

# **Music in the EFL Classroom**

# Topics Covered

- Why Music?
  - Cognitive benefits
  - Other benefits
- How can you incorporate it?
- Example Lessons
  - Beginning
  - Intermediate
  - Advanced

# Why music?

- What does the research say?
  - Students with a musical background have an easier time learning a second language
  - OPERA hypothesis
    - Overlap Precision Emotion Repetition Attention

# Why music?

- Non-scientific reasons
  - Students enjoy learning other subjects through the arts
  - With performing more than visual arts, students are willing to make mistakes

**I HAVE NO IDEA**



**WHAT I'M DOING**

See More Crazy Pictures & Videos on [Owned.com](http://Owned.com)

# How can I use music?

- Chants and songs contained in Hi, Friends!
- Teach a dance to a song with lots of directions
- Use a song to teach vocab or grammar, or as part of a themed lesson
- Mnemonics

# Example lessons

# Beginner: Success Through Chants

- Follow basic song-teaching procedure to teach chants
- No singing ability required
- Some rhythmic ability required
- Ability to not forget the order in which they said things is helpful (oops)



# Song — — — > Chant

1. Listen to song
  2. Look at words, listen again
  3. Speak lyrics out of rhythm
    1. Words -> phrases -> lines  
-> verses
  4. Speak lyrics in rhythm
    1. Phrases -> lines -> verses
  5. Add pitches
    1. phrases-> lines -> verses
1. Listen to chant
    1. Bonus points for writing the words on the board now
  2. Students repeat after you
  3. Split 50/50 with students
    1. Q only / A only / fill-in
  4. Switch and repeat
  5. Split class in half
  6. Switch and repeat

**Let's try!**

Do you like~~?

# Let's try!

We are good friends

(AKA the chant that is way harder than it needs to be)

# Intermediate: Let's Dance!

- Use a song that gives directions for a dance to teach directions and actions
- Example songs: Cha Cha Slide, YMCA, the Hustle???
- No singing ability required
- Little rhythmic ability required (just follow the beat)
- Ability to dance entirely optional
- Good for perking up a sleepy after-lunch class
- Requires students to listen to a voice other than yours for directions

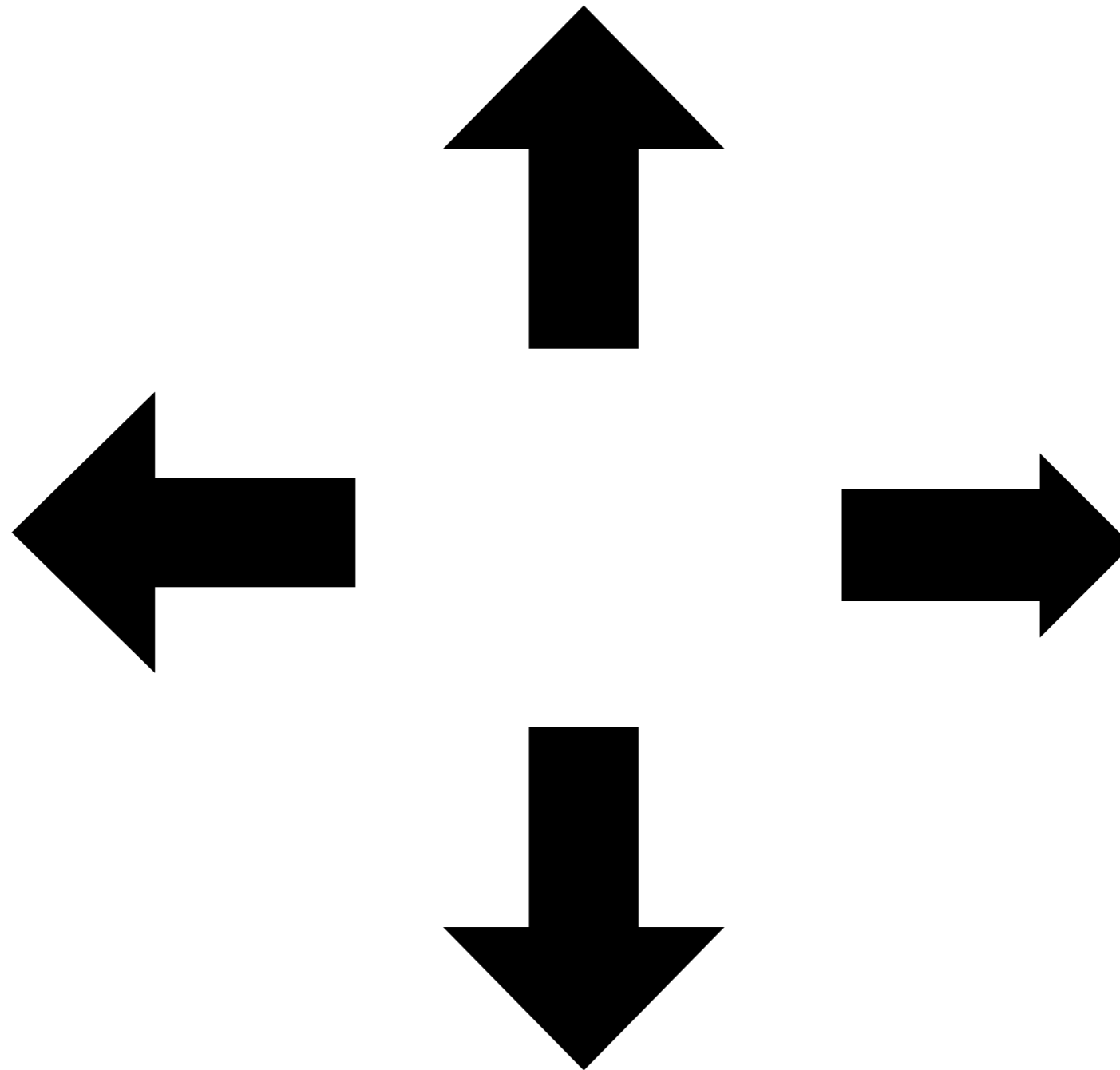
# Let's try!

