

Lesson Plan: Cloze Activity featuring *Lean On Me* (Bill Withers)

- **Target Audience:** ESOL or BL class using a communicative approach with music. This activity involves listening, writing and speaking language skills. (Level 3+)
- **Goals:** Students will increase their vocabulary knowledge by combining their auditory and writing skills.
- **Objectives:** Students will be able to listen for and choose the appropriate word to complete the song lyrics, i.e., “cloze activity.”
- **Class time:** 30 minutes
- **Preparation:** Become familiar with the lyrics and vocabulary in the song.
- **Resources/Materials:**
 - Copy of lyrics
 - Copy of lyrics with blanks for vocabulary words (Student Handout 1)
 - Word Bank (Student Handout 2)
 - “*Lean On Me*” recording and CD Player (The song is available on CD from Paula and Rose).

Lesson Flow:

1. **Ask** students to look at the handout with the missing lyrics and the Word Bank. Ask for a volunteer to read the directions. (Student Handouts 1 and 2).
Note: The lesson can be made more difficult by leaving out the Word Bank for higher level students.
2. **Ask** students to listen to the song and fill in the lyrics (using the Word Bank if you provided it to them).
3. **Ask** students to circle any words that they don't understand as they go.
Note: You may need to play the song several times to complete the activity.
4. **Ask** each student to take a turn reading a line and giving an answer (if there is a blank in their assigned line).
5. **Conclude** the activity by reviewing the meaning of any words that they circled. Point out that sometimes they will see incorrect grammar in some songs, e.g., 'Til I'm gonna need. Point out the correct grammar noted on the bottom of Student Handout 2.

Full Lyrics

Lean on Me by Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

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

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show

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

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til 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

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load

If you just call me (call me)
If you need a friend (call me) call me uh huh(call me) if you need a friend (call me)
If you ever need a friend (call me)
Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me
(Call me) call me (call me) if you need a friend
(Call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me)

Student Handout 1

Lean on Me

Directions

Listen to the song. Fill in the blanks with words you hear in the song. Use the word bank to help you. Circle any words that you don't understand.

_____ in our lives we all have _____

We all have sorrow

But if we are _____

We know that there's always tomorrow

_____ on me, when you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you _____ on

For it won't be long

'Til I'm gonna need

Somebody to lean on

Please _____ your pride

If I have things you need to borrow

For no one can fill those of your needs

That you won't let _____

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a _____ that you'll understand

We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not _____

And I'll be your friend

I'll _____ you carry on

For it won't be long

'Til I'm gonna need

Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand

We all need _____ to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'll understand

We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a _____ you have to bear

That you can't carry

I'm right up the road

I'll _____ your load

If you just call me (call me)

If you need a friend (call me) call me uh huh(call me) if you need a _____ (call me)

If you ever need a friend (call me)

Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me

(Call me) call me (call me) if you need a friend

(Call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me)

Student Handout 2

Word Bank

Somebody

Friend

Problem

Show

Lean

Load

Pain

Sometimes

Share

Swallow

Strong

Wise

Carry

Help

Using Correct Grammar:

'Til I'm gonna need - *Until I'm going to need.*