



ABC – The Jackson 5 – Notes



- **Activity types:** Phonetics, listening for specific words, gap fill
- **Level:** Elementary/Pre-intermediate
- **Language Focus:** Informal American English
- **Notes:** The Jackson 5, formed by Michael Jackson (who was only 11 at the time!) and his brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine and Marlon, had four consecutive Number Ones – this was their second, in 1970. The melody was based on the chorus of their previous hit *I Want You Back*, and one of the songwriters, Freddie Perren, was a former school teacher.
- The lyrics include the English spelling mnemonic “i before e except after c”. There are, of course, many exceptions to this useful rule, including *their*, *weigh* and *eight*. A full list can be found at http://alt-usage-english.org/I_before_E.html
- The “three Rs” are also mentioned: Reading, writing and arithmetic, the basic literacy and numeracy skills. According to Wikipedia, the phrase was used for the first time by Sir William Curtis in 1795 and is at the very basis of modern English education system.
- This worksheet was written to commemorate the publication of the 200th worksheet on www.tuneintoenglish.com.

Pre-listening activities

1. **Game:** Ask the students to write the following, as a race with a partner:
 - the 26 letters of the alphabet
 - the 7 musical notes (Do – Re – Mi – Fa – Sol – La – Ti)
 - the numbers 1 to 10 (you can ask them to write the words rather than the numbers)
2. Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet and ask them to list the words in the correct column according to their final vowel sounds.

Key:

/ɪ/	/i:/	/ɔ:/	/u:/	/aʊ/
arithmetic - bit	be - C - complete - me - melody - mi - seat - three - tree	before - four	do - two	about - out - now

Note: There is a Phonetic Chart on the Teacher’s Area of www.tuneintoenglish.com

Listening activities

1. Play the song. Students tick each word as they hear it.
2. Ask them to unfold the worksheet and to complete the lyrics with the words from Activity 1 according to the context and the rhyming words.
3. Play the song. Students check their answers in pairs or in groups. For the **Key** see the complete version of the song.
4. Correct in open class, play the song again and sing together!

Language Focus

Point out that *gonna*, *gotta* and *ain’t* are often used in spoken informal American English and stand for *going to*, *‘ve got to* and *isn’t*.



ABC – The Jackson 5



Activity 1. List the words below in the correct column according to their final vowel sounds.
 about - arithmetic - be - before - bit - C - complete - do - four - me
 melody - mi - now - out - seat - three - tree - two

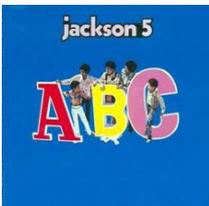
/ɪ/ (2)	/i:/ (9)	/ɔ:/ (2)	/u:/ (2)	/aʊ/ (3)
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FOLD

Activity 2. Complete the lyrics with the words above.

You went to school to learn, girl
 What you never, never knew _____
 Like I before E except after _____
 And why 2 plus 2 makes _____
 Now, now, _____

I'm gonna teach you
 (Teach you, teach you)
 All about love, dear
 (All about love)
 Sit yourself down, take a _____
 All you gotta do is repeat after _____



Chorus 1:

A B _____
 Easy as 1 2 _____
 Oh, simple as do re _____
 A B _____, 1 2 _____
 Baby, you and _____, girl

Repeat Chorus 1

(Come on, let me love you just a little _____)
 (Come on, let me love you just a little _____)
 I'm gonna teach you how to sing it _____
 Come on, come on, come on
 Let me show you what it's all _____
 Reading, writing, _____
 Are the branches of the learning _____
 But, listen, without the roots of love everyday, girl
 Your education ain't _____

T- T- T- Tito's gonna show you
 (show you, show you)
 How to get an A
 Spell " _____ " and "you", add the _____
 Listen to _____, baby
 That's all you gotta _____

Repeat Chorus 1

Chorus 2:

A B _____, it's easy,
 It's like counting up to _____
 Sing a simple _____
 That's how easy love can _____

That's how easy love can _____
 Sing a simple _____
 1 2 **3**, you and _____!

Repeat Chorus 2

Sit down, girl!
 I think I love you!
 No, get up, girl!
 Show _____ what you can _____
 Shake it, shake it baby, come on _____
 Shake it, shake it baby, ooh ooh
 Shake it, shake it baby, huh
 1 2 _____ baby, ooh ooh
 A B _____ baby, na na
 Do re _____ baby, now
 That's how easy love can _____

I'm gonna teach you
 How to sing it _____
 Come on, come on, come on
 Let _____ show you what it's all _____

Repeat Chorus 2

I'm gonna teach you
 How to sing it _____
 (sing it out, sing it _____), oh baby

Repeat Chorus 2



ABC – The Jackson 5 – Complete



You went to school to learn, girl
 What you never, never knew **before**
 Like I before E except after **C**
 And why 2 plus 2 makes **4**
 Now, now, **now**

I'm gonna teach you
 (Teach you, teach you)
 All about love, dear
 (All about love)
 Sit yourself down, take a **seat**
 All you gotta do is repeat after **me**

Chorus 1:

A B C
 Easy as 1 2 **3**
 Oh, simple as do re **mi**
 A B **C**, 1 2 **3**
 Baby, you and **me**, girl

Repeat Chorus 1

(Come on, let me love you just a little **bit**)
 (Come on, let me love you just a little **bit**)
 I'm gonna teach you how to sing it **out**
 Come on, come on, come on
 Let me show you what it's all **about**
 Reading, writing, **arithmetic**
 Are the branches of the learning **tree**
 But, listen, without the roots of love everyday, girl
 Your education ain't **complete**

T- T- T- Tito's gonna show you
 (show you, show you)
 How to get an A
 Spell "**me**" and "you", add the **two**
 Listen to **me**, baby
 That's all you gotta **do**

Repeat Chorus 1

Chorus 2:

A B **C**, it's easy,
 It's like counting up to **3**
 Sing a simple **melody**
 That's how easy love can **be**

That's how easy love can **be**
 Sing a simple **melody**
 1 2 **3**, you and **me**!

Repeat Chorus 2

I'm gonna teach you
 How to sing it **out**
 Come on, come on, come on
 Let **me** show you what it's all **about**

Sit down, girl!
 I think I love you!
 No, get up, girl!
 Show **me** what you can **do**
 Shake it, shake it baby, come on **now**
 Shake it, shake it baby, ooh ooh
 Shake it, shake it baby, huh
 1 2 **3** baby, ooh ooh
 A B **C** baby, na na
 Do re **mi** baby, now
 That's how easy love can **be**

Repeat Chorus 2

I'm gonna teach you
 How to sing it **out**
 (sing it out, sing it **out**), oh baby
Repeat Chorus 2