Cha-Cha Slide  
(as taught to 6th Graders)

# WARNING

I taught this lesson once three months ago and some of my classes still say “cha cha” randomly. Proceed with caution.

# What's this?



 **DANCE TIME!** 

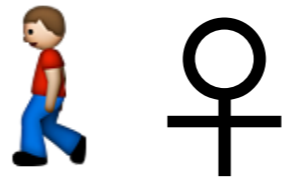
Cha-Cha slide



**Clap your hands**



Step



(“To the \_\_\_\_\_”)

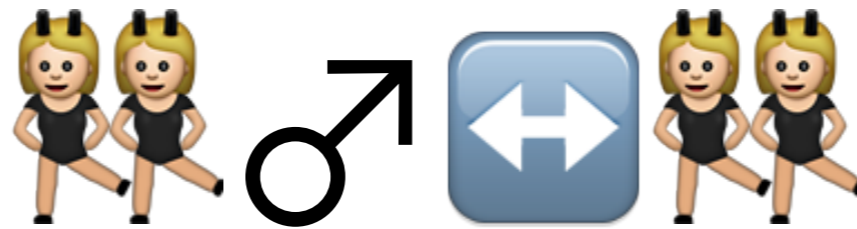
Hop



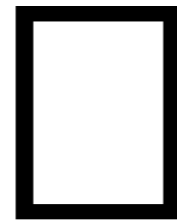
# Stomp



# Slide



# Cha-cha



# Criss cross



# Let's dance!



♀ Step “to the \_\_\_\_\_”

□ Hop



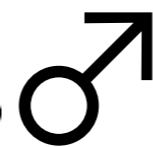
Stomp



□ cha-cha



Criss-cross



Slide



# Advanced: Learning a song

- Use a song that includes target grammar or vocabulary
  - Google is your friend
- Vocal and instrumental ability optional (recording is OK!)
  - Helpful if you can be a vocal model
  - Don't need to be an opera star, but maybe don't be sick
- Easily adaptable for any age level

# Let's Try!

Jingle Bells  
Christmas Lesson

**Dashing through the snow, on a one horse open sleigh  
Over the fields we go, laughing all the way  
Bells on bobtails ring, making sprits bright  
What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight, oh!**

**Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh, hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh**

# Other Ideas

Friday I'm in Love  
Days of the Week

I don't care if Monday's **blue**  
Tuesday's **grey** and Wednesday too  
Thursday I don't care about you  
It's Friday, I'm in love 🥰  
Saturday, wait 🙅  
And Sunday always comes too late  
But Friday never hesitate

# Hints

- Be an accurate but not intimidating example
- Show you aren't afraid to make mistakes
- Tell kids the words are more important than the pitches
  - Hi Friends days of the week song is TOO HIGH

# Other: Mnemonics

- Helpful for memorizing unusual words - I still remember Japanese ones I learned 9 years ago!
- Make some catchy ones and encourage students to make their own!
  - Google is your friend again (esp. for similar words you might not have thought of as a native speaker)
- Note: only helps memorization, not speaking

# Simple example: days of the week

- Sunday (日) kanji for sun
- Monday = Moon-day (月) = noodle day for school lunch is usually Monday → めんday
- Tuesday = TWOs-day = second school day of the week
- Wednesday = WINs-day = it's a win because we have English and you can win stickers! Or because the week is half over!



# Simple example: days of the week

- Thursday is Thor's favorite day of the week because he goes to dinner with the other Avengers
- Friday is a good day to eat フイツシュフライ because it hurts my stomach and I don't have to go to work the next day
- Saturday (土)=ground, explain sat = 座る, on Saturday there's no school so you can sit down and read a book/ play games/watch TV/ do your homework

# Any questions?

