Don’t worry!

By Zorica Đukić, Secondary School of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy

Key words: happiness, phonetic transcription, pronunciation, sentence stress, rhythm, singing, fun

Introduction: While exploring different ideas for the final lesson in the previous school year I came across a song Happy by Pharrell Williams and two fantastic lesson plans by Chris Pell and Emma Segev. I made a compilation of the two and adapted the material to suit my students. The lesson was a success and everybody had a great time. I suggest working in collaboration with a music teacher who can secretly prepare three or four students in advance to sing the chorus, just in case your students feel too shy to start singing. Appoint a student assistant who can give everybody a phonemic card on entry to keep until the end. You can choose one or two cards at random, write Happy on the back side and organize some bingo awards for the lucky winners.

Level: A2 – B2

Time: 45 minutes

Language objectives:

• To expose students to authentic listening material;
• to raise phonetic awareness;
• to practise sentence stress and rhythm;
• to have fun and to finish the school year in a good mood.

Materials:

• PowerPoint;
• good loudspeakers;
• phonemic cards;
• a flip chart showing incomplete lyrics with spaces to enable completion;
• three video clips of Happy: the Belgrade version, the version with lyrics and the official version.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgGY3Q3-mfY
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-GLuydiMe4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6Sxv-sUYtM

Step 1 (5 min) - Show slide 1 with the words: Don’t worry! Welcome the students, show slide 2 and announce the objectives of the lesson. Inform them that they will be shown 4 pictures and have 10 seconds to remember: 1.what the people are doing, and 2.how they are feeling. Show slide 3 with the questions. In slide 4 students watch four pictures, one after another. Elicit answers (1.A boy carrying a box, smiling; 2.A girl in the park dancing, feeling happy; 3.A father and a daughter, sitting and playing in the garden; 4.Pupils and their teacher, clapping and dancing in the classroom). Check with slide 5. Show slide 6 and invite students to guess which song they are going to listen to. Show slide 7 with the words: Happy, Pharrell Williams.
Step 2 (10 min) - Invite students to say what they know about Pharrell Williams (you can help with the following pieces of information: American singer, songwriter, rapper, fashion designer, drummer of N.E.R.D. band; 41 years old; the song is taken from the film *Despicable Me2*; the first 24-hour music video that can be watched on the website by choosing any time of day; so popular that it has a lot of versions, even from Belgrade). Play the Belgrade version on slide 8. Ask students if they have recognized any people from the video clip and invite them to do a questionnaire on slide 9 about how the song makes them feel. Ask students to read the given options: A) Tired and negative, B) Low energy and no enthusiasm, C) Positive, but lacking in motivation, D) Happy and full of energy.

Step 3 (10 min) - Introduce the next segment for practising pronunciation. Remind students that they have been given cards with phonetic transcription. Show slide 10. Invite volunteers to transcribe them into normal words on the board or flip chart. Explain that those are the words from the song and invite students to watch another version of the song. This time with lyrics. Ask them to hold up their cards whenever they hear their word and sing at the same time. When the song finishes on slide 11, go to slide 12 which shows the title.

Step 4 (15 min) - Announce the gap fill activity on slide 13. Invite students to dictate their suggestions to your assistant who writes the missing lines on the flip chart. Check with slide 14 and correct if necessary. Ask them to repeat the lines of the chorus after you, finding out which words are stressed. A music teacher could help you with this because the structure might be difficult if you are not a musician as well (anyway, *along* and *if* are stressed in all four lines and then: *room* and *roof*, *happiness* and *truth*, *happiness* and *you*, *that’s* and *do*). It helps if you circle those words on the flip chart for everybody to see. After practising reading the chorus together, invite the music teacher to teach everybody to sing the chorus limiting the time to 3 minutes. Now your ‘moles’ can be of great help because they can lead the others. When the time is up invite students to watch the original version of the video, sing with the chorus and clap along. Show slide 15 with the third, official version of the song.

Step 5 (5 min) - Thank everybody and before the final goodbye ask students not to forget one very important thing. Show slide 16 and ask one of the students to read the message: *Happiness is a way of travel, not a destination*. If you have organized bingo awards, this is the time when you could invite students to check the back side of their phonemic card to see if they have got the word *Happy* written on it and give a little something to the lucky winners. Play audio version of the song while students are leaving.

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Zorica Đukić has been an English teacher for more than 25 years. She used to work both with young learners and adults at the Centre for Foreign Languages in Belgrade. In the last ten years she has been working with teenagers, the age group she finds most challenging. Having taught approximately 4000 students in her career, she still remains passionate and enthusiastic about her job.
Handouts:

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Gap fill worksheet

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel _______________

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel _______________

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you know _______________

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel _______________

Chorus:

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel like that’s what you wanna do
Don’t worry!
Don’t worry!

Today we will:

1. Look at pictures from a music video
2. Listen to a song
3. Practise the chorus
4. Say goodbye in a good mood
You will be shown a picture.

You have 10 seconds to remember:

1. what they are doing
2. how they are feeling.
Predict

Can you predict which music video these pictures are taken from?

Guess the song?
HAPPY!
Pharrell Williams
First Listening

PHARELL WILLIAMS
How does the song make you feel?

A) Tired and negative
B) Low energy and no enthusiasm
C) Positive, but lacking in motivation
D) Happy and full of energy
# Phonetic cards

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Second Listening
HAPPY!

Pharrell Williams
Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel ______________________

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel ______________________

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you know ______________________

Because I’m happy

Clap along if you feel ______________________
Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do
Third listening
Let’s just not forget!

Happiness is a way of travel not a destination!