

L e s s o n P l a n

FAST CAR

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Level: Adult Intermediate to Upper Intermediate

Time: about 45 minutes

Aims: modals (giving suggestions and criticising), listening for detail, reading comprehension, writing, oral paraphrasing and discussion

Materials: one copy of Fast Car Worksheet per student, recording of Fast Car by Tracy Chapman (Tracy Chapman album)

Procedure:

Warmup: Talking about their favourite music. Discussion - What is more important, the lyrics or the music? How much attention do you pay to the lyrics? ... other similar questions which would get the ss started.

Lead in: When you feel that they are relaxed and ready to start, tell them that they are going to listen to the song, and fill the gaps, and that after that the music will be left behind and the song will be treated as a piece of poetry.

Central part: Reading and comprehension: Step one - ss read the statements and decide whether they are true or false (in pairs)
Step two - the ss find the lines in the text and answer the questions, (this will tell you whether they have grasped the true meaning of the song)
Step 3 Exercise three - Retelling, student A retells the first part of the song, and then listens to the student B retelling the second part.

Follow up 1: Exercise four: SS work in groups, trying to give some pieces of advice to the woman (at this point it can be interesting to name the woman). They should start their sentences with : »She should... She ought to... She should not... She ought not to...«

Follow up 2: If you have covered the construction MODAL + PERFECT INF. The ss can criticise her behavior starting like this:« She should not have...she ought not have...«

Wrap up: This can be done for homework if there is not enough time left.

Ask the ss to think about her life after her husband left her

Fast car

Tracy Chapman

You got a fast car
I want a ticket to anywhere
Maybe we make a deal
Maybe together we can get somewhere
Anyplace is better
Starting from zero got nothing to lose
Maybe we'll make something
But me myself I got nothing to prove
You got a fast car
And I got a plan to get us out of here
I been working in the convenience store
Managed to save just a little bit of money
We won't have to drive too far
Just 'cross the border and into the city
You and I can both get jobs
And finally see what it means to be living
You see my old man's got a problem
He live with the bottle that's the way it is
He says his body's too old for working
I say his body's too young to look like his
My mama went off and left him
She wanted more from life than he could give
I said somebody's got to take care of him
So I quit school and that's what I did
You got a fast car
But is it fast enough so we can fly away
We gotta make a decision
We leave tonight or live and die this way
I remember we were driving, driving in your car
The speed so fast I felt like I was drunk
City lights lay out before us
And your arm felt nice wrapped 'round my shoulder
And I had a feeling that I belonged
And I had feeling I could be someone, be someone..

You got a fast car
And we go cruising to entertain ourselves
You still ain't got a job
And I work in a market as a checkout girl
I know things will get better
You'll find work and I'll get promoted
Well move out of the shelter
Buy a big house and live in the suburbs
You got a fast car
And I got a job that pays all our bills
You stay out drinking late at the bar
See more your friends than you do of your kids
I'd always hoped for better
Thought maybe together you and me would find it
I got no plans I ain't going nowhere
So take your fast car and keep on driving
You got a fast car
But is it fast enough so you can fly away
You gotta make a decision
You leave tonight or live and die this way