Songs for English Language Learners

Lyrics and photos compiled by Lori Langer de Ramirez, Ed.D.
song: “Help!”
group: The Beatles

Help, I need somebody,
Help, not just anybody,
Help, you know I need someone, help.

When I was younger,
so much younger than today,
I never needed anybody's help in any way.
But now these days are gone,
I'm not so self-assured,
Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors.

Help me if you can,
I'm feeling down
And I do appreciate you being round.
Help me, get my feet back on the ground,
Won't you please, please help me?

And now my life has changed in oh so many ways,
My independence seems to vanish in the haze.
But every now and then I feel so insecure,
I know that I just need you like I've never done before.

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down

And I do appreciate you being round.
Help me, get my feet back on the ground,
Won't you please, please help me.

When I was younger, so much younger than today,
I never needed anybody's help in any way.
But now these days are gone,
I'm not so self-assured,
Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors.

Help me if you can,
I'm feeling down
And I do appreciate you being round.
Help me, get my feet back on the ground,
Won't you please, please help me,
help me, help me, oh.
song: “You’ve Got to Hide Your Love Away”
group: The Beatles

Here I stand head in hand
Turn my face to the wall
If she's gone I can't go on
Feelin' two-foot small.

Everywhere people stare
Each and every day
I can see them
laugh at me
And I hear them say:

Hey, you've got to hide your love away
Hey, you've got to hide your love away

How could I even try
I can never win
Hearing them, seeing them
In the state I'm in

How could she say to me
Love will find a way
Gather round all you clowns
Let me hear you say:

Hey, you've got to
song: “Ticket to Ride”
group: The Beatles

I think I’m gonna be sad,
I think it's today, yeah.
The girl that's driving me mad
Is going away.

She's got a ticket to ride,
She's got a ticket to ride,
She's got a ticket to ride,
But she don't care.

She said that living with me
Is bringing her down, yeah.
For she would never be free
When I was around.

She's got a ticket to ride,
She's got a ticket to ride,
She's got a ticket to ride,
But she don't care.

I don't know why
she's ridin' so high,
She ought to think twice,
She ought to do right by me.
Before she gets to saying
goodbye,
She ought to think twice,
She ought to do right by me.

She said that living with me,
Is bringing her down, yeah.
For she would never be free
When I was around.

Ah, she's got a ticket to ride,
She's got a ticket to ride,
She's got a ticket to ride,
But she don't care.

My baby don't care,
my baby don't care.
My baby don't care,
my baby don't care.

I think I’m gonna be sad,
I think it's today, yeah.
The girl that's driving me mad
Is going away, yeah.
song: “Moonshadow”
singer: Cat Stevens

Oh, I’m bein’ followed by a moonshadow,
moonshadow, moonshadow
Leapin’ and hoppin’ on a moonshadow,
moonshadow, moonshadow.

And if I ever lose my hands, lose my plough,
lose my land,
Oh if I ever lose my hands, oh if.... I won’t have to work no more.

And if I ever lose my eyes, if my colors all run dry,
Yes if I ever lose my eyes, oh if.... I won’t have to cry no more.

And if I ever lose my legs, I wont moan,
and I wont beg,
Yes if I ever lose my legs, oh if.... I won’t have to walk no more.

And if I ever lose my mouth, all my teeth, north and south,
Yes if I ever lose my mouth, oh if....
I wont have to talk...

Did it take long to find me? I asked the faithful light.
Did it take long to find me? And are you gonna stay the night?
Now I’ve been happy lately, thinking about the good things to come
And I believe it could be, something good has begun.

Oh I’ve been smiling lately, dreaming about the world as one
And I believe it could be, some day it’s going to come.

Cause out on the edge of darkness,
there rides a peace train
Oh peace train take this country,
come take me home again

Now I’ve been smiling lately, thinking about the good things to come
And I believe it could be, something good has begun.

Oh peace train
sounding louder
Glide on the peace train.
Come on now peace train

Yes, peace train holy roller,
Everyone jump upon the peace train
Come on now peace train

Get your bags together, go bring your good friends too
‘Cause it’s getting nearer, it soon will be with you.

Now come and join the living, it’s not so far from you
And it’s getting nearer, soon it will all be true.

Now I’ve been crying lately, thinking about the world as it is
Why must we go on hating, why can’t we live in bliss?

Cause out on the edge of darkness,
there rides a peace train
Oh peace train take this country,
come take me home again.

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song: “Don't be Shy!”  
singer: Cat Stevens

Don't be shy  
just let your feelings  
roll on by.  
Don't wear fear  
or nobody will know  
you're there.  

