Repeat CHORUS to end.

Hei Konei Ra

Lyrics written by: Nga Whetu (1996) Music: '*Can't Help Falling In Love with You*'

V.1.

Hei konei ra, tenei te wa ki ahau, Kei te haere i tenei ra, E' noho ra.

V.2.

Waiho koe ki muri, Te aroha nui e', Mahara mou tonu, Ki ahau.

V.3.

Toro mai to ringa, Kia harirutia, Kia kaha kia tatou, Aroha e'.

(Repeat to end.)

Kia kaha kia tatou, Aroha e'.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Written by: Richard Carpenter & John Bettis. Recorded by: Karen Carpenter (The Carpenter's)

V.1.

Such a feelings coming over me, There is wonder in most everything I see, Not a cloud in the sky, got the sun in my eyes, And I won't be surprised if it's a dream.

V.2.

Everything I want the world to be, Is now coming through especially for me, And the reason is clear, it's because you are here. You're the nearest thing to heaven that I've seen.

CHORUS

I'm on the top of the world, Looking down on creation, And the only explanation I can find, Is the love that I've found, Ever since you've been around, Your loves put me on the top of the world.

Scarborough fair

Taken from a very old English Folk song, this version was recorded and made popular by Simon and Garfunkel.

Verse 1

Are you going to Scarborough fair? Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. Remember me to the one, who lives there, She once was a true love of mine.

Verse 2

Tell her to make me a cambric shirt, Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme, Without no seams nor needle work, Then she'll be a true love of mine.

Verse 3

Tell her to find me an acre of land, Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme, Between the salt water and the sea strand, Then she'll be a true love of mine.

Verse 4

Tell to reap it with a sickle of leather, Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme, And gather it all in a bunch of thyme, Then she'll be a true love of mine.

Verse 5 Are you going to Scarborough Fair? Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme, Remember me to the one, who lives there, She once was a true love of mine.

VINCENT

This song was written about Vincent Van Gough, the artist. One of his most famous paintings is called '*The starry starry night*'.

Verse 1

Starry starry night, paint your palette blue and grey, Look out on a summer's day, With eyes that know the darkness in my soul. Shadows on the hills, sketch the trees and daffodils, Catch the breeze and winter chills, In colours on the snowy linen land.

CHORUS

And now I understand, what you tried to say to me, How you suffered for your sanity, How you tried to set them free. They would not listen, They did not know how, perhaps they listen now.

Verse 2

Starry starry night, flaming flowers that brightly blaze, Swirling clouds in violet haze, Reflect in Vincent's eyes of China blue. Colours changing hue, morning fields of amber grain, Weathered faces lined in pain, Are soothed beneath the artists loving hand.

CHORUS

BRIDGE

For they could not love you, but still your heart was true, And when no hope was left inside on that starry starry night, You took your life as lovers often do, But I could have told you Vincent, This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you.

Verse 3

Starry starry night, portraits hung in empty halls, Frameless heads on nameless walls With eyes that watch the world and can't forget, Like strangers that we've met, The ragged men in ragged clothes, The silver thorn the bloody rose Lie crushed and broken on the virgin snow.

Chorus to end.

And now I understand, what you tried to say to me, How you suffered for your sanity, How you tried to set them free, They would not listen; they're not listening still, Perhaps they never will.

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