

Sing for your English Workshop

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Why song?

Include the arts in the curriculum and improve your students' outcomes.

Song is good for teaching rhythm, connected speech and intonation.

Song enables the teacher to point out and work on difficult phonemes.

Songs stick in your head.

Songs carry culture. They teach us about culture and are an important part of most cultures.

The emotion attached to a song make it easier to remember.

Singing or chanting is pleasurable and interesting. It increases endorphins which make people relax and feel good.

We can listen to and repeat a song many more times than a standard dialogue.

Using song in the ESL classroom brings several intelligences together at the same time and strengthens the learning process.

Multiple Intelligences Theory by Howard Gardner

- Linguistic
- Logical, mathematical
- Naturalist
- Spatial
- Body – Kinaesthetic
- Musical
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal



Illustration by George Diamandis

Language teaching has used the written form as the model, when actually song is much closer to everyday speech!

Song is used extensively whilst teaching a first language to children.

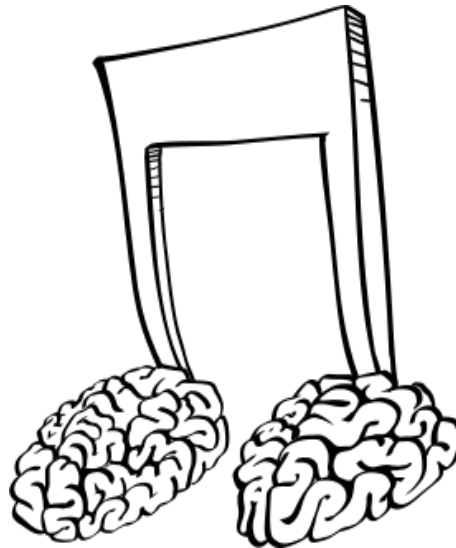
Song reaches learners with left and right brain strengths.

The Brain

Music makes important connections between numerous parts of the brain

The left side

Logical
Interprets the sounds within words



The right side

Creative
Rhythms of speech
(intonation & stress)

Illustration by Monstara

<http://openclipart.org/detail/19500/brain-notes-by-monstara>

Emotions

The limbic system is in the middle of our brain

And.....

It's fun!

I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

William Wordsworth 1770–1850

Quoted from 'The Solitary Reaper'

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