Just lift your head,  
and let your feelings  
out instead.  
And don't be shy,  
just let your feeling  
roll on by, on by, on  
by...

You know love  
is better than a song.  
Love is where  
all of us belong.

So don't be shy  
just let your feelings  
roll on by.  
Don't wear fear  
or nobody will know  
you're there,  
You're there...

Don't be shy  
just let your feelings  
roll on by.  
Don't wear fear  
or nobody will know  
you're there.  

Just lift your head,  
and let your feelings  
out instead.  
And don't be shy,  
just let your feelings  
roll on by, on by, on  
by, etc.
song: "If You Want to Sing Out, Sing Out"
singer: Cat Stevens

Well if you wanna sing out, sing out.
And if you wanna be free, be free.
’Cause there’s a million things to be,
You know that there are.

And if you wanna live high, live high.
And if you wanna live low, live low.
’Cause there’s a million ways to go,
You know that there are.

You can do what you want,
The opportunity’s on.
And if you can find a new way,
You can do it today.
You can make it all true,
And you can make it undo...
You see ah ah ah
It is easy ah ah ah
You only need to know.

Well if you wanna say yes, say yes.
And if you wanna say no, say no.
’Cause there’s a million ways to go,
You know that there are.
song: “Father and Son”
singer: Cat Stevens

**Father:**
It’s not time to make a change, just relax, take it easy.
You’re still young, that’s your fault,
There’s so much you have to know.
Find a girl, settle down, if you want you can marry.
Look at me, I am old, but I’m happy.

I was once like you are now, and I know that it’s not easy,
To be calm when you’ve found something going on.
But take your time, think a lot, why, think of everything you’ve got.
For you will still be here tomorrow, but your dreams may not.

**Son:**
How can I try to explain, when I do he turns away again.
Its always been the same, same old story.
From the moment I could talk I was ordered to listen.
Now there’s a way and I know that I have to go away.
I know I have to go.

**Father:**
It’s not time to make a change,
Just sit down, take it slowly.
You’re still young, that’s your fault,
There’s so much you have to go through.
Find a girl, settle down, if you want you can marry.
Look at me, I am old, but I’m happy.
(son—away away away, I know I have to make this decision alone - no)

**Son:**
All the times that I cried, keeping all the things I knew inside,
It’s hard, but it’s harder to ignore it.
If they were right, I’d agree, but it’s them you know not me.
Now there’s a way and I know that I have to go away.
I know I have to go.
(father—stay stay stay, why must you go and Make this decision alone?)
song: "Shower the People"
singer: James Taylor

You can play the game
and you can act out the part
Though you know
it wasn’t written for you.
But tell me, how can you stand
there with your broken heart
Ashamed of playing the fool?
One thing can lead to another;
it doesn’t take any sacrifice.
Oh, father and mother,
sister and brother
If it feels nice, don’t think twice.

Just shower the people
you love with love.
Show them the way that you feel.
Things are gonna work out fine
if you only will... Shower the people
you love with love,
Show them the way that you feel,
Things are gonna be much better
if you only will.
Shower the people
you love with love,
Show them the way that you feel.

You’ll feel better right away
Don’t take much to do.
Sell you pride...
They say in every life,
They say the rain must fall
Just like pouring rain.
Make it rain, Make it rain
Love, love, love is sunshine.
Oh yes, Make it rain,
Love, love, love is sunshine
Yeah, all right, Everybody,
everybody, Shower the people
you love with love...

Better to shower the people
you love with love
Show them the way that you feel.
Things are gonna be just fine if
you only will... Shower the people
you love with love,
Show them the way that you feel,
Things are gonna be much better
if you only will.
Shower the people
you love with love,
Show them the way that you feel.
song: “Dear God”  
singer: Midge Ure

Dear God, is there somebody out there? Is there someone to hear my prayer?
I'm a simple man with simple words to say
Is there some point in asking?
Asking for more only got us where we are today.
Lost and alone and afraid...

Give me, love for the lonely
Give me, food for the hungry
Give me, peace in a restless world.
Give me, hope for the children
Give me, a worldwide religion
Give me, peace in a restless world.

Dear God, can you hear me crying? A whole world crying
Looking for something to say.
We had it all and we threw it all away.
Is there somebody watching?
Somebody watching over the mess that we've made?
We're lost and alone and afraid.

Give me, love for the lonely
Give me, food for the hungry
Give me, peace in a restless world.

And we need to know there's something good
Though all our years of solitude go on and on and on...

