



E n g l i s h t o S i n g a n d L e a r n

Christian songs and exercises for beginning
students of English

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Jan E. Dormer



ESL: English to Sing and Learn!

The audio files and this accompanying workbook is a collection of mostly Christian songs and choruses for learners of English as a second or foreign language. These choruses are short, fun, and easy to sing, appealing to all ages. By hearing and singing along, students can acquire English phrases, structures, and vocabulary with little stress. At the same time, they will be edified through the Christian content.

The songs are ideal for use as a ten-minute introductory activity for traditional English classes. By using a “warm-up” of a song and verse, the tone is set for a productive and relaxing class. Though the activities are best used in a teacher-directed format, some students could make use of this material in a self-study situation. These songs are also very appropriate in an English Camp setting.

This companion workbook highlights each song, providing a verse, listening exercises, additional exercises and lyrics. These activities allow for focused practice in different aspects of language. (A brief list of skills covered in each song follows on the next page.) An activity sequence that has been found to work well in using music in the second language classroom is as follows:

1. Listen once without reading
2. Listen again and do the first exercise
3. Listen again to check answers
4. Do the additional exercises as desired
5. Listen and sing along

At the back of the booklet there are copies of the words suitable for making transparencies. For the final “singing along” phase, as well as for church and English Camp settings, projecting the words on a screen is often more effective than presenting them in a workbook.

It is my hope and prayer that these songs will not only actively engage learners in language acquisition, but that the message of the songs will find its way into their hearts.

Jan Dormer

Brief Summary of Linguistic Content

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Integration of various verb tenses

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Present continuous
Vocabulary: hands, feet, air, church, soul, dead, alive

Love in Any Language (p. 28)

Vocabulary: together, apart, pull, (push), “once” for “when”

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Workbook

Jan Dormer

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Obrigado! Thank You!

I am very grateful to my wonderful family, and to our terrific English teachers in Brazil. They have prayed and worked hard to see this project become a reality.

God bless you!

TODAY IS THE DAY

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
(Psalm 118:24)*

Verb Completion

Fill in the blanks with these verbs:

find dance give laugh be

Today is the day that the Lord has _____
It will _____ good, it will _____ good (*repeat*)

So _____ a little smile (*smile!*)
_____ a little dance (*dance!*)
_____ something funny and _____, laugh, laugh (*laugh!*)

Today is the day that the Lord has _____
It will _____ good, it will _____ good (*repeat*)

END: It will be good, it will be good!

Vocabulary

How many words “happy” words can you find in this song (i.e., words that have a happy connotation)? Try to find five!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Complete Lyrics

Today is the day that the Lord has made
It will be good, it will be good (*repeat*)

So give a little smile (*smile!*)
Dance a little dance (*dance!*)
Find something funny and laugh, laugh, laugh (*laugh!*)

Today is the day that the Lord has made
It will be good, it will be good (*repeat*)

END: It will be good, it will be good!

WAY, TRUTH, LIFE

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Completion

Listen to the song, and fill in the blanks.

I am the _____ the _____ and the _____
No one can _____ to the Father but by _____ (repeat)

Who is the _____?	JESUS CHRIST
Who is the _____?	JESUS CHRIST
Who is the _____?	JESUS CHRIST

No one can come to the _____ but by _____ (repeat)
And Jesus said....

Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with a word from the song.

1. Where there is _____, there is honesty.
2. A _____ is like a path or a road.
3. In this verse, Jesus calls God _____.
4. Through Jesus, we can have eternal _____.
5. Through Jesus, we can _____ to the Father.

Grammar: Referents

Circle the correct word in parenthesis.

1. In the first part of the song, “I” and “Me” refer to (Jesus / the singer). Here, we are quoting Jesus’ words from the Bible. This is first / second / third) person.
2. In the last part of the song, “Him” refers to (God / Jesus / the writer). Here, the singer is telling about Jesus. This is (first / second / third) person.

