



WORDPLAY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
THROUGH LYRICS

FEATURING
**DAMN TALL
BUILDINGS**



Find materials for additional artists at
<https://thelyricsproject.org>



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"Honey I'm Coming Home"
Damn Tall Buildings

You were made out of diamonds, but
You were tossed in the sand, you ain't
Hiding from me, though you think you can
You got me backed in the corner
You got me praying to god
Well I'm striking deals with the devil
'Cause I don't know who I got

Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head
Remember them words that I wished you said
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home

You said you ain't lookin' for nothin'
But you ain't got no plans
But I don't fit your description and I should understand
Maybe if 'ya write me home, with a suitcase in my hand
Maybe I'd be what you wanted, I could be your man

Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head
Remember them words that I wished you said?
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home

You're going back to Virginia
You're going back down south
Said you're tired of the weather, and you had to get out
And me, I'm off to the ocean
'Cause that's where I belong
There ain't no use in staying now that you're moving on
Now that you're moving on

Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head
Remember them words that I wished you'd said?
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home
Left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head
Remember them words that I wished you'd said?
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home



“Honey I’m Coming Home”
Damn Tall Buildings

Associated Audio



“Honey I’m Coming Home” by Damn Tall Buildings

A2 Level Words

by - preposition, next to or near someone or something

god - noun, the spirit who created the universe and everything in it in certain religions

if - conjunction, something will happen only after something else happens or is true

lie - verb, move your body into a horizontal position

made out of - verb, be produced from a substance or material

maybe - adverb, possibly

off - adverb, away from a place; leave

plan - noun, an arrangement for what you want to do in the future

pray - verb, to speak to a god to show your feelings or to ask for something

south - noun, southern part of the US

suitcase - noun, a case with a handle for carrying clothes while traveling

try - verb, attempt to do something

were - auxiliary verb, used to show actions that are or still continuing

write - verb, to send a letter or email to someone

B1 Level Words

by - preposition, near or next to something or someone

deal with - verb, take action in order to solve a problem

description - noun, something that tells you what something or someone is like

fit - verb, agree with; match or be suitable for something

get out - verb, leave a closed vehicle or place

go back - verb, to return to a place where you were or where you have been before

hide - verb, conceal something (like feelings)

ocean - noun, the sea



B1 Level Words (cont.)

sand – noun, small grains of rock that are found on beaches and in deserts

should – modal verb, expect something to be true or happen

understand – verb, know how someone feels or why they behave in a particular way

wish – verb, to want a different situation from the reality

B2 Level Words

belong – verb, to feel happy or comfortable somewhere or in a situation

could – verb, used to indicate possibility

devil – noun, an evil being often represented with a tail and horns

diamond – noun, an extremely hard valuable stone which is used in jewelry

though – conjunction, but

C1/C2 Level Words

back – verb, move

corner – noun, a place where two sides meet

move on – verb, leave the place where you are and go somewhere else

tired of – verb, become bored with someone or something; stop enjoying an activity

toss – verb, throw something somewhere carelessly

Other Words

honey – noun, (informal) a name you call someone you like or love

ain’t – verb, (informal) am/are/is not

lookin’ – verb, (informal) short for *looking*

nothin’ – noun, (informal) short for *nothing*

riverbed – noun, where a river flows

Virginia – noun, a state in the United States



"Honey I'm Coming Home"
Damn Tall Buildings

Activity Summary

- ✓ Students brainstorm words based on the theme of the song "Honey I'm Coming Home" and create an art project incorporating the meaning of these words.

Associated Audio



"Honey I'm Coming Home" by Damn Tall Buildings

Lesson Plan



1. Print enough activity worksheets (found on the following page) for each student to have a copy.
2. Tell students they are going to discuss the topics of home and belonging. You may want to ask them a warm-up question, for example: "Where do you feel most comfortable?"
3. Ask students to think of words they associate with *home* and *belonging* and write as many as they can 2-3 minutes (or whatever time is appropriate). Ask students to share their answers with a partner.
4. Ask students to create an art project incorporating the words they brainstormed. The art piece can symbolize the words or students can add the words into the art piece itself. Encourage students to be creative!

Ideas for an art project: drawing or painting, cut out pictures in magazines and newspapers and glue them onto paper, photograph objects to create a photo collage, create a video made of music and images, write a poem, or recite a poem over music.