Give me, love for the lonely
Give me, food for the hungry
Give me, peace in a restless world.
Give me, hope for the children
Give me, a worldwide religion
Give me, peace in a restless world.

Dear god, is there somebody out there? Is there someone to hear my prayer?
song: “I’m a Believer”  
group: The Monkees

I thought love was only true in fairy tales. Meant for someone else but not for me. Love was out to get me That’s the way it seemed. Disappointment haunted all my dreams.

Then I saw her face, now I’m a believer Not a trace of doubt in my mind. I’m in love, I’m a believer! I couldn’t leave her if I tried.

I thought love was more or less a given thing, Seems the more I gave the less I got. What’s the use in tryin’? All you get is pain. When I needed sunshine I got rain.

Then I saw her face, now I’m a believer Not a trace of doubt in my
song: “Daydream Believer”
group: The Monkees

Oh, I could hide
‘neath the wings
Of the bluebird as she sings.
The six o’clock alarm
would never ring.
Whoops its ringing
and I rise,
Wipe the sleep out
of my eyes.
My shavin’ razor’s cold
and it stings.

Cheer up, sleepy Jean.
Oh, what can it mean?
To a daydream believer
And a homecoming queen.

You once thought of me
As a white knight on a steed.
Now you know how happy
I can be.
Oh, and our good times
starts and end
Without dollar one to spend.
But how much, baby,
do we really need?

Cheer up, sleepy Jean.
Oh, what can it mean?
To a daydream believer
And a homecoming queen.
song: “Kisses Sweeter than Wine”
group: Peter, Paul & Mary

When I was a young man
and never been kissed
I got to thinking it over
what I had missed.
I got me a girl,
I kissed her and then,
Oh lord, I kissed her again.

Oh, kisses sweeter than wine,
Oh, kisses sweeter than wine.

I asked her to marry
and be my sweet wife,
And we would be so happy
the rest of our lives.
I begged and I pleaded
like a natural man,
And then, oh lord,
she gave me her hand.

Oh, kisses sweeter than wine,
Oh, kisses sweeter than wine.

I worked mighty hard
and so did my wife,
Workin’ hand in hand
to make a good life.
With corn in the field
and wheat in the bins,
I was, oh lord,
the father of twins.

Our children they numbered
just about four,
They all had sweethearts
knockin’ at the door.
They all got married
and they didn’t hesitate;
I was, oh lord,
the grandmother of eight.

Oh, kisses sweeter than wine,
Oh, kisses sweeter than wine.

Now that were old,
and ready to go,
We get to thinkin’ what
happened a long time ago.
We had a lot of kids,
trouble and pain,
But, oh lord, we’d do it again.

Oh, kisses sweeter than wine,
Oh, kisses sweeter than wine.
song: “Sing Our Own Song”
group: Ub40

The great flood of tears
that we’ve cried
For our brothers and
sisters who’ve died
Over four hundred years
Has washed away our
fears, and strengthened
our pride, now we turn
back the tide.

We will no longer
hear your command
We will seize the control
from your hand
We will fan the flame
Of our anger and pain
And you’ll feel the shame
For what you do
in God’s name.

We will fight
for the right to be free;
We will build our own
society; And we will sing,
we will sing; We will sing
our own song

When the ancient

drum rhythms ring
The voice of our
forefathers sings
Forward Africa run
Our day of freedom has
come, for me and for you
Amandla awethu.

We will no longer
hear your command
We will seize the control
from your hand
We will fan the flame
Of our anger and pain
And you’ll feel the shame
For what you do
in God’s name.

We will fight
for the right to be free
We will build our own
society; And we will sing,
we will sing; We will sing
our own song.
It's late in the evening
She's wondering what
clothes to wear.
She puts on her
make-up
and brushes her long
blonde hair.
And then she asks me,
"Do I look all right?"
And I say, "Yes, you look
wonderful tonight."
We go a party and
everyone turns to see
This beautiful lady that's
walking around with me.
And then she asks me,
"Do you feel all right?"
And I say, "Yes, I feel
wonderful tonight."
I feel wonderful
because I see
The love light
in your eyes.
And the wonder of it all
Is that you just don't
realize
how much I love you.
It's time to go home now
and I've got an
aching head,
So I give her
the car keys and
she helps me to bed.
And then I tell her,
as I turn out the light,
I say, "My darling, you
were wonderful tonight.
Oh my darling, you were
wonderful tonight."
song: “Like The Weather”
group: **10,000 Maniacs**

The color of the sky as far as I can see, is coal grey.
Lift my head from the pillow and then fall again.
With a shiver in my bones just thinking about the weather.
A quiver in my lips as if I might cry.

