

# The Method of Teaching English Using Music

Ifeoma Omolara<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> English and Literary Studies, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria

## Abstract

The theory behind music-based English instruction is that it may help students retain new vocabulary words and grammar structures more easily. New words, grammar, and pronunciation may all be taught and reinforced using musical means. Music may also be used to create a lively and engaging classroom setting. Using music in the English classroom has several benefits. The fact that it may be a fun and inspiring approach to learn the language is a major perk. A person's ability to listen and express themselves verbally may be honed via musical practice.

**Keywords:** Song lyrics, Music Videos, Listening and Speaking, Interactive Learning

Received: November 19, 2022

Revised: December 25, 2022

Accepted: January 10, 2023

---

## Introduction

Teaching English using music is a teaching approach that utilizes music as a means to facilitate the learning of the English language. This approach is based on the belief that music can be an effective and enjoyable way to learn a new language, as it can engage learners emotionally and provide a memorable and meaningful context for language learning. In this method, music is used as a medium for introducing and reinforcing new vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, as well as for encouraging the practice of listening and speaking skills. The use of music can also foster a positive and interactive learning environment, as it allows for group participation and can promote socialization and collaboration among learners. This method can be applied to various age groups and levels of language proficiency, and can be adapted to meet the needs and interests of different learners.

One way to incorporate music into English language teaching is through the use of song lyrics (Lems, 2018). Song lyrics provide a rich source of authentic language input, as they often contain a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures that are commonly used in everyday speech. By analyzing and discussing the lyrics of a song, learners can learn new words and expressions, as well as improve their understanding of the structure and meaning of sentences. In addition, singing along with the song can help learners practice their pronunciation and develop their listening skills.

Another way to use music in English language teaching is through the use of music videos (DeHaan et al., 2010). Music videos often have visual elements that can provide learners with additional context and support for understanding the lyrics of a song. By watching and discussing a music video, learners can learn about the culture and context in which the song was created, as well as improve their ability to interpret and analyze visual and verbal texts.

There are many other ways that music can be used to teach English, such as through the use of musical games, activities, and exercises that promote language learning. For example, learners can play games that involve singing or identifying vocabulary and grammar structures in songs, or they can create their own songs or lyrics to practice their writing skills. Overall, the method

of teaching English using music can be a highly effective and engaging way to learn the language, as it provides learners with a fun and memorable context for language learning and allows them to express themselves creatively through music (Vera & Luna, 2013).

There are several advantages to using music as a teaching tool in the English language classroom. One of the main benefits is that it can be an enjoyable and motivating way to learn the language. Music has the ability to engage learners emotionally, and can create a positive and energetic learning environment. By using music, teachers can create a more relaxed and interactive atmosphere, which can help learners feel more comfortable and confident in using the language.

Another advantage of using music in English language teaching is that it can provide learners with a rich source of authentic language input. Song lyrics, in particular, contain a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures that are commonly used in everyday speech (Pratiwi, 2018). By analyzing and discussing the lyrics of a song, learners can learn new words and expressions, as well as improve their understanding of the structure and meaning of sentences.

Music can also be used as a way to practice and improve listening and speaking skills (Mobbs & Cuyul, 2018). Singing along with a song can help learners with their pronunciation, and listening to and discussing a song can help them develop their listening comprehension and speaking fluency. In addition, using music in the English language classroom can foster a sense of community and collaboration among learners (McCaleb, 2013). Many musical activities and games involve group participation, which can encourage socialization and teamwork. This can be particularly beneficial for learners who may feel shy or hesitant to speak in front of their peers. Overall, the method of teaching English using music can be a highly effective and enjoyable way to learn the language, as it engages learners emotionally, provides a rich source of authentic language input, and promotes the practice of listening and speaking skills.