Online Tip

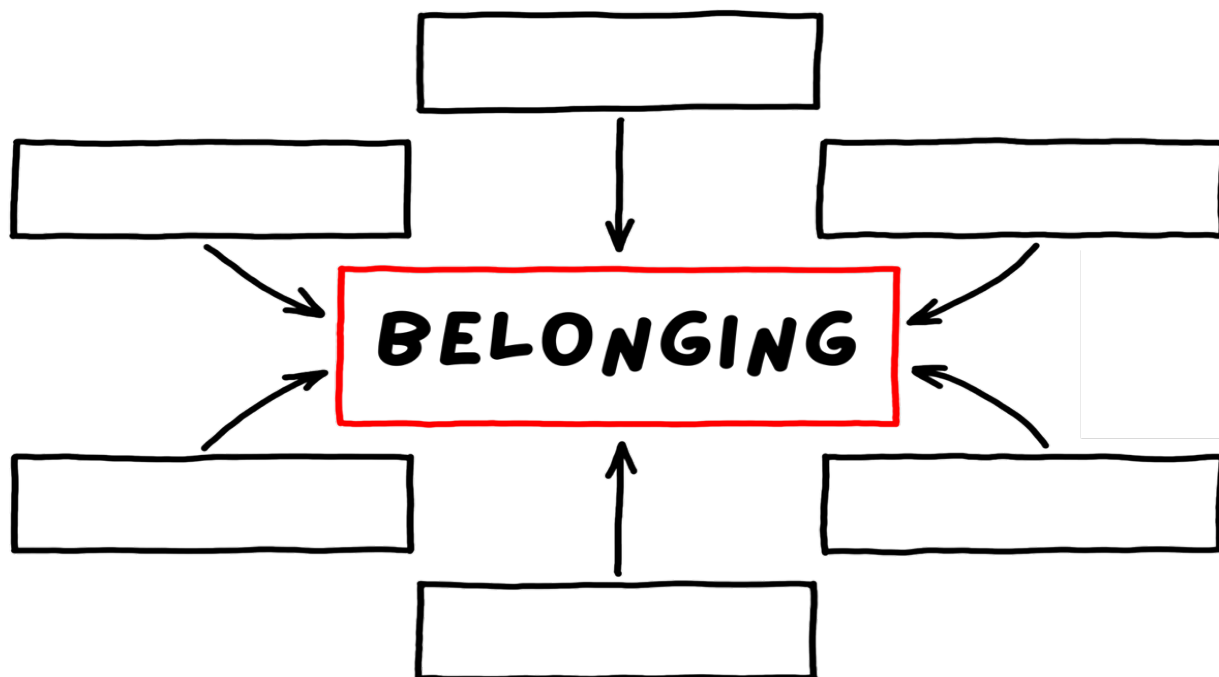
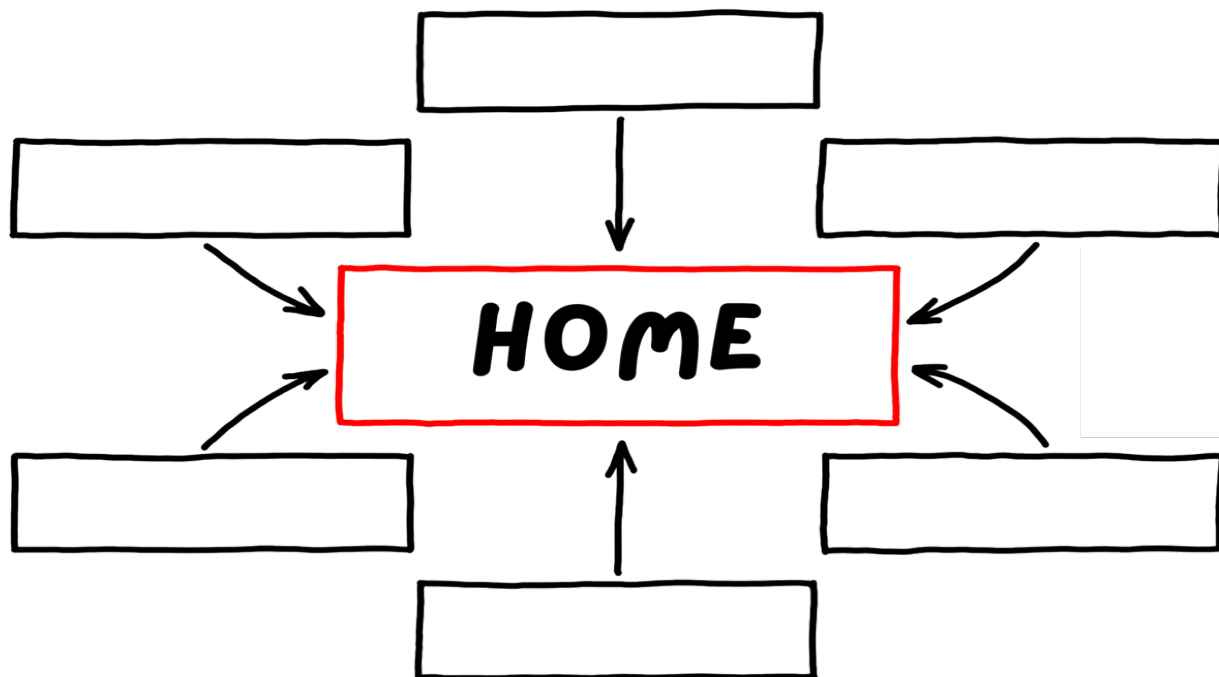


