Song Lesson featuring:

I DON'T KNOW IF PEOPLE HAVE HATED ME, BUT I HAVE HATED PEOPLE

Song written and performed by

Eagle Seagull (2008)

Notes for the teacher

The Song

The song’s lyrics are included here with the permission of the artists. The song can be purchased for $0.99 on iTunes or a streaming version might be found through an internet search.

Song Background

Eagle Seagull are not a well-known nor commercially successful band, but they do have a loyal following. They have toured in the U.S and Europe. This song deals with feelings that we all experience at times in our lives: hurting and forgiveness. Students respond strongly to the song, especially to the touching final resolution of the initial hurtful emotions the song explores.

Grammar Background

This song can be used to introduce or review the present perfect alone or can be used to review the present perfect and introduce or review noun clauses with if. The student worksheet does not indicate which grammar point will be discussed to accommodate this.

Present Perfect

This song consists of four verses, each introduced with a sentence in this formula:

I don’t know if people [present perfect verb], but I [present perfect verb] people.

Here, the present perfect talks about an event that has (or hasn’t) occurred sometime before now. There is no specific time mentioned. (It’s not a repeated action in the past, nor is it a an action that began in the past and continues to the present.)

Review the present perfect (chart 3.1 Understanding and Using English Grammar)

Write on the board: I have swum in the ocean. [or similar]
Ask students what the event or action is: swimming in the ocean
Ask students the time frame, or when it happened: sometime in my life – from the time I was born until now.
Ask whether this action is happening now: no.
Ask whether this action has happened repeatedly: no, or we don’t know.

Compare with: I have swum in the ocean two times. [repeated action] -AND- I have wanted to visit the ocean since I was a child. [situation began in past and continues to present—I still want to visit the ocean.]

Ask students to write examples on their worksheet of the present perfect used to talk about actions that have or haven’t happened at some point in the past. Share with partner or class. Check for accuracy.

**Noun clauses with If**

This song consists of four verses, each introduced with a sentence in this formula:

\[
\text{I don’t know if people} \quad \text{[present perfect verb], but I} \quad \text{[present perfect verb] people.}
\]

To use a yes / no question in a noun clause, if or whether is used at the beginning of the clause. Have students practice making noun clauses from yes / no questions in various tenses. (Chart 12.3 Understanding and Using English Grammar)

**Write on the board:**

Do you speak French? I wonder… [or similar]
Have you visited France? I don’t know…
Will you go to France next summer? I think….

Demonstrate or review how to (or ask students to) create noun clauses with the prompts on the above. Remind students that question word order is not used in noun clauses.

Ask students to write examples on their worksheet noun clauses formed from yes / no questions that they would like to ask of their classmates. Share with partner or class. Check for accuracy.

**Vocabulary**

Here are some of the words and phrases that students will enjoy discussing during the lesson:

to rave: to talk irrationally, wildly

Absalom: a figure from the Bible’s Old Testament, a son of King David of Israel

to go to pieces (fig.): to lose control of one’s life, to be unable to perform the basic functions of life due to sadness.

cold, as in cold-hearted: unfriendly or unsympathetic
to bark at the moon: to do something that has no effect, no purpose, is useless
Student Worksheet

Before you listen.....

Grammar Review Notes and Examples

While you listen....

1. Listen to the song again and try to fill in the missing words as you listen.
2. Listen again to fill in any words you missed the first time.

After you listen....

1. Discuss your answers to these questions in small groups or as a class.
   ● What do you think is meant by the phrase, “(I) brought out the faces that I had put away”? Do you think the singer is referring to parts of his own personality or to his memories, or something else?

   ● What kind of action or situation might the singer be referring to when he says, “I’ve picked you up just to see you fall?” Can you think of an example?

   ● Do you think the singer is truly, “...cold in the heart, cold in the brain”? Why or why not?
2. **Writing**

- This song consists of four verses, each introduced with a sentence in this formula:

  \[ I \text{ don’t know if people [present perfect verb], but I [present perfect verb] people. } \]

  Write your own sentences in this formula by substituting different verbs in the present perfect.

  Examples:  \[ I \text{ don’t know if people have understood me, but I have understood people.} \]
  \[ I \text{ don’t know if people have believed in me, but I have believed in people.} \]

- Choose one of the sentences you created above and write an additional verse for this song by adding three or four lines of explanation. If you’d like, share your verse with Eagle Seagull by posting it on the band’s MySpace or Facebook page. They are looking forward to reading your ideas!
I Don't Know if People Have Hated Me, But I Have Hated People

Written and performed by Eagle Seagull
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I don’t know if people _______________ me, but I _______________ people.
I’ve ___________ like Absalom against you all,
_________ to pieces like an old bouquet
_________ out the faces I had put away.

I don’t know if people _______________ me, but I _______________ people.
I __ ___________ against you all
_____________ you up to see you fall
I smile at your pain
I’m cold in the heart, cold in the brain.

I don’t know if people _______________ me, but I _______________ people.
Sometimes I wonder what’s the use
If I __ ___________ the truth.
I might as well be barking at the moon.

I don’t know if people _______________ me, but I _______________ people.
Would you think it strange
If I __ ___________ to say
That sometimes I feel in love with everyone in every way?