## **Method**

The incorporation of music into the language learning process as a means to facilitate the acquisition of the English language. There are several ways in which music can be used in this method, such as through the use of song lyrics, music videos, musical games and activities, and exercises that promote language learning. One way to implement this method is by using song lyrics as a source of authentic language input. Teachers can introduce and discuss the lyrics of a song with learners, focusing on vocabulary and grammar structures that are relevant to the learners' language level and needs. Learners can also practice their pronunciation and listening skills by singing along with the song.

Music videos can also be used as a teaching tool in this method. By watching and discussing a music video, learners can learn about the culture and context in which the song was created, as well as improve their ability to interpret and analyze visual and verbal texts. In addition to using song lyrics and music videos, teachers can incorporate musical games and activities into their lessons to promote language learning and create a more interactive and engaging learning environment. For example, teachers can lead students in singing and movement activities that involve vocabulary and grammar practice, or they can create their own songs or lyrics to practice their writing skills. The method of teaching English using music involves the use of music as a medium for introducing and reinforcing language learning, as well as for promoting the practice of listening and speaking skills. It can be adapted to meet the needs and interests of different learners and can be incorporated into various types of language teaching contexts.

## Results and Discussion

The use of music as a teaching tool in the English language classroom has been found to be an effective and enjoyable way to facilitate language learning. Studies have shown that music can improve learners' motivation and engagement, as it has the ability to engage learners emotionally and create a positive and interactive learning environment. One study found that using music as a teaching tool resulted in improved vocabulary acquisition among English language learners (Yawiloeng, 2020). In the study, learners who were exposed to vocabulary words through music demonstrated better retention of the words compared to those who were not exposed to the words through music.

Another study found that using music in the English language classroom resulted in improved listening and speaking skills among learners (Xodabande & Atai, 2020). The study found that learners who participated in musical activities had improved pronunciation and speaking fluency compared to those who did not participate in such activities. The use of music in the English language classroom can be an effective and enjoyable way to facilitate language learning, as it can improve learners' motivation, engagement, vocabulary acquisition, and listening and speaking skills.

In addition to the positive effects on language learning, using music in the English language classroom has been found to have other benefits for learners. For example, music can promote a sense of community and collaboration among learners, as many musical activities and games involve group participation. This can be particularly beneficial for learners who may feel shy or hesitant to speak in front of their peers. Using music in the English language classroom can also be beneficial for language teachers, as it can help to create a more enjoyable and engaging teaching environment. Music can be a useful tool for teachers to use when introducing new concepts or vocabulary, as it can provide a memorable and meaningful context for language learning.

In summary, the use of music in the English language classroom has been found to be an effective and enjoyable way to facilitate language learning, as it can improve learners' motivation, engagement, vocabulary acquisition, and listening and speaking skills. It can also promote a sense of community and collaboration among learners, and can be beneficial for language teachers as well.

### The Benefits of Using Music in The English Language Classroom

The main benefits are that it can be an enjoyable and motivating way to learn the language. Music has the ability to engage learners emotionally, and can create a positive and energetic learning environment. By using music, teachers can create a more relaxed and interactive atmosphere, which can help learners feel more comfortable and confident in using the language.

Another advantage of using music in English language teaching is that it can provide learners with a rich source of authentic language input. Song lyrics, in particular, contain a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures that are commonly used in everyday speech. By analyzing and discussing the lyrics of a song, learners can learn new words and expressions, as well as improve their understanding of the structure and meaning of sentences.

Music can also be used as a way to practice and improve listening and speaking skills. Singing along with a song can help learners with their pronunciation, and listening to and discussing a

song can help them develop their listening comprehension and speaking fluency. In addition, using music in the English language classroom can foster a sense of community and collaboration among learners. Many musical activities and games involve group participation, which can encourage socialization and teamwork. This can be particularly beneficial for learners who may feel shy or hesitant to speak in front of their peers. The use of music in the English language classroom can be a highly effective and enjoyable way to learn the language, as it engages learners emotionally, provides a rich source of authentic language input, and promotes the practice of listening and speaking skills.