Well by the force of will my lungs are filled and so I breathe.
Lately it seems this big bed is where I never leave.
Shiver in my bones just thinking about the weather.
Quiver in my voice as I cry,

"What a cold and rainy day. Where on earth is the sun hid away?"

I hear the sound of a noon bell chime.
Now I’m far behind.
You’ve put in ‘bout half a day while here I lie.
With a shiver in my bones just thinking about the weather.
A quiver in my lip as if I might cry.
song: “New York State of Mind”
singer: Billy Joel

Some folks like to get away, 
take a holiday 
from the neighborhood. 
Hop a flight to Miami Beach 
or Hollywood. 
I’m taking a Greyhound 
on the Hudson River line- 
I’m in a New York 
state of mind.

I seen all the movie stars 
in their fancy cars 
and their limousines, 
Been high in the Rockies 
under the evergreens, 
But I know what I’m 
needing and I don’t want to 
wait more time- 
I’m in a New York 
state of mind.

It was so easy 
living day by day 
Out of touch with the 
rhythm and the blues, 
But now I need a little 
give and take, 
The New York Times, 
the Daily News...

I’m taking a Greyhound 
on the Hudson River line- 
I’m in a New York 
state of mind.
song: “Seasons of Love” from: Rent

Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes,
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Moments so dear.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes
How do you measure,
measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets,
in midnights
In cups of coffee
In inches, in miles,
in laughter, in strife.
In five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes
How do you measure
A year in the life?

How about love?
How about love?
How about love?
Measure in love
Seasons of love.
Seasons of love

HOMELESS WOMAN:
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes!
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Journeys to plan.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes,
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Moments so dear.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes
How do you measure
the life of a woman or a man?

COLLINS:
In truths that she learned,
Or in times that he cried.
In bridges he burned,
Or the way that she died.

ALL:
It's time now to sing out,
Tho' the story never ends
Let's celebrate
Remember a year
in the life of friends
Remember the love!
Remember the love!
Seasons of love!

HOMELESS WOMAN (while ALL sing):
Oh you got to got to
Remember the love!
You know that love
is a gift from up above
Share love, give love
spread love
Measure measure
your life in love.

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song: “2000 Miles”
group: The Pretenders

He’s gone 2000 miles
It’s very far
The snow is falling down
Gets colder day by day
I miss you.

The children will sing
He’ll be back at Christmastime.

In these frozen and silent nights
Sometimes in a dream you appear
Outside under the purple sky
Diamonds in the snow sparkle
Our hearts we’re singing, It felt like Christmastime.

2000 miles
Is very far

through the snow
I’ll think of you
Wherever you go.

He’s gone 2000 miles
It’s very far
The snow is falling down
Gets colder day by day
I miss you.

I can hear people singing,
It must be Christmastime.
I hear people singing,
It must be Christmastime.

www.MisCositas.com
song: “Please
Please
Please, Let Me
Get What I
Want”
group: The Smiths

Good times
for a change
See, the luck
I’ve had
Can make a good man
Turn bad.

So please please
please
Let me, let me,
let me
Let me
get what I want
This time.

Haven’t had a dream
in a long time.
See, the life I’ve had
Can make a good man
bad.

So for once in my life
Let me
get what I want
Lord knows,
it would be
the first time.
Lord knows,
it would be
the first time.
song: **“100 Years”**  
group: Five for Fighting

I'm 15 for a moment,  
Caught in between 10 and 20  
And I'm just dreaming  
Counting the ways  
to where you are.

I'm 22 for a moment,  
She feels better than ever  
And we're on fire  
Making our way back from Mars.

15, there's still time for you  
Time to buy and time to lose.  
15, there's never a wish  
better than this,  
When you only got  
100 years to live.

I'm 33 for a moment,  
Still the man,  
but you see I'm a they,  
A kid on the way,  
A family on my mind.

I'm 45 for a moment  
The sea is high,  
And I'm heading into a crisis,  
Chasing the years of my life.

15, there's still time for you  
Time to buy,  
Time to lose yourself  
Within a morning star.  
15, I'm all right with you.  
15, there's never a wish better  
than this. When you only got  
100 years to live.

Half time goes by  
Suddenly you’re wise  
Another blink of an eye  
67 is gone.  
The sun is getting high  
We're moving on...

I'm 99 for a moment,  
Dying for just another moment  
And I'm just dreaming,  
Counting the ways  
to where you are.

