

Teaching English for Young Learners with Songs

By

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English is an international language, it is very useful and important, with English we can communicate over the world. In Indonesia English is a foreign language, but it is very popular, it is taught in all levels educations stages. In many years, teaching foreign language to children was seen as something additional to the normal curriculum of the school system. Increasingly, educators have come to recognize the importance of starting foreign language learning at an early age.

Teaching English for young learners will very completely different with teaching English for adult. Young learners are unique. They are different with adult, they have very different needs, interest and abilities from adult and more enthusiastic than adult in language activity. In Indonesia, interest in teaching English to young learners has been steadily growing in recent years. Many parents believe that by studying English from early stage their children will get a better future. Because of that the Indonesia Ministry of Education has begun to respond by introducing English as a foreign language in elementary school, even in kindergarten.

Using songs is one of the marvelous ways in introducing English vocabulary to the young learners. The learners, the parents, and the teachers can get many benefits from this method. In the following paragraphs, we will classify and explain in detail the benefits of using songs in learning English by looking at the side of the young learners itself, the teachers, and the parents.

Orlova (1997) identifies that songs can encourage learners to use English. The English teachers from many non-English speaking countries find the difficulty in stimulating learners to use English in speaking; songs may be the starting point to train the students in speaking English. It will help teachers in motivating students to be more active and confident to speak English. For instance, Joshua, a three-year-old boy, who has a great skill in speaking English with other people. In his age of three, he is able to introduce himself, asking someone's name, telling what he is recently doing, etc. He has confidence since he has already had good vocabularies in his mind and songs help him to learn how to memorize foreign words and the structures of them in a sentence easily.

Music can have a very beneficial role in teaching young learners. It can help to establish a classroom 'atmosphere', it can make learning more memorable and it can give a sense of security and comfort to the children. Songs and chants, in paryicular, are very useful in developing confidence in English and giving practice, but instrumental music can also be used to great effect in the classroom.

Practical ideas

- If you play music when you are starting a lesson, you can help the children to ease into their English class and make the 'psychological switch' from what they were doing immediately before.
- Different types of music can be used to affect the pace that the students are working at. If, for example, they are working on a craft activity, you could play some soft classical music, which will encourage them to work with care. If you want them to work more quickly, you can choose faster, more rhythmic music.

The parents are ones of people who will get the benefit if their children learn English by using song. They will have an easy way to do the review when their children come home from school. For the example, Joshua's Mom who always does the review on what Didi got from school in the car on the way home. Didi always tells everything and sings the English vocabulary learning song he has learnt. In short, the review can be done everywhere and anywhere. In the dining table during the dinner time, in the family room while watching TV program or in the bedroom before their lovely children go to bed. The thing they should do is just by asking them what song they learnt at school and voluntarily the children will start to sing. The parents should listen carefully and correct anytime the children do something wrong in their pronunciation. Doesn't it seem fun? Songs always turn everything easy and fun.

In conclusion, songs turn out to be important things in learning, especially learning English. Many people including the learners, the parents, and the teachers feel the benefits of songs itself. The learning process becomes easier and enjoyable since the songs method comes out in the learning methods. As the future teachers, we should dig our creativity deeper in order to get an improvement in teaching. By giving a new idea of teaching, the purpose of learning will be easier to accomplish.

Children Songs

1. ABC

ABCDEF

GHIJKLMNOP

QRSTU and V

WXY and Z

Now You've heard my ABC

Tell me what you think of me

2. Ten Little Fingers

One, little two, little three, little fingers

For, little five, little six, little fingers

Seven, little eight, little nine, little fingers

Ten little fingers hands

3. Ten Little Indians

One, little two, little three, little indians

For, little five, little six, little indians

Seven, little eight, little nine, little indians

Ten little fingers indians

4. Old Mc Donald

Old Mc Donald has a farm

E, I, E, O

And on his farm he has some ducks

E, I, E, O

With a quack quack here

And a quack quack there

Here quack

There quack

Everywhere quack quack

Old Mc Donald has a farm

E, I, E, I, O

5. BINGO

There was a farmer had a dog and

BINGO was his name

And BINGO was his name

B-I-N-G-O

B-I-N-G-O

B-I-N-G-O

And BINGO was his name

6. My Eyes, My Ears, My Nose, My Mouth

My Eyes, My Ears, My Nose, My

Mouth

My Eyes, My Ears, My Nose, My

Mouth

We all clap hands together

7. That is

That is the window and that is the door

That is the blackboard this is the floor

8. Days of The Week

Sunday Monday Tuesday

Wednesday and Thursday, Friday

Saturday all those are the days of the week

9. Months

January February March April May

June July August September

Oktober November December

10. I have a cock

I have a cock as you can see

I like my cock and my cock likes me

My little cock says

Kukuruyuuukk

11. Wheel on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round

Round and round, round and round

The wheels on the bus go round and round

All through the town.

