



LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH MUSIC AND SONGS

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Abstract: In today's world, learning English through songs and music has become increasingly popular. This is because traditional methods of language learning can be challenging, and the younger generation often loses interest when learning is not enjoyable. This article explores how songs and music influence English language learning and help improve key skills, especially listening, pronunciation, vocabulary, and motivation. It also highlights the role of music in creating a positive and engaging learning environment. The article concludes that using songs is an effective and enjoyable method that can significantly enhance English language acquisition.

Keywords: English language learning, music, songs, vocabulary development, pronunciation, listening skills, learner motivation.

In today's globalized world, English has become one of the most important languages for communication, education, and career development. However, many learners face difficulties when studying English through traditional methods, as these approaches can often feel boring and less engaging. As a result, students may lose motivation and interest in the learning process. To address this issue, alternative and more enjoyable methods of language learning have been introduced. One of the



most effective and popular approaches is learning English through music and songs. Music creates an interactive and enjoyable learning environment that helps learners stay motivated and focused. This article discusses how songs and music can support English language learning and improve key skills such as vocabulary, pronunciation, listening comprehension, and motivation.

Vocabulary and Pronunciation Development

First of all, learning English through music is highly effective for improving vocabulary and pronunciation. Songs often contain repeated words and simple expressions, which makes it easier for learners to remember new vocabulary. When students listen to the same lyrics multiple times, they naturally absorb new words without feeling pressure. In addition, music helps learners improve pronunciation by allowing them to imitate native speakers. By singing along with songs, students can practice stress, rhythm, and intonation in a more natural way. As a result, music becomes a powerful tool for building both vocabulary knowledge and speaking skills. Yoloxochitl Bringas Tobón also suggests that repeating a song is funnier than a list of vocabulary in which the student cannot know how the word is pronounced. “When learning a new popular song, learners are eager to know the meaning of the lyrics and sing the song repetitively themselves (Chen, 2009, p. 14). with the lyric the student can follow the singer, and realize how he or she says a word, of course, the student must read the lyric and it must be printed on paper, so he or she can recognize the spelling and the pronunciation at the same time.

Motivation & Enjoyment

Secondly, learning English through music significantly increases learners’ motivation and enjoyment. Traditional classroom methods can sometimes feel repetitive and stressful, which may reduce students’ interest in learning. In contrast, music creates a relaxed and positive atmosphere where learners feel more comfortable and confident. Listening to favorite songs makes the learning process



enjoyable and less like a formal study task. As a result, students are more likely to stay engaged and practice English regularly without feeling pressure. This emotional connection to music helps learners develop a long-term interest in the English language. According to Javid Babayev from Nakhchivan State University, motivation is another crucial factor in language acquisition, and music is particularly effective in boosting learner engagement (Alisoy, 2025). According to Gardner's socio-educational model, positive emotional experiences and integrative motivation strongly influence SLA success (Gardner, 1985). Songs evoke emotion, reduce anxiety, and create a low-pressure learning atmosphere, encouraging learners to take linguistic risks. Murphey (1990) refers to this phenomenon as the "song-stuck-in-the-head" or "din in the head" effect, suggesting that repeated mental playback of lyrics provides unconscious language rehearsal (Sadiqzade, 2024).

Listening Skills and Cultural Awareness

Thirdly, songs play an important role in improving listening skills and developing cultural understanding. When learners listen to English songs, they are exposed to natural speech, different accents, and real-life expressions that are often not found in textbooks. This helps students become more familiar with how English is actually spoken in everyday situations. In addition, music introduces learners to the culture, emotions, and lifestyle of English-speaking countries. As a result, students not only improve their listening comprehension but also gain a deeper understanding of cultural context, which is an essential part of language learning. Rivers (1978) says that listening is a creative skill. It means we comprehend the sound falling on our ears, and take the raw material of words, arrangements of words, and the rise and fall the voice, and from this material we create significance. He also states that listening skill is listening with comprehension, attention and appreciation. Then, listening activity needs to integrate skills of language, such as pronunciation, vocabulary mastery, writing, speaking, and reading. Furthermore,



Javid Babayev mentions that music serves as a cultural bridge, allowing learners to connect with English-speaking communities through the themes, narratives, and social contexts embedded in song lyrics. Cultural exposure supports pragmatic understanding and fosters a sense of identity and belonging in the target language (Kramsch, 1993). For these reasons, integrating music into English learning is not only enjoyable but pedagogically sound.

In conclusion, music and songs play a significant role in learning English as a foreign language. They help learners improve vocabulary, pronunciation, listening skills, and motivation in an enjoyable and engaging way. Unlike traditional methods, music creates a positive learning environment that encourages regular practice and long-term interest in the language. Therefore, integrating songs into language learning can be considered an effective and powerful strategy for improving overall English proficiency.

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