

A man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, is smiling and playing an acoustic guitar. He is outdoors, with a metal railing and a paved area in the background. A large red circle is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

WORDPLAY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
THROUGH LYRICS

FEATURING
TONY MEMMEL
AND HIS BAND



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WORDPLAY

ICONS

For each heading in the materials, we have identified an icon to help instructors quickly find and identify information.

HEADING	ASSOCIATED ICON
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Lesson Plan	
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More Challenging (for intermediate/advanced learners)	
Online Tip	

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
Tony Memmel and his Band

In the heart there lives a call to a longer haul,
A dream that demands your all.
It's the hardest, clearest choice, when you hear its voice,
Step up and stand tall.
There's an old and simple code you'll learn as you go,
A truth the wise come to know:
You get out what you put in,
then come lose or win,
Sing this anthem of the soul:
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Oh, on your harder days,
when the trail you blaze,
Is feeling more like a maze,
There's a path where there's a will, up the highest hill.
Sing this anthem, keep the faith:
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Gotta get that grit, resilience, and strength.
Gonna go the distance no matter the length.
Gotta be what I am meant to be.
Got a plan, got purpose, got a destiny.
Gonna be ready for anything that comes my way.
No rain'll ruin my parade.
Gotta get good at gettin' up when I get knocked down.
That's my anthem.
Turn up that sound.
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
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Associated Audio



"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up" by Tony Memmel and his Band

A2 Level Words

heart – noun, the organ in your chest that sends the blood around your body

dream – noun, a series of events or images that happen in your mind when you are sleeping

clearest – adj., easy to understand, hear, read or see

stand – verb, to rise to a vertical position on your feet from sitting or lying down

simple – adj., easy to do or to understand

lose – verb, to not be able to find someone or something

win – verb, to get the most points in a competition or game

path – noun, a long, narrow track between one place and another

highest – adj., having a large distance from the bottom to the top

hill – noun, a raised area of land, smaller than a mountain

keep – verb, to have something permanently or for the whole of a period of time

repeated – verb, to say or do something more than once

matter – noun, the reason for pain, worry, or a problem

plan – noun, an arrangement for what you intend to do or how you intend to do something

way – noun, "by the way" - used when you say something new or change to a different subject

sound – noun, something that you hear or that can be heard

B1 Level Words

demands – noun, strong requests

choice – noun, the product of choosing between two or more possibilities

voice – noun, the sounds that are made when people speak or sing

step – noun, one of the movements you make with your feet when you walk

“I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up”

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truth – noun, the real facts about a situation, event or person

get out – verb, to leave a closed vehicle, building, etc.

give up – verb, stop a habit, such as smoking

distance – noun, the amount of space between two places

length – noun, the measurement or distance of something from one end to the other

meant to – verb, to have been wanting and planning to do something

purpose – noun, intention or aim

ruin – noun, the broken parts that are left from a building after it has been destroyed

knocked – to hit, especially forcefully, and cause to move or fall

turn up – verb, to increase the level of sound or heat that a machine produces

call – verb, to yell out to get someone’s attention

B2 Level Words

code – noun, system of words, letters, or signs used to represent a secret message

wise – adj., able to make good judgments, based on life experience

come to – verb, to enter your mind

trail – noun, a path through the countryside, often made or used for a particular purpose

faith – noun, a particular religion or set of beliefs

strength – noun, the ability to do things that need a lot of physical effort or power

parade – noun, a public celebration, usually with bands in the street and decorated vehicles

C1/C2 Level Words

destiny – noun, the things that will happen to someone in the future

long haul – noun, a long distance

resilience – noun, the ability to recover quickly after an injury or something unpleasant

Activity Summary



The activities below are pre-listening tasks for the song “I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up.” Adapt the activities as needed.

Associated Audio



“I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up” by Tony Memmel and his Band

Lesson Plan



1. Before class, print out one copy of the pre-listening worksheet (on the next page) for each student
2. In class, ask students to think about a goal or something they would like to achieve, and give an example from their own lives.
3. Give students time to think and complete the worksheet individually.
4. Put students into small groups and ask them to share their answers.

More Challenging



Ask students to draw a picture that represents their goals.

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"

Tony Memmel and his Band

Read and complete the sentences. Then share your answers with your partner(s).

1. One goal I would like to achieve is...

2. This goal is important because...

3. The steps I will take to achieve this are...

4. I plan to achieve this goal in _____
weeks/months/years.

5. I will know I have completed this goal when...



Activity Summary



The activities below are intermediate/advanced pre-listening tasks for the song "I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up." Adapt the activities as needed.