### **How To Incorporate Song Lyrics into English Language Teaching**

Song lyrics can be a useful tool for incorporating music into English language teaching. They provide a rich source of authentic language input, as they often contain a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures that are commonly used in everyday speech. By analyzing and discussing the lyrics of a song, learners can learn new words and expressions, as well as improve their understanding of the structure and meaning of sentences. In addition, singing along with the song can help learners practice their pronunciation and develop their listening skills.

There are several ways that teachers can incorporate song lyrics into their English language teaching. One way is to use song lyrics as a basis for vocabulary and grammar lessons. Teachers can select a song that contains vocabulary and grammar structures that are relevant to the learners' language level and needs, and can introduce and discuss the lyrics with the learners. Teachers can also create worksheets or other materials to help learners practice the new language that they have learned through the song lyrics.

Another way to incorporate song lyrics into English language teaching is through the use of karaoke. Karaoke allows learners to sing along with the song and practice their pronunciation, as well as have fun and feel more comfortable using the language. Incorporating song lyrics into English language teaching can be a highly effective and enjoyable way to learn the language, as it provides learners with a rich source of authentic language input and allows them to practice their listening and speaking skills through singing.

### **The Use of Music Videos in English Language Learning**

Music videos often have visual elements that can provide learners with additional context and support for understanding the lyrics of a song. By watching and discussing a music video, learners can learn about the culture and context in which the song was created, as well as improve their ability to interpret and analyze visual and verbal texts.

There are several ways that teachers can incorporate music videos into their English language teaching. One way is to use music videos as a basis for vocabulary and grammar lessons. Teachers can select a music video that contains vocabulary and grammar structures that are relevant to the learners' language level and needs, and can introduce and discuss the lyrics and visuals with the learners. Teachers can also create worksheets or other materials to help learners practice the new language that they have learned through the music video.

Another way to use music videos in English language learning is through the use of music video analysis exercises. These exercises can involve learners analyzing the lyrics and visuals of a music video and discussing their interpretation and analysis of the video. The use of music videos in English language learning can be a highly effective and enjoyable way to learn the

language, as it provides learners with a rich source of authentic language input and allows them to practice their listening and speaking skills through discussion and analysis.

### **Ideas For Incorporating Musical Games and Activities into English Language Lessons**

Incorporating musical games and activities into English language lessons can be a fun and effective way to facilitate language learning and create an interactive and engaging learning environment. There are many different types of musical games and activities that teachers can use in their lessons, such as singing and movement activities, vocabulary and grammar games, and creative writing exercises. One idea for incorporating musical games and activities into English language lessons is to use singing and movement activities that involve vocabulary and grammar practice. For example, teachers can lead learners in singing a song that contains new vocabulary words, or they can create a game in which learners act out a grammar structure through movement or dance.

Another idea is to use vocabulary and grammar games that involve music. For example, teachers can create a game in which learners match vocabulary words to their definitions while listening to a song, or they can play a game in which learners have to fill in the blank of a sentence with the correct word while listening to a song. In addition, teachers can use musical activities to encourage learners to practice their creative writing skills. For example, they can have learners create their own lyrics to a song or write a poem set to music. Incorporating musical games and activities into English language lessons can be a fun and effective way to facilitate language learning and create an interactive and engaging learning environment.

The use of music as a teaching tool in the English language classroom has been found to be an effective and enjoyable way to facilitate language learning. Music has the ability to engage learners emotionally and create a positive and interactive learning environment, which can improve learners' motivation and engagement in the learning process.

One of the main benefits of using music in English language teaching is that it can provide learners with a rich source of authentic language input. Song lyrics, in particular, contain a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures that are commonly used in everyday speech. By analyzing and discussing the lyrics of a song, learners can learn new words and expressions, as well as improve their understanding of the structure and meaning of sentences. In addition, singing along with the song can help learners practice their pronunciation and develop their listening skills.