This activity can easily be adapted for online use. Students can brainstorm words on their own or in small groups in breakout rooms. For the art project, use free art creation tools like [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com) or [Autodraw.com](https://autodraw.com) or whatever tools that your students prefer. (Both Canva and Autodraw are free, but Autodraw is easy to use and no sign up is needed.)



"Honey I'm Coming Home"

Damn Tall Buildings



Activity Summary

- ✓ Students put song lyrics into the correct order.

Associated Audio



“Honey I’m Coming Home” by Damn Tall Buildings

Before class:

- Print enough lyrics scramble sheets (found on the following pages) for one out of every three students.
- Cut the song lyrics on the dotted lines.
- Mix up the order of the lyrics, taking care to keep lyrics from each sheet separate.

Lesson Plan



1. Put students into small groups and give each group of students a set of the cut-out lyrics.
2. Ask students to put the song lyrics in order.
3. Ask groups to check their answers with another group.
4. Listen to the song to check the answers as a class.

Less Challenging



Depending on the level and ability of your students, you can play the song several times.

You were made out of diamonds, but
You were tossed in the sand, you ain't

Hiding from me, though you think you can
You got me backed in the corner

You got me praying to god
Well I'm striking deals with the devil
'Cause I don't know who I got

Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them words that I wished you said
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home

You said you ain't lookin' for nothin'
But you ain't got no plans

But I don't fit your description and I should understand
Maybe if 'ya write me home, with a suitcase in my hand
Maybe I'd be what you wanted, I could be your man

Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them words that I wished you said?
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home

You're going back to Virginia
You're going back down south

Said you're tired of the weather, and you had to get out
And me, I'm off to the ocean
'Cause that's where I belong



There ain't no use in staying now that you're moving on
Now that you're moving on

Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them words that I wished you'd said?
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home

Left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them words that I wished you'd said?
Oh no, Oh no
Honey I'm coming home



Activity Summary



Students listen to a song and fill in the missing words.

Associated Audio



“Honey I’m Coming Home” by Damn Tall Buildings

Lesson Plan



1. Print enough lyrics gap-fill sheets (found on the next pages) for each student.
2. Give each student their own lyrics gap-fill sheet. Ask them to take 1-2 minutes to look at the song lyrics before listening to the song.
3. Play the song and ask students to fill in the missing words. If necessary, play the song a second time to complete the worksheet.
4. Put students into groups of 2-3 to check answers.
5. Project the lyrics gap-fill sheet on the board and ask students to come to the board to fill in the missing words, or write the numbers on the board and ask students to write the missing word next to the correct number.
6. Once students have the correct words, ask them to write each word under the corresponding final -s **sound** in the chart.

Online Tip



This activity can be easily replicated online. Share the worksheet with students online, and put students into breakout rooms to check their answers in small groups. Ask students to write their answer for each number in the chat box or by saying the word aloud.

Answer key:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. diamonds (z ending) | 7. ‘cause or cuz (z ending) |
| 2. deals (z ending) | 8. it’s (s ending) |
| 3. ‘cause or cuz (z ending) | 9. use (z ending) |
| 4. words (z ending) | 10. words (z ending) |
| 5. plans (z ending) | 11. words (z ending) |
| 6. words (z ending) | |



"Honey I'm Coming Home"

Damn Tall Buildings

You were made out of 1. _____, but

You were tossed in the sand, you ain't

Hiding from me, though you think you can

You got me backed in the corner

You got me praying to god

Well I'm striking 2. _____ with the devil3. _____ I don't know who I got

Well, you left me down by the riverbed

Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them 4. _____ that I wished you said

Oh no, Oh no

Honey I'm coming home

You said you ain't lookin' for nothin'

But you ain't got no 5. _____

But I don't fit your description and I should understand

Maybe if 'ya write me home, with a suitcase in my hand

Maybe I'd be what you wanted, I could be your man

Well, you left me down by the riverbed

Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them 6. _____ that I wished you said?