Associated Audio



"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up" by Tony Memmel and his Band

Lesson Plan



1. Before class, print out one copy of the pre-listening worksheet (on the next page) for each student.
2. In class, ask students what the word *resilience* means.
3. Ask students to write words or phrases related to resilience on their worksheets.
4. Put students into small groups and ask them to share their answers.

More Challenging



Ask students to write a journal entry based on their answers and group discussions.

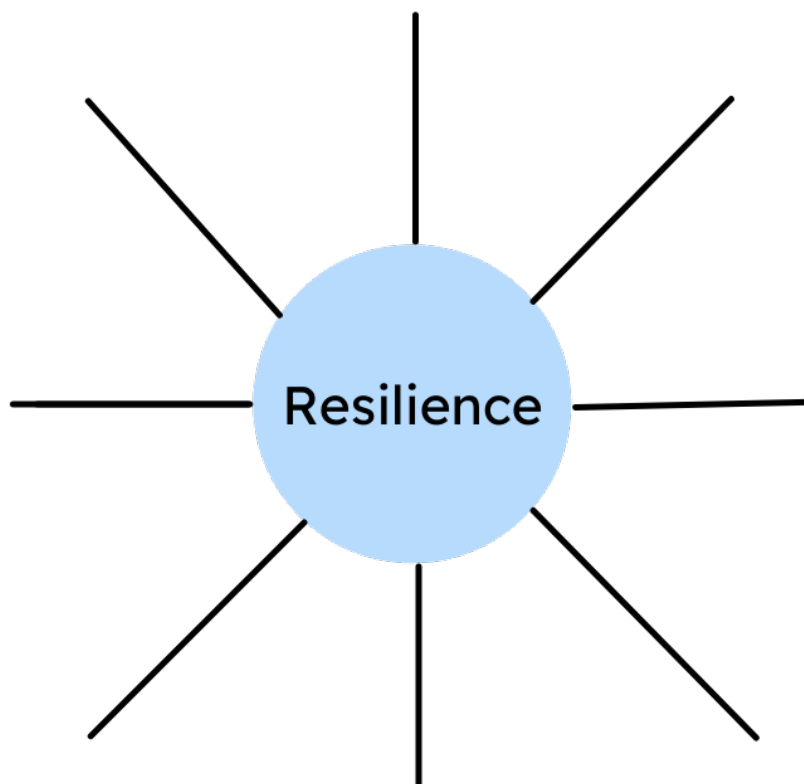
Online Tip



Share the worksheet with students online, and put them into breakout rooms to discuss their answers.

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
Tony Memmel and his Band

Think of words and phrases that you associate with the word *resilience* and write them on the lines of the diagram below. Then complete the sentences. When you are finished, share your answers with your partner(s).



An example of resilience is...

A time when I showed resilience was...

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
Tony Memmel and his Band

Activity Summary



Students put song lyrics into the correct order.

Associated Audio



"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up" by Tony Memmel and his Band

Lesson Plan



1. Before class, print out enough lyrics scramble sheets (found on the next page) for one out of every three students.
2. Cut the song lyrics on the dotted lines.
3. Mix up the order of the lyrics, taking care to keep lyrics from each sheet separate.
4. Put students into small groups and give each group of students one set of the cut-out lyrics.
5. Ask groups to try and put the song lyrics into the correct order.
6. Ask groups to check their answers with another group.
7. Play the song and ask students to check their answers.

Less Challenging



Play the song once between steps 4 and 5. Depending on the level of your students you, can play the song several times.

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
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In the heart there lives a call to a longer haul,
A dream that demands your all.

It's the hardest, clearest choice, when you hear its voice,
Step up and stand tall.

There's an old and simple code you'll learn as you go,
A truth the wise come to know:

You get out what you put in,
then come lose or win,

Sing this anthem of the soul:
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Oh, on your harder days,
when the trail you blaze,

Is feeling more like a maze,
There's a path where there's a will, up the highest hill.

Sing this anthem, keep the faith:
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Gotta get that grit, resilience, and strength.
Gonna go the distance no matter the length.

Gotta be what I am meant to be.
Got a plan, got purpose, got a destiny.

Gonna be ready for anything that comes my way.
No rain'll ruin my parade.

Gotta get good at gettin' up when I get knocked down.
That's my anthem.