Complete Lyrics

I am the way the truth and the life
No one can come to the Father but by me (*repeat*)

Who is the way? JESUS CHRIST
Who is the truth? JESUS CHRIST
Who is the life? JESUS CHRIST

No one can come to the Father but by Him (*repeat*)
And Jesus said....

THE FRUIT SONG

“For the Lord is good and His love endures forever.” (Psalm 100:5a)

Completion: Fruits

Unscramble the fruit words below, and put them in the correct blanks.

gmosena

ypaapa

nsaabna

I like _____, and _____ are sweet

I like _____, but nothing can beat

The sweet love of God (sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet love of God)

Idioms

1. Which of the sentences below uses the same meaning of “beat” as the song?
 - a. We beat the rugs to clean them.
 - b. We clap our hands to the beat of the music.
 - c. Joe beat Tom in the race.
2. Which of the sentences below uses the same meaning of “sweet” as “sweet love of God”?
 - a. My daughter gave me a sweet card.
 - b. This cake is very sweet.

Complete Lyrics

I like bananas, and mangoes are sweet

I like papaya, but nothing can beat

The sweet love of God (sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet love of God)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW

“For in Him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28a)

Synonyms

Fill in the blanks with synonyms for the words in parentheses.

Would you like to _____ (find out)

Who gives me _____ (tranquility)?

Yes I would, _____ (I would) like to know

Would you like to know who gives me _____ (a good view of the future)?

Yes I would, _____ (I would) like to know

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the _____ (the first number), oh, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the One.

Would you like to know who _____ (causes me to be) happy?

Yes I would, I'd like to know

Would you like to know who makes me _____ (a happy face)?

Yes I would, I'd like to know

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is _____ (definite article) one, oh, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the One.

Pronunciation

There are two common pronunciations for “would you.” Look at them below, and practice saying each one. Which one do you hear most in this song?

wouldja

wouldya

Grammar

Find the errors in these sentences, then write them correctly:

1. Yes, I'd. _____
2. You would like to know? _____
3. Who give me hope? _____
4. No, I'd not. _____
5. Jesus is One. _____

Complete Lyrics

Would you like to know who gives me peace?

Yes I would, I'd like to know

Would you like to know who gives me hope?

Yes I would, I'd like to know

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the one, oh, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the One

Would you like to know who makes me happy?

Yes I would, I'd like to know

Would you like to know who makes me smile?

Yes I would, I'd like to know

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the one, oh, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the One

WHEN IS A GOOD DAY

*"I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips."
(Psalm 34:1)*

Vocabulary: Days of the Week

Fill in the missing letters to write the days of the week:

M _ N _ A _
TH _ R _ D _ Y
S _ ND _ _

T _ E _ DA _
F _ I _ AY _

WE _ N _ S _ A _
S _ TUR _ AY _

Comprehension Question

Listen to the song and answer in a complete sentence:

When is a good day to praise the Lord?

Application

Answer the questions with a day of the week.

1. What days do you have English class? _____
2. What days do you go to church? _____
3. What days do you go shopping? _____
4. What days do you work? _____
5. What days do you praise the Lord? _____

Complete Lyrics

Tell me, when is a good day to praise the Lord?
When is a good day to praise the Lord?

Oh... Monday is a good day, Tuesday is a good day, Wednesday is a good day too
Oh... Thursday is a good day, Friday is a good day, Saturday and Sunday too

EVERY MINUTE

“Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.” (I Corinthians 10:31)

Completion: Time Words

Fill in the blanks with the time words that you hear.

Every _____ of every _____
I’m gonna live in Jesus’ power
Every _____ of every _____
I’m gonna live the Jesus way
Every _____ in every _____
I’m gonna follow Jesus’ feet
Living all the time for my Lord..... for my Lord! (repeat)

Every _____ in every _____
I’m gonna try to show His love
Every _____ in every _____
I’m gonna live with no more fear
All the time and everywhere
I am always in your care
Living all the time for my Lord..... for my Lord! (repeat)

Practice with Future

Underline “gonna” each time you see it in the song. What two words does “gonna” stand for? _____ This is one way to talk about the future. “Will” is also used to talk about the future. Change each sentence in the song that uses “gonna” to a sentence using “will”.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Practice with Prepositions

Fill in the blanks with a correct preposition. Some blanks may have more than one possibility.

