

Lesson Plan: Looking at Art and Listening to Music to Explore the Country Music Genre (Includes Present Progressive Verb Tense)

- **Target Audience:** ESOL or BL class (Level 3+)
- **Goals:** Students will increase speaking, writing, listening and reading skills.
- **Objectives:** Students will be able to look at and discuss a piece of art using the present progressive verb tense to describe what they see happening in the painting. Students will listen to country music and fill in the lyrics to the song.
- **Class time:** 60-90 minutes
- **Resources/Materials:**
 - Poster of artwork – *The Sources of Country Music, 1975* by Thomas Hart Benton (Obtain from Rebecca)
 - CD Player and CD with songs: Lee Ann Womack – *I hope You Dance* and Tim McGraw – *Humble and Kind* (Obtain CDs from Rebecca)
 - Student Handouts
 - Optional Lab Activity: Access in the computer lab to the YouTube videos of the songs:
 - Lee Ann Womack (*I Hope You Dance*):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmBSGIXqC4Q>
 - Tim McGraw (*Humble and Kind*):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awzNHuGqoMc>
- **Preparation:** Make copies of student handouts and hang the poster of the painting in your classroom. Set up the CD player with CDs of songs.

Note: For optional lab activity, prepare songs for the computer lab activity using the above links. You can save the links to the songs in a Word document saved on the student drive. You can set up a folder for your class. Then, direct the students to the folder and the document containing the links to the songs when you accompany students to the lab.

Lesson Flow:

Notes to Tutor:

- This lesson is designed for the tutor to integrate the use of art and music to promote speaking, writing, listening and reading skills.
- It includes an opportunity to learn and use the present progressive verb tense to describe what students see in a piece of art that has country music as its theme.
- Students will also listen to two country songs and complete cloze exercises where they will fill in the blank lyrics of the songs on their handouts. Optional Word Banks for each song are included to assist lower level students, if needed.
- The lesson also includes an optional computer lab activity where students can watch videos of and listen to the two songs.

1. INTRODUCTION TO PRESENT PROGRESSIVE VERB TENSE (Student Handout 1)

Ask students to look at Handout 1. Ask for a volunteer to read Part A about present progressive verbs. Then ask students to complete Part B, the practice activity. Review correct answers.

2. DESCRIBING A PAINTING USING THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE (Student Handout 2 and Poster)

- Ask students to describe country music (i.e., style of music from the southern and western regions of the United States, often focused on the stories of the people living in those areas of the U.S.).
- Ask students to look at the painting called “The Sources of Country Music.” Ask students to read the summary about the artist on Handout 2. Then ask them to write what they see in the painting using the present continuous tense. Ask for volunteers to read what they wrote.

Possible Responses: People are dancing. A man is playing a guitar. Another man is playing the violin. A man is sitting on a log and he is playing the banjo.

Lesson Flow (Continued):

3. LISTENING TO COUNTRY MUSIC (Student Handouts 3, 3a, 3b, 4, 4a and 4b)

- a. Ask students if they have a favorite country song. Let them know that they will be listening to two examples of country songs.

Note: If time is limited, you can select and focus on one song for the lesson.

- b. Song #1 - *I Hope You Dance* (Handouts 3, 3a, 3b): Ask students to look at the handout with the missing lyrics and the Word Bank (if you choose to use it with your class). Ask for a volunteer to read the directions on Handout 3. Ask students to listen to the song and fill in the lyrics using the Word Bank on Handout 3a if you provided it to them. Ask students to circle any words that they are not familiar with as they go. You may need to play the song a couple of times for them to complete the activity. Ask each student to take a turn reading a line and giving an answer. Review the meaning of any vocabulary words that they circled. Discuss the meaning of slang words and note the correct grammar of each word noted on their handouts. Handout 3b contains the full lyrics that you can use as reference or share with students.
- c. Song #2 - *Humble and Kind* (Handouts 4, 4a, 4b): Repeat process in item b above with the class. Handout 4b contains the full lyrics that you can use as a reference or share with students.

- 4. OPTIONAL LAB ACTIVITY:** Ask students to go to the lab to watch one or both YouTube videos of the songs. Ask them to write down what stands out the for them when they watch the videos and hear the songs.
Note: The *I Hope You Dance* YouTube displays the lyrics as the song plays and includes great graphics. The *Humble and Kind* YouTube has beautiful visuals of people from around the world to accompany the song.

5. SUMMARY – CONVERSATION OR WRITING ACTIVITY

Ask students which song they liked the most and why, or you can ask them to write about the song they liked the most and why. If you listened to only one song, ask them to discuss or write about what the song means to them.

The Present Progressive (Handout 1)

A. RULES: *The present progressive tense has two parts:*

1. **BE** (present: **am, are, is**)
2. a **verb** ending in **-ing**

Examples:

I am reading

You are writing

He is eating

We are listening

They are watching

B. PRACTICE: *Fill in the correct form of the verb.*

- 1) I (run) _____ now.
- 2) I (talk) _____ now.
- 3) You (get) _____ hungry.
- 4) You (eat) _____ now.
- 5) We (plan) _____ our vacation.
- 6) They (play) _____ the game.
- 7) He (sleep) _____ in the bed.
- 8) She (work) _____ at the store now.



The Sources of Country Music, 1975 (Handout 2)

Thomas Hart Benton



About the Artist

Thomas Hart Benton (April 15, 1889 – January 19, 1975) was an American painter. He was a leader of an art **movement** known as American **Regionalism**. It included paintings showing **realistic scenes** of **rural** America in the Midwest and Deep South. Benton's paintings showed everyday people from that time in history. Benton painted this painting to tell the story of the history of country music. The painting shows examples of different kinds of folk music that led to country music.

