

Lesson Plan: Split Dictation Activity using Jazz (featuring Grover Washington)

- **Target Audience:** ESOL or BL class using a communicative approach with music. This activity involves listening, speaking, writing and reading language skills. (Level 4+)
- **Goals:** Students will increase their auditory comprehension and pronunciation by combining their visual, auditory and writing skills.
- **Objectives:** Students will be able to pronounce and write the lyrics of a song.
- **Class time:** 1 hour
- **Materials:** Student Handouts (1-4)
 - Who is Grover Washington? (Handout 1)
 - Partner A Worksheet (Handout 2)
 - Partner B Worksheet (Handout 3)
 - Full Song Lyrics (Handout 4)
 - Recording of "Just the Two of Us" and CD Player (Note: The song is available on CD from Paula and Rose).

Note: This activity can be used with any song that you choose. Use this lesson as a model. You can find lyrics to most songs online.

Lesson Flow:

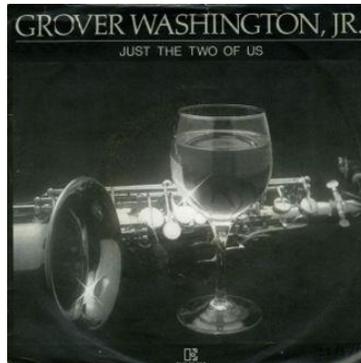
1. **Ask** students if they are familiar with Grover Washington. Who is he? Why is he famous? Do they know anything else about him?
2. **Ask** for volunteers to read aloud about Grover Washington. Review vocabulary in **bold**. (Student Handout 1)
3. **Listen** to the song, "Just the Two of Us". Do not hand out the lyrics of the song at this time. The focus of this part of the activity is on listening.
4. **Pair** students assigning them roles: "Partner A" and "Partner B". Give each student the handout that corresponds with their Role, A or B. (Student Handouts 2 & 3)
5. **Ask** Partner A to read the odd numbered lyrics to Partner B. Ask Partner B to fill in the words that they hear. Ask Partner B to read the even numbered lyrics to Partner A. Ask Partner A to fill in the words that they hear. Each partner alternates until they complete the entire song. Point out that they can receive help by asking: 1. Can you repeat that? or 2. Can you spell that? (This is noted on their handouts). Vocabulary and correct grammar of some lyrics is also noted on their handouts.
6. **Listen** to the entire song again to check for accuracy. Provide full lyrics to confirm accuracy. Ask for volunteers to read the lyrics. Review vocabulary and correct grammar noting that some songs contain "slang." Provide feedback on pronunciation. (Student Handout 4)
7. **Ask and Discuss, OR Write:** What do you like most about the song? Explain your answer.

Student Handout 1

Who is Grover Washington, Jr.?

Grover Washington Jr. (December 12, 1943 – December 17, 1999) was an American **jazz-funk / soul-jazz saxophonist**. He is considered by many to be one of the **founders** of the **smooth jazz genre**. Washington was born in Buffalo, New York, on December 12, 1943. His mother sang in a church choir. His father was a collector of old Jazz records and a saxophonist. Music was everywhere in Washington's home. He grew up listening to the great jazz musicians and **big band** leaders. He practiced and would sneak into clubs to see famous blues musicians in Buffalo.

"*Just the Two of Us*" is a 1981 song written by Bill Withers, William Salter and Ralph MacDonald, which was recorded by Grover Washington Jr. and Bill Withers. After we listen to the song and work on the exercise, we'll talk about what you liked most about the song.



Vocabulary

- **Jr.:** shortened version of "Junior."
- **Jazz-funk/Soul Jazz:** music that mixes soul music, jazz, gospel or rhythm and blues.
- **Saxophonist:** a person who plays the **saxophone**, a musical instrument that has a curved metal tube and is played by blowing into a mouthpiece and pressing keys with your fingers. See picture above.
- **Founder:** a person who creates or establishes something that is meant to last for a long time.
- **Smooth jazz:** A modern form of jazz first developed in the 1970's that blends in some rhythm and blues.
- **Genre:** a particular type or category of music, literature or art.
- **Big band:** a large group of musicians who play jazz or dance music. Big bands were especially popular from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Student Handout 1:

Partner A

"Just the Two of Us"

1. I see the **crystal raindrops** fall
And the beauty of it all
Is when the sun comes shining through
2. To make those **rainbows** in my _____
When I think of you sometime
And I want to _____ some time with you

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I*

3. We look for love no time for tears
Wasted water's all that is
And it **don't make no flowers** grow
4. Good _____ might come to those who wait
Not for those who wait too _____
We **gotta** go for all we know

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I*

.... Music continues playing.....

5. I hear the crystal raindrops fall
On the window down the hall
And it becomes the morning **dew**
6. And _____ when the morning comes
And I see the _____ sun
I want to be the one with you.

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I*

.... Just the two of us...Just the two of us...Just the two of us....

.... Music continues playing until the end.

Questions you can ask your partner:

1. *Can you repeat that?*
2. *Can you spell that?*

Vocabulary and Grammar Notes:

- **Crystal:** Look like glass.
- **Raindrops:** Drops of rain.
- **Rainbows:** A curved line of different colors that sometimes appears in the sky when the sun shines through rain.
- **Castles in the sky:** To create dreams, hopes, or plans that could be impossible, unrealistic, or have very little chance of succeeding.
- **Wasted:** Not used in a good, useful way.
- **Water's:** Correct grammar is "water is."
- **"Don't make no flowers":** Correct grammar is "Doesn't make any flowers."
- **"Gotta":** Correct grammar is "have to."
- **Dew:** Drops of water that form outside at night on grass, trees, etc.

Student Handout 2: Partner B "Just the Two of Us"

1. I see the **crystal raindrops** fall
And the _____ of it all
Is when the sun comes _____ through
2. To make those **rainbows** in my mind
When I think of you sometime
And I want to spend some time with you

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I*

3. We look for love no time for _____
Wasted water's all that is
And it **don't make no flowers** _____
4. Good things might come to those who wait
Not for those who wait too late
We **gotta** go for all we know

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I*

.... Music continues playing.....

5. I hear the crystal _____ fall
On the window down the hall
And it becomes the _____ **dew**
6. And darling when the morning comes
And I see the morning sun
I want to be the one with you.

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I*

.... Just the two of us...Just the two of us...Just the two of us....

.... Music continues playing until the end.

**Questions you can
ask your partner:**

3. *Can you repeat that?*
4. *Can you spell that?*

Vocabulary and Grammar Notes:

- **Crystal:** Look like glass.
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- **Dew:** Drops of water that form outside at night on grass, trees, etc.

Student Handout 4:
Full Song Lyrics
"Just the Two of Us"

I see the crystal raindrops fall
And the beauty of it all
Is when the sun comes shining through
To make those rainbows in my mind
When I think of you sometime
And I want to spend some time with you

Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I

We look for love no time for tears
Wasted water's all that is
And it don't make no flowers grow
Good things might come to those who wait
Not for those who wait too late
We gotta go for all we know

Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I

I hear the crystal raindrops fall
On the window down the hall
And it becomes the morning dew
And darling when the morning comes
And I see the morning sun
I want to be the one with you.

Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
Just the two of us
Building castles in the sky
Just the two of us
You and I

Songwriters: Bill Withers / Ralph Macdonald / William Salter