Every minute _____ every hour
I'm gonna live _____ Jesus' power
Every hour _____ every day
I'm gonna live the Jesus way
Every day _____ every week
I'm gonna follow Jesus' feet
Living all the time _____ my Lord..... _____ my Lord! (repeat)

Every week _____ every month
I'm gonna try _____ show His love
Every month _____ every year
I'm gonna live _____ no more fear
All the time and everywhere
I am always _____ your care
Living all the time _____ my Lord..... _____ my Lord! (repeat)

Complete Lyrics

Every minute of every hour
I'm gonna live in Jesus' power
Every hour of every day
I'm gonna live the Jesus way
Every day in every week
I'm gonna follow Jesus' feet
Living all the time for my Lord..... for my Lord! (repeat)
Every week in every month
I'm gonna try to show His love
Every month in every year
I'm gonna live with no more fear
All the time and everywhere
I am always in your care
Living all the time, for my Lord..... For my Lord! (repeat)

THE ABC SONG

“...and a little child will lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6c)

Completion

Fill in the missing letters and words.

A B ____ D ____ F G, H ____ J K ____ M N O P, ____ R S, T ____ V, ____ X,
____ and Z

These _____ the letters of _____ alphabet, sing it _____ so you won't
_____!

Letters and Sounds

Write all the vowels: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and sometimes _____

Write all the consonants that use the *lips*: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Matching: Spelling and Sound

Look at the words on the left. Look at the letters in italics. Find the sound on the right that represents these letters.

enough /j/

easy /sh/

huge /f/

box /ks/

sure /z/

Complete Lyrics

A B C D E F G, H I J K L M N O P, Q R S, T U V, W X, Y and Z

These are the letters of the alphabet, sing it again so you won't forget!

LEAN ON ME

“...let us encourage one another...” (Hebrews 10:25b)

Completion

Lean on Me when _____ not strong
I'll be _____ friend, I'll help you _____ on
For I know, it won't _____ long, till I'm gonna _____
Somebody to lean _____

_____ just call on me _____ when you need a _____
We all need somebody _____ lean on
I just _____ have a problem that _____ understand
We all need _____ to lean on

Idioms

Match the phrases with the definitions:

to continue	<i>lean on</i>
count on / rely on	<i>call on</i>
ask for help	<i>carry on</i>

Vocabulary

Use one of the phrases above.

1. If you need anything, just _____ me.
2. Don't _____ on that fence. It's broken.
3. When life is hard, God and others can help us _____.

Questions

1. When do you “lean on” others? _____
2. Can others “lean on” you? How and when? _____

Complete Lyrics

Lean on Me when you're not strong
I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For I know, it won't be long, till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

I'VE GOT THE JOY

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”
(Galatians 5:22,23)*

Completion

I've _____ the joy (joy), joy (joy), joy (joy) (repeat)

I've got _____ joy (joy), joy (joy)

JOY.....JOY.....JOY..... _____, _____, _____

Down in my _____, down in _____ heart,

Down in my heart to _____, down in my heart to stay

*peace

*love

Grammar

What words from the song have the meaning “I have”? _____

What is the difference between these two sentences?

1. I've got joy.

2. I've got the joy.

Vocabulary

Use words from the song to fill in the spaces.

1. Happiness or great delight: _ _ _
2. Past of “get”: _ _ _
3. Definite article: _ _ _
4. To possess: _ _ _ _
5. Second person singular: _ _ _

Now make a question using these words:

_____?

Complete Lyrics

I've got the joy (joy), joy (joy), joy (joy) (*repeat*)
I've got the joy (joy), joy (joy)

JOY.....JOY.....JOY..... 2,3,4

Down in my heart, down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay, down in my heart to stay

*peace

*love

I'M GONNA LIVE FOR JESUS

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)

Completion: Verbs

Fill in the blanks with the verbs that you hear. Put one word in each space.