The wipers on the bus go "Swish, swish, swish,

Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish"

The wipers on the bus go "Swish, swish, swish"

All through the town.

The door on the bus goes open and shut

Open and shut, open and shut

The door on the bus goes open and shut

All through the town.

The horn on the bus goes "Beep, beep, beep"

Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep,
 beep"
 The horn on the bus goes "Beep,
 beep, beep"
 All through the town.
 The horn on the bus goes "Beep,
 beep, beep
 Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep,
 beep"
 The horn on the bus goes "Beep,
 beep, beep"
 All through the town.
 The money on the bus goes "Clink,
 clink, clink,
 Clink, clink, clink, clink, clink,
 clink"
 The money on the bus goes "Clink,
 clink, clink"
 All through the town.
 The baby on the bus says, "Wah,
 wah, wah!"
 Wah, wah, wah, wah, wah, wah!"
 The baby on the bus says, "Wah,
 wah, wah!"
 All through the town.
 The people on the bus say, "Shh,
 shh, shh,
 Shh, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh"
 The people on the bus say, "Shh,
 shh, shh"
 All through the town.
 The mommy on the bus says, "I
 love you,
 I love you, I love you"
 The daddy on the bus says, "I love
 you, too"
 All through the town.

12. The Bear went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,
 The bear went over the mountain,
 The bear went over the mountain,
 To see what he could see
 To see what he could see,
 To see what he could see
 The other side of the mountain,
 The other side of the mountain,

The other side of the mountain,
 Was all that he could see
 Was all that he could see,
 Was all that he could see,
 The other side of the mountain,
 Was all that he could see!

13. Can You Touch Your Toes

Can you touch your toes
 Can you hold your knee
 Hore hore..
 Can you touch your toes

14. London Bridge

[London Bridge](#) is falling down,
 Falling down, falling down.
 London Bridge is falling down,
 My fair lady.

15. Head and Shoulders

Head and shoulders, knees and
 toes, knees and toes,
 Head and shoulders, knees and
 toes, knees and toes,
 And eyes and ears and mouth and
 nose,
 Head and shoulders, knees and
 toes, knees and toes.
 Ankles, elbows, feet and seat, feet
 and seat,
 Ankles, elbows, feet and seat, feet
 and seat,
 And hair and hips and chin and
 cheeks,
 Ankles, elbows, feet and seat, feet
 and sea

16. Twinkle twinkle Little Stars

How I wonder what you are.
 Up above the world so high,
 Like a diamond in the sky.
 Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
 How I wonder what you are!
 When the blazing sun is gone,
 When there's nothing he shines
 upon,
 Then you show your little light,
 Twinkle, twinkle, through the
 night.
 Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
 How I wonder what you are!

In the dark blue sky so deep
 Through my curtains often peep
 For you never close your eyes
 Til the morning sun does rise
 Twinkle, twinkle, little star
 How I wonder what you are
 Twinkle, twinkle, little star
 How I wonder what you are

17. Blubird

Bluebird, bluebird, through my window.

Bluebird, bluebird, through my window.

Bluebird, bluebird, through my window.

Oh, Johnny, I am tired.

Redbird, redbird, through my window.

Redbird, redbird, through my window.

Redbird, redbird, through my window.

Oh, Johnny, I am tired.

Yellowbird, yellowbird, through my window.

Yellowbird, yellowbird, through my window.

Yellowbird, yellowbird, through my window.

Oh, Johnny, I am tired.

18. Are You Sleeping / Studying

Are you sleeping

Are you sleeping

Brother John Brother John

Morning Bells are ringing

Morning Bells are ringing

Ding Ding Dong

Ding Ding Dong

19. If you are Happy?

If you're happy and you know it,
 clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it,
 clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it,
 clap your hands. (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it,
 stomp your feet (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it,
 stomp your feet (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it,
 stomp your feet. (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it,
 shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it,
 shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it,
 shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it, do
 all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp,
 hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it, do
 all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp,
 hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it, do
 all three. (clap-clap, stomp-stomp,
 hoo-ray!)

20. A Hundred Miles

If you miss the train I'm on, you
 will know that I am gone

You can hear the whistle blow a
 hundred miles,

A hundred miles, a hundred miles,
 a hundred miles, a hundred miles,

You can hear the whistle blow a
 hundred miles.

Lord I'm one, Lord I'm two, Lord
 I'm three, Lord I'm four,

Lord I'm 500 miles from my home.
 500 miles, 500 miles, 500 miles,
 500 miles

Lord I'm five hundred miles from
 my home.

Not a shirt on my back, not a penny

to my name
Lord I can't go a-home this a-way
This a-away, this a-way, this a-
way, this a-way,
Lord I can't go a-home this a-way.

If you miss the train I'm on you
will know that I am gone
You can hear the whistle blow a
hundred miles.

21. Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be
forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be
forgot,
And day of auld lang syne!
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.