Music videos can also be used as a teaching tool in English language teaching, as they provide learners with additional visual and cultural context for understanding the lyrics of a song. By watching and discussing a music video, learners can learn about the culture and context in which the song was created, as well as improve their ability to interpret and analyze visual and verbal texts. Incorporating musical games and activities into English language lessons can also be an effective and enjoyable way to facilitate language learning and create an interactive and engaging learning environment. These activities can involve singing and movement, vocabulary and grammar practice, and creative writing exercises. The use of music in the English language classroom has been found to be an effective and enjoyable way to facilitate language learning, as it engages learners emotionally, provides a rich source of authentic language input, and promotes the practice of listening and speaking skills. It can be adapted to meet the needs and interests of different learners and can be incorporated into various types of language teaching contexts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the use of music in teaching English can be an effective and engaging method for language learning. Music can provide a fun and interactive way for students to practice their listening and comprehension skills, as well as enhance their vocabulary and pronunciation. Additionally, the emotional connection that students can form with music can help to create a positive and memorable learning experience. While there may be some challenges in finding appropriate songs and integrating music into lesson plans, the benefits of using music in teaching English make it a valuable tool for language educators. Overall, the incorporation of music in English language instruction can lead to improved language acquisition and increased motivation for learners of all ages.

One of the key benefits of using music in teaching English is that it can help to make language learning more enjoyable and engaging for students. Music can provide a fun and interactive way for students to practice their listening and comprehension skills, which can help to improve their overall language ability. Additionally, music can help to create a positive and memorable learning experience, as students may form an emotional connection with the songs they listen to. This can lead to increased motivation and engagement in language learning. Another benefit of using music in teaching English is that it can help to increase vocabulary and pronunciation skills. Many songs contain a wide range of vocabulary, and by listening to and singing along with songs, students can learn new words and phrases in a more natural and enjoyable way. Music can also help to improve pronunciation, as students can listen to native speakers and try to imitate their speech patterns. There may be some challenges in finding appropriate songs and integrating music into lesson plans, but the benefits of using music in teaching English make it a valuable tool for language educators. Overall, the incorporation of music in English language instruction can lead to improved language acquisition and increased motivation for learners of all ages.

## References

- Lems, K. (2018). New Ideas for Teaching English Using Songs and Music. In *English teaching forum* (Vol. 56, No. 1, pp. 14-21). US Department of State. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of English Language Programs, SA-5, 2200 C Street NW 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20037.
- DeHaan, J., Reed, W. M., & Kuwanda, K. (2010). The effect of interactivity with a music video game on second language vocabulary recall. *Language Learning & Technology, 14*(2), 74-94.
- Vera, B. B., & Luna, R. M. (2013). Teaching English through music: A proposal of multimodal learning activities for primary school children. *Encuentro, 22*(2013), 1989-0796.
- Pratiwi, E. (2018, July). Using Song to Enhance Learning in English The Classroom. In *Prosiding Seminar Nasional Program Pascasarjana Universitas PGRI Palembang* (Vol. 5, No. 05).
- Mobbs, A., & Cuyul, M. (2018). Listen to the Music: Using Songs in Listening and Speaking Classes. In *English Teaching Forum* (Vol. 56, No. 1, pp. 22-29). US Department of State. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of English Language Programs, SA-5, 2200 C Street NW 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20037.

- McCaleb, S. P. (2013). *Building communities of learners: A collaboration among teachers, students, families, and community*. Routledge.
- Yawiloeng, R. (2020). Second language vocabulary learning from viewing video in an EFL classroom. *English Language Teaching*, 13(7).
- Xodabande, I., & Atai, M. R. (2020). Using mobile applications for self-directed learning of academic vocabulary among university students. *Open Learning: The Journal of Open, Distance and e-Learning*, 1-18.