Oh no, Oh no

Honey I'm coming home

You're going back to Virginia

You're going back down south

Said you're tired of the weather, and you had to get out

And me, I'm off to the ocean

7. _____ 8. _____ where I belongThere ain't no 9. _____ in staying now that you're moving on

Now that you're moving on



Well, you left me down by the riverbed
Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them 10._____ that I wished you’d said?

Oh no, Oh no

Honey I’m coming home

Left me down by the riverbed

Trying to find a place to lie my head

Remember them 11._____ that I wished you’d said?

Oh no, Oh no

Honey I’m coming home

“Honey I’m Coming Home”

Damn Tall Buildings

Do you remember the -s ending rules?

/s/	/z/	/iz/ or /əz/
Put your hand to the middle of your neck and pronounce these sounds: /f/ /k/ /t/ /gh/ /ph/ /p/	Put your hand to the middle of your neck and pronounce these sounds: /z/ /b/ /d/ /g/ /j/ /l/ m/ /n/ /ng/ /r/ /v/ /w/ all vowel sounds	Words ending in these sounds need an extra syllable when you add an /s/ at the end: /s/ /ks/ dg/ /z/ /ch/ /sh/ /g/
You should not feel a vibration. These are voiceless sounds. They have a -s sound ending.	You should feel a vibration. These are voiced sounds. They have a -z sound ending.	They have an /iz/ sound ending.

Use the words in the song that end with an -s to complete the chart below. Pronounce each word and listen to the final -s sound to help you. Think of other example words to put in the chart. Check your answers with a partner.

/s/	/z/	/iz/ or /əz/
laughs, talks, pats, pops	bags, limes, windows, things	hushes, watches, dodges, kisses

Activity Summary



Students practice their listening skills by answering comprehension questions based on a video.

Associated Video



“Inspiration for the Song” Video

<https://thelyricsproject.org/package/damn-tall-buildings/>

Lesson Plan



1. Print enough activity worksheets (found on the following page) for each student.
2. Tell students they should read the questions on the worksheet before watching the video.
3. Play the “Inspiration for the Song” video. (You may play the video as many times as needed.)
4. After watching the video, give students a few minutes to complete the worksheet. They may need to watch the video more than once.
5. When they are finished, ask students to check their answers with a partner, and then check the answers as a class.

More Challenging



Use this activity as a pre-writing activity. Depending on the level of your students, they can use this worksheet to write a paragraph or short essay about what feels like home to them.

Answer key:

1. a girl that he liked
2. songs that can tell a different story each time you listen to them
3. a place, a person, a meal, a feeling
4. close

Watch the video about the song “Honey I’m Coming Home.” Then answer the questions below.

1. What did Max originally write the song “Honey I’m Coming Home” about?

2. What types of songs does Max love?

3. According to Max, the word home can mean:

-----,

-----, -----, or

-----.

4. This song can be about many different things , but it is always about something that is ----- to Max at the time and feels like home to him.



Activity Summary



Students find a song in English that describes an emotion and explain how the lyrics and music of the song produce this feeling.

Associated Video



“Self Expressions” Video

<https://thelyricsproject.org/package/damn-tall-buildings/>

Lesson Plan



1. Print enough activity worksheets (found on the following page) for each student.
2. Play the “Self Expressions” video. (You may play the video as many times as needed.)
3. After watching the video, ask students: “What feeling did Avery say the following lyrics have?”

You left me down the riverbed,
Trying to find a place to lie my head,
Remember the words I wished you said,
Oh no, Oh no,
Honey I’m coming home.
4. Assign each student a feeling from the worksheet or allow them to choose their own.
5. Ask students to find a song in English that represents their feeling. Students should be prepared to explain their choices.
6. Choose an option below and assign it to be presented in a future class.
 - Create a video or audio recording introducing the feeling they chose and describing their chosen song and how it describes that feeling. This can be shown in class or shared in an online discussion board.
 - Create a poster describing the song and how it describes their chosen feeling. Hang the posters up around the room and give the students a chance to walk around the room and discuss them.
 - Give a short classroom presentation about the song.
 - Give a short presentation to a small group about the song.

joyful	heartbroken	gloomy	anxious
annoyed	hopeful	jealous	confident
cautious	proud	excited	shy
depressed	bitter	content	playful
disappointed	strong	peaceful	optimistic