15, there's still time for you  
22, I feel her too  
33, you’re on your way  
Every day's a new day...  
15, there's still time for you  
Time to buy and time to choose  
Hey 15, there's never a wish  
better than this. When you only got  
100 years to live.
song: “I Hope You Dance”
singer: Lee Ann Womack

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 by the ocean.
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens.
Promise me 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.
Living might mean taking chances
But they're worth taking.
Lovin' might be a mistake,
But it's worth making.

Don’t let some hell bent heart leave you bitter.
When you come close to selling 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, I hope you dance.

(Where those years have gone)

I hope you still feel small
When you stand by the ocean.
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens.
Promise me 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. (Time is a real and constant motion always)
I hope you dance (Rolling us along)
I hope you dance (Tell me who)
(Wants to look back on their youth and wonder) I hope you dance (Where those years have gone).

(Tell me who) I hope you dance
(Wants to look back on their youth and wonder)
(Where those years have gone)
song: “Mountains O’ Things”
singer: Tracy Chapman

The life I’ve always wanted
I guess I'll never have
I’ll be working for somebody else until I’m in my grave
I’ll be dreaming of a live of ease — and mountains
Oh mountains o’ things.

To have a big expensive car
Drag my furs on the ground
And have a maid that I can tell to bring me anything.
Everyone will look at me with envy and with greed
I’ll revel in their attention
And mountains
Oh mountains o’ things.

Sweet lazy life
Champagne and caviar
I hope you’ll come and find me ’cause you know who we are.
Those who deserve the best in life and know what money’s worth, and those whose sole misfortune was having mountains o’ nothing at birth.

Oh they tell me
There’s still time to save my soul, they tell me
Renounce all
Renounce all those material things you gained by Exploiting other human beings.

Consume more than you need
This is the dream

Make you pauper
Or make you queen.
I won’t die lonely
I’ll have it all prearranged
A grave that’s deep and wide enough for me and all my mountains o’ things.

Mostly I feel lonely.
Good good people are
Good people are only
My stepping stones.
It’s gonna take all my mountains o’ things
To surround me
Keep all my enemies away
Keep my sadness and loneliness at bay.

I’ll be dreaming, dreaming...
Dreaming...

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**song:** “From a Distance”  
**singer:** Bette Midler

From a distance the world looks blue and green, and the snow-capped mountains white. From a distance the ocean meets the stream, and the eagle takes to flight.

From a distance there is harmony, and it echoes through the land. It's the voice of hope, it's the voice of peace, it's the voice of every man.

From a distance we all have enough, and no one is in need. And there are no guns, no bombs, and no disease, no hungry mouths to feed.

From a distance we are instruments marching in a common band. Playing songs of hope, playing songs of peace. They're the songs of every man.

God is watching us. God is watching us. God is watching us from a distance.

From a distance you look like my friend, even though we are at war. From a distance I just cannot comprehend what all this fighting is for.

From a distance there is harmony, and it echoes through the land. And it's the hope of hopes, it's the love of loves, it's the heart of every man.

It's the hope of hopes, it's the love of loves. This is the song of every man. And God is watching us, God is watching us, God is watching us from a distance. Oh, God is watching us, God is watching. God is watching us from a distance.
song: “Wind Beneath My Wings”
singer: Bette Midler

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh.
It must have been cold there
in my shadow,
to never have sunlight on your face.
You were content to let me shine,
that's your way.
You always walked a step behind.

So I was the one with all the glory,
while you were the one with all the strength.
A beautiful face without a name
for so long.
A beautiful smile to hide the pain.

Did you ever know
that you're my hero,
and everything I would like to be?
I can fly higher than an eagle,
'cause you are the wind
beneath my wings.

It might have appeared to go
unnoticed,
but I've got it all here in my heart.
I want you to know I know the
truth, of course I know it.
I would be nothing without you.

Did you ever know
that you're my hero?
You're everything I wish I could be.
I could fly higher than an eagle,
'cause you are the wind
beneath my wings.

Did I ever tell you you're my hero?
You're everything, everything I
wish I could be.
Oh, and I, I could fly
higher than an eagle,
'cause you are the wind
beneath my wings.

Oh, the wind beneath my wings.
You, you, you, you are the wind
beneath my wings.
Fly, fly, fly away.
You let me fly so high.
Oh, you, you, you, the wind
beneath my wings.
Oh, you, you, you, the wind
beneath my wings.

Fly, fly, fly high against the sky,
so high I almost touch the sky.
Thank you, thank you,
thank God for you, the wind
beneath my wings.