Turn up that sound.
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)



"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
Tony Memmel and his Band

Activity Summary



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

Associated Audio



"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up" by Tony Memmel and his Band

Lesson Plan



1. Print enough lyrics gap-fill sheets (found on the next page) for each student.
2. Give each student their own lyrics gap-fill sheet.
3. Ask students to take 1-2 minutes to look at the song lyrics before listening.
4. Play the song and ask students to fill in the missing words. Play the song a second time to complete the worksheet.
5. Put students into groups of 2-3 to check answers.
6. 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.

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. heart | 5. put | 9. keep |
| 2. dream | 6. sing | 10. strength |
| 3. voice | 7. darker | 11. distance |
| 4. tall | 8. hill | 12. purpose |

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"
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In the _____ there lives a call to a longer haul,
A _____ that demands your all.
It's the hardest, clearest choice, when you hear its _____,
Step up and stand _____.
There's an old and simple code you'll learn as you go,
A truth the wise come to know:
You get out what you _____ in,
then come lose or win,
_____ this anthem of the soul:
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Oh, on your _____ days,
when the trail you blaze,
Is feeling more like a maze,
There's a path where there's a will, up the highest _____.
Sing this anthem, _____ the faith:
I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Gotta get that grit, resilience, and _____.
Gonna go the _____ no matter the length.
Gotta be what I am meant to be.
Got a plan, got _____, got a destiny.
Gonna be ready for anything that comes my way.
No rain'll ruin my parade.
Gotta get good at gettin' up when I get knocked down.
That's my anthem.
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I am never, never, never gonna give up. (repeated 6x)

Activity Summary



Students practice listening and pronunciation through rhyming words with song lyrics.

Associated Audio



“I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up” by Tony Memmel and his Band

Lesson Plan



1. Before class, print out one copy of the rhyming words worksheet (on the next page) for each student. (If students are not familiar with the concept of rhyming sounds in English, give a brief explanation before beginning this activity.)
2. Give a few example of pairs of words that rhyme in English. (cat/rat, same/game, ring/sing)
3. Ask students to list more words that rhyme in English.
4. Put students into pairs or small groups and give them each a worksheet.
5. Ask students to find the rhyming words by looking at the song lyrics.
6. Play the song and ask students to check their answers.

More Challenging



Ask students to come up with four lines to add to the song with two groups of rhyming words.

"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"

Intermediate

Tony Memmel and his Band

A rhyme is when two or more words have the same sound on the final syllable of a word. You often hear words that rhyme in songs and poems.

Example: *cut* and *shut*, or *eleven* and *seven*

Each word listed below has a word that rhymes with it in the song. Read the song lyrics and try to find the words that rhyme. Make sure to pronounce the words to check your answers.

1. *call* rhymes with _____
2. *choice* rhymes with _____
3. *go* rhymes with _____
4. *in* rhymes with _____
5. *maze* rhymes with _____
6. *will* rhymes with _____
7. *length* rhymes with _____
8. *destiny* rhymes with _____

Now, listen to the song. Did the words you chose rhyme?

With your partner(s), write four more lines to the song. Make sure to add two groups of rhyming words. Underline the words that rhyme. Then, share your song lyrics with the class.

Activity Summary



Students watch the video and answer the vocabulary questions about the inspiration for the song "I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up."

Associated Audio



"Song Inspiration Video" <https://thelyricsproject.org/package/tony-memmel-and-his-band/>

Lesson Plan



1. Before class, print out one copy of the song inspiration worksheet (on the next page) for each student.
2. Ask students to read the questions first ,and then take notes while they watch the video.
3. Play the video once while students take notes.
4. Tell students to compare their answers with a partner.
5. Play the video a second time, so students can check their answers.
6. After listening a second time, check the answers as a class.

Less Challenging



Encourage students to guess the meaning of the words and phrases from the video. If they cannot guess the meaning, allow them to look them up in a dictionary.

Online Tip



This activity can be easily replicated online. Students can discuss their answers with their classmates in breakout rooms.



"I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up"

Intermediate

Tony Memmel and his Band

Read the following questions. Then, watch the video about the inspiration for the song "I am Never, Never, Never Gonna Give Up" to help you answer the questions. Take notes while you watch the video.

1. Tony Memmel said that this is the kind of song that gets stuck in your head.
Stuck in your head means...
2. What is a song that often gets **stuck in your head**?
3. Tony Memmel said he wants this song to give you **a boost**. How do you feel when you get a boost?
4. Remembering the song will **come in handy**. This means...
5. Tony Memmel says he likes a good old fashioned **sing along**. This is when...
6. Singing this song will get you pumped up. When you are **pumped up**, you feel...
7. What is a song that makes you feel **pumped up**?