I' _____ for Jesus

I' _____ what _____ Him (repeat)

‘Cause He _____ me by His grace, and I' _____ His

We' _____ for Jesus

We' _____ what _____ Him (repeat)

‘Cause He _____ us by His grace, and we' _____ His

Questions

Answer the questions with complete sentences.

1. What does “gonna” mean? _____

2. Who are you gonna live for?

3. What are you gonna do?

Grammar

Imagine that you are talking about your friend, Cindy. Rewrite the song, using third person:

She's gonna _____

Complete Lyrics

I'm gonna live for Jesus
I'm gonna do what pleases Him (repeat)

‘Cause He saved me by His grace, and I'm His

We're gonna live for Jesus
We're gonna do what pleases Him (repeat)

‘Cause He saved us by His grace, and we're His

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

“A friend loves at all times.” (Proverbs 17:17a)

Completion: Vocabulary

Use the definitions below to help you complete the lyrics:

1. not old
2. the opposite of new
3. 1
4. white precious metal
5. yellow precious metal

Make _____ (1) friends, but keep the _____ (2)
_____ (3) is _____ (4) and the other _____ (5)

Questions

In this song, new friends are like _____ and old friends are like
_____. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

1. In English we “make” friends and “keep” friends. Are these verbs used for friendship in your language?
2. This song is sung in a “round”. How do you describe this in your language?

Complete Lyrics

Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other gold

BE BOLD

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Vocabulary

Match the words with the meanings:

strong	get rid of; eliminate
bold	not sure
banish	not weak
fear	provide good things
doubt	a sure thing
promise	what you have when you're afraid
bless	courageous

Correction

Some words are in the wrong place. Listen carefully, and correct the mistakes!

Rejoice!

Be strong and be bold, fear and doubt banish.

For the God of your promise

Is to bless your going in and your coming out

Complete Lyrics

Be bold and be strong, banish fear and doubt
For the promise of your God
Is to bless your coming in, and to bless your going out

Rejoice! (8 times)

GOD'S NOT DEAD!

"It is true! The Lord has risen!" (Luke 24:34)

Completion

Put these words in the blanks to complete the song:

alive	hands	church	everywhere
dead	soul	feet	air

No, no, no..... NO!

God's not _____! He is _____! (3 times)
I know He's living in me

He's living in my _____, He's living in my _____
He's living in the _____, He's living _____!
He's living in the _____, He's living in my _____
I know He's living in me
No, no, no.....

Grammar

Correct the sentences, and re-write them.

1. God not dead. _____
2. He is live. _____
3. He's live in my hands. _____
4. He living in my feet. _____
5. God no dead. _____

Questions

1. Is God living in YOUR hands and feet? How? _____

2. How is God "living in the air?" _____

Complete Lyrics

No, no, no..... NO!

God's not dead! He is alive! (3 times)

I know He's living in me

He's living in my hands, He's living in my feet

He's living in the air, He's living EVERYWHERE!

He's living in the church, He's living in my soul

I know He's living in me

No, no, no.....

LOVE IN ANY LANGUAGE

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.” (John 13:35)*

Ordering

Number the phrases as you hear them in the song.

- _____ Pulls us all together
- _____ Love in any language
- _____ And once we learn to speak it
- _____ Straight from the heart
- _____ Never apart
- _____ Love in any language
- _____ All the world will hear
- _____ Fluently spoken here

Vocabulary

Find words from the song that are opposites of the words below:

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. crooked | _____ | 5. always | _____ |
| 2. push | _____ | 6. many times | _____ |
| 3. apart | _____ | 7. hesitantly | _____ |
| 4. none | _____ | 8. there | _____ |

Complete Lyrics

Love in any language, straight from the heart
Pulls us all together, never apart
And once we learn to speak it, all the world will hear
Love in any language, fluently spoken here