



REPLACING DEFINITIONS

Learners replace definitions of words from a song with the original words

Level:	Elementary - Advanced
Target Audience:	Secondary, Adults
Language / Skills Focus:	Vocabulary, Listening
Activity Time:	30 minutes
Materials:	A song of your choice and one copy of your worksheet for each learner in the class

MATERIALS PREPARATION

Choose a song that you think your learners will enjoy, and rewrite the lyrics, replacing a number of the words with short definitions. Write the definitions in brackets. For example:

Original line: We all live in a yellow submarine

Definition line: We all (the opposite of 'die') in a yellow (underwater boat)

Make one copy of your rewritten lyrics sheet for each learner in the class.

IN CLASS

- 1 Give each learner a copy of the song lyrics and ask them to read through them. You should deal with any language problems at this stage.
- 2 Explain to the class that throughout the song lyrics, you have replaced a number of individual words with short definitions - these are in brackets. Make it clear that each definition replaces one word only.
- 3 Tell your learners that they should try to find the original words, using the definitions to help them. You should also point out that if a definition is at the end of a line, then the last word of another line (before or after) may help them to find the original word, as the two words might rhyme.
- 4 Set a reasonable time limit for your learners to do as much as they can, and then ask them to compare their answers with a partner.
- 5 When they are ready, check through their answers by playing the song up to each definition, and asking them to call out their suggested answers. To confirm whether they are correct, play the next part of the song (which includes the original word) and ask them to call the word that the definition replaced.
- 6 Finally, if you wish, continue the lesson with suitable follow-up language work exercises or other activities based on the song / lyrics.