

22 Songs to Help Improve your English Pronunciation



Studies show songs to be useful in developing accurate pronunciation. They can be especially helpful in developing natural sounding rhythm in English. Most songs include great examples of grouping and connecting words, pausing and stressing correct syllables and words. They are also a fun, low-stress way to practice oral English. In addition, most include contractions & reductions, which are an important part of fluent spoken English. Common reductions to look for include: wanna, gonna, cause, in for ing, 'em, and others.

Below is a list of songs that can help you speak better English. Make sure to locate the song with lyrics. Lyrics are the words to the song. You can watch them on Youtube or similar sites. The app “Shazam” also has songs with the lyrics. Pick some favorites from this list, or choose your own favorites. Sing along until you know all the words. Then see if you can find the karaoke version of the song. Youtube also has those. Or get a karaoke app to practice. Only do karaoke after you have practiced singing along with the singer many times and know all the words. We want to make sure you are developing a natural English intonation pattern. As a final step, record yourself singing and compare to the original to see how good your accent is.

For this list, I chose songs that will make you feel good. Some have beautiful lyrics or a great happy sound or high energy. They're also full of plenty of real language, including slang. Sing along and improve your pronunciation. What a great way to practice English and have fun too!

Slow Songs to Start Out With

Song title: “Can you Feel the Love Tonight?”

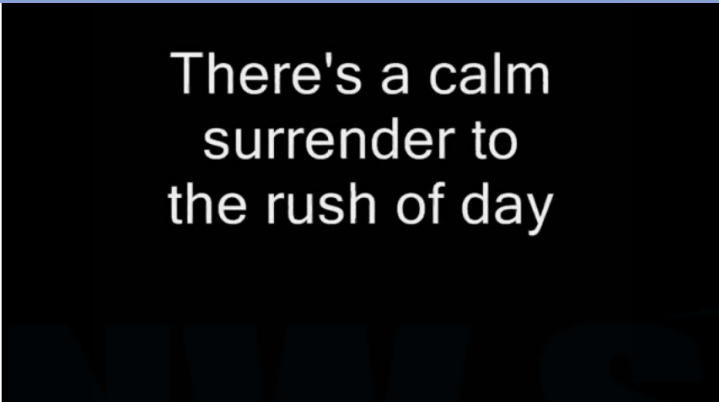
Singer: Elton John

Year released: 1994

Type: Pop

From the Disney movie “The Lion King”. Very, very slow love song. A good slow illustration of linking to start with.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTtgVSxfr5M>



There's a calm
surrender to
the rush of day

Song title: “Chasing Cars”

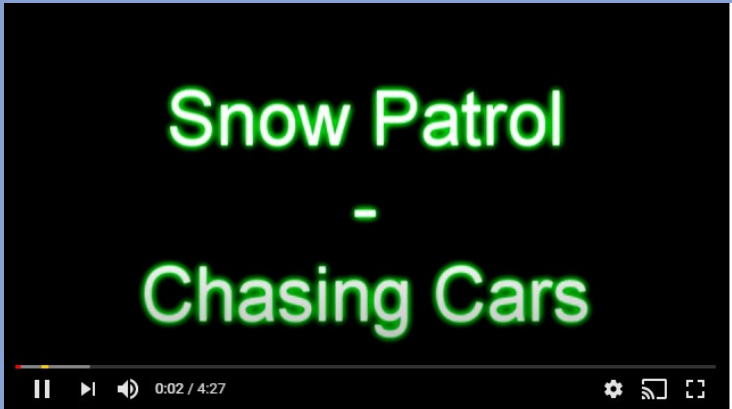
Singer: Snow Patrol

Year released: 2006

Type: Alternative/Indie

Very slow, clear lyrics. Very easy to sing along. Great for beginner, good linking.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaKr98ktoxU>



Snow Patrol
-
Chasing Cars

Song title: “Colors of the Wind”

Singer: Vanessa Williams

Year released: 1995

Type: Film music

A beautiful slower song. Clear, but complex lyrics – not much repetition. From the Disney movie “Pocahontas” with a beautiful message of respecting all of the Earth and it’s creatures and living in harmony.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8rU2CK_1FI



Song title: “I Just Called to Say I Love You”

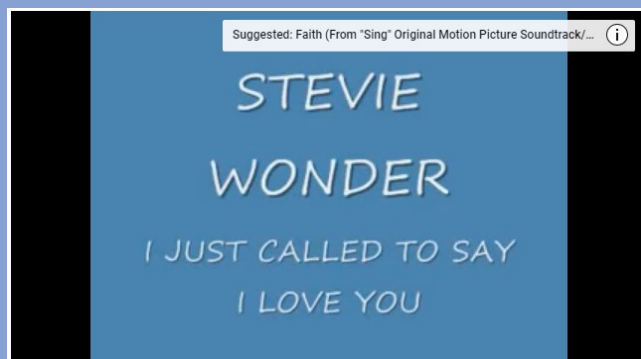
Singer: Stevie Wonder

Year released: 1984

Type: Pop

A great love song to sing to your sweetie, especially for Valentine’s Day. Slow, simple words, easy to sing along.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Thq_9yRPGRo



Song title: “If I had a Million Dollars”