Vocabulary

Regionalism = interest in or loyalty to a particular part of the country
movement = when many people work together to do or achieve something
realistic = showing people and things as they are in real life
scenes = views
rural = people who live in the country instead of the city

I Hope You Dance by Lee Ann Womack (Handout 3)

Directions: Listen to the song. Fill in the words you hear in the blanks. "Lyrics" is the name for the words of a song.

I hope you never lose your sense of _____
You get your fill to eat but always keep that _____
May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the _____
Whenever one _____ closes I hope one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting _____
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance
I hope you _____
I hope you dance

I hope you never fear those _____ in the distance
Never settle for the path of least resistance
Livin' might mean **takin'** chances, but they're worth takin'
Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth **makin'**
Don't let some Hell bent heart leave you bitter
When you come close to **sellin'** out, reconsider
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance
And when you get the _____ to sit it out or dance

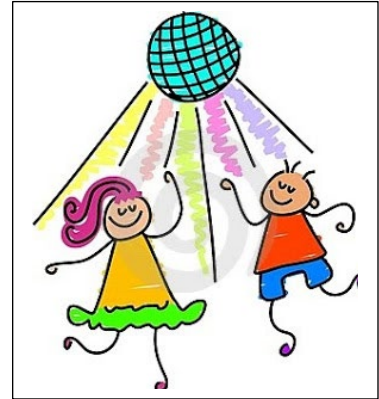
I hope you dance (Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along)
I hope you dance

I hope you dance (Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder)
I hope you dance (Where those years have gone?)

I hope you still feel _____ when you stand beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens
_____ me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance

Dance

I hope you dance
I hope you dance (Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along)
I hope you dance (Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder?)



Slang words = very informal, but not correct English

livin' = living

takin' = taking

lovin' = loving

makin' = making

sellin' = selling

I Hope You Dance (Handout 3a)

Word Bank

wonder

ocean

small

choice

mountains

Promise

Dance

hunger

chance

door

Full Lyrics – I Hope You Dance (Handout 3b)

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger
May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance

I hope you dance
I hope you dance

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance
Never settle for the path of least resistance
Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth takin'
Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth makin'
Don't let some Hell bent heart leave you bitter
When you come close to sellin' out, reconsider
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance

I hope you dance (Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along)
I hope you dance

I hope you dance (Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder)
I hope you dance (Where those years have gone?)

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance

Dance

I hope you dance
I hope you dance (Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along)
I hope you dance (Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder?)

Humble and Kind by Tim McGraw (Handout 4)

Directions: Listen to the song. Fill in the words you hear in the blanks. "Lyrics" is the name for the words of a song.

You know there's a lot that goes by the front _____
Don't forget the _____ under the mat
Childhood stars shine, always stay _____ and kind
Go to church 'cause your momma says to
Visit grandpa every chance that you can
It won't be a _____ of time
Always stay humble and kind

Hold the door say please say thank you
Don't _____, don't cheat, and don't lie
I know **you got** mountains to climb but
Always stay humble and kind
When the dreams you're **dreamin'** come to you
When the work you put in is realized
Let yourself feel the pride but
Always stay humble and kind

Don't expect a free ride from no one
Don't hold a grudge or a chip and here's why
Bitterness keeps you from flying
Always stay humble and kind
Know the difference between sleeping with someone
And sleeping with someone you love
I love you **ain't** no pick up line so
Always stay humble and kind

Hold the door say please say thank you
Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't _____
I know you got mountains to climb but
Always stay humble and kind
When those dreams you're dreamin' come to you
When the work you put in is realized
Let yourself feel the _____ but
Always stay humble and kind

When it's hot, eat a root beer, a _____
Shut off the _____ and roll the windows down
Let that summer sun shine
Always stay humble and _____
Don't take for granted the love this life gives you
When you get where you're **goin'**
Don't forget turn back around
Help the next one in _____
Always stay humble and kind

Slang words = very informal, but not correct English

'cause = because

you got = you have

dreamin' = dreaming

ain't = isn't

goin' = going



Humble and Kind (Handout 4a)

Word Bank

steal

lie

AC (stands for air conditioner)

door

popsicle

line

keys

pride

humble

waste

kind

Full Lyrics – Humble and Kind (Handout 4b)

You know there's a lot that goes by the front door
Don't forget the keys under the mat
Childhood stars shine, always stay humble and kind
Go to church 'cause your momma says to
Visit grandpa every chance that you can
It won't be a waste of time
Always stay humble and kind

Hold the door say please say thank you
Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't lie
I know you got mountains to climb but
Always stay humble and kind
When the dreams you're dreamin' come to you
When the work you put in is realized
Let yourself feel the pride but
Always stay humble and kind

Don't expect a free ride from no one
Don't hold a grudge or a chip and here's why
Bitterness keeps you from flying
Always stay humble and kind
Know the difference between sleeping with someone
And sleeping with someone you love
I love you ain't no pick up line so
Always stay humble and kind

Hold the door say please say thank you
Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't lie
I know you got mountains to climb but
Always stay humble and kind
When those dreams you're dreamin' come to you
When the work you put in is realized
Let yourself feel the pride but
Always stay humble and kind

When it's hot, eat a root beer, a popsicle
Shut off the AC and roll the windows down
Let that summer sun shine
Always stay humble and kind
Don't take for granted the love this life gives you
When you get where you're goin'
Don't forget turn back around
Help the next one in line
Always stay humble and kind