Singer: Barenaked Ladies

Year released: 1992

Type: Alternative

Fun and silly song. Slow lyrics, easy to sing along with. Repeated grammatical structure: “If I had....., I’d ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4L3ls_6UYg



Song title: “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay”

Singer: Otis Redding

Year released: 1968

Type: Classic soul, Pop

Very relaxed sound and mood. Clear, repetitive lyrics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISxskvJ9FwI>



Song title: “Stay with Me”

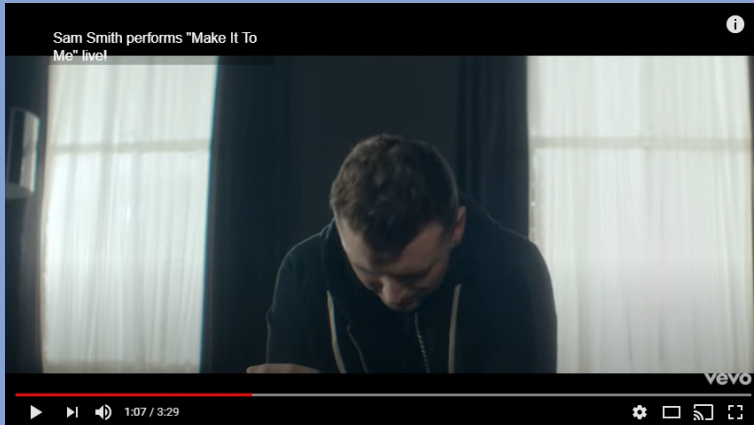
Singer: Sam Smith

Year released: 2014

Type: Soul

Soulful sound, lyrics about one night stand may offend, but language is clean. Slow and easy to sing to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB-5XG-DbAA>



Song title: “The Wind Beneath My Wings”

Singer: Bette Midler

Year released: 1988

Type: Pop

Very slow, easy to sing song with a lovely tribute to a hero. Tempo makes it sound a bit sad, but sentiment is beautiful. From the movie “Beaches”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jorJh8DTMVM>



Song title: “You Decorated My Life”

Singer: Kenny Rogers

Year released: 1979

Type: Country

An old song, very slow, very romantic, beautiful love song with interesting poetic lyrics. Easy to sing along to.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W7gp47OT_Q



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Medium-Paced Songs

Song title: “I Don’t Wanna Miss a Thing”

Singer: Aerosmith

Year released: 1998

Type: Hard Rock Ballad

Nice love song. Clear lyrics - easy to sing along to. Medium speed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ss0kFNUP4P4>



Song title: “It’s My Life”

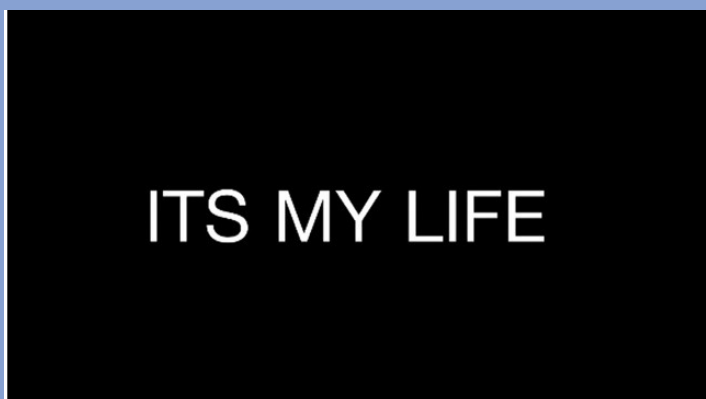
Singer: No Doubt

Year released: 2003

Type: Rock

Catchy, lively tune, repetitive lyrics. A little bit of slurred lyrics, but mostly clear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVob1D8WIBM>



Song title: “Need You Now”

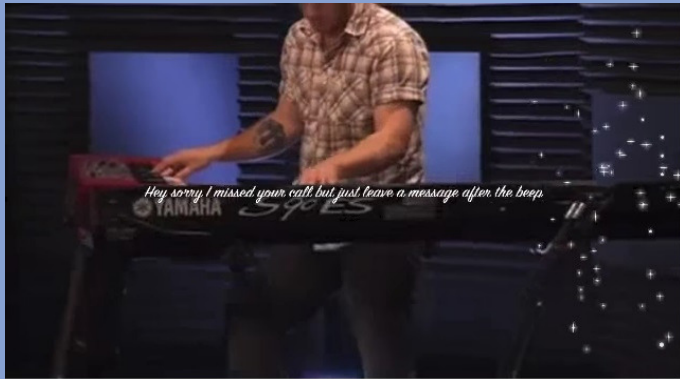
Singer: Lady Antebellum

Year released: 2010

Type: Country

Love song with a country music sound. More complex lyrics, but clear and easy to sing along to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLAR4k56wUo>



Song title: “Truly, Madly, Deeply”

Singer: Savage Garden

Year released: 1997

Type: Adult Contemporary, Pop

Slower, singable, easy to follow lyrics. Lots of final L and R sounds. Good examples of contractions (I'll) & wanna.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBwnnaznX9I>



Song title: “Unwritten”

Singer: Natasha Bedingfield

Year released: 2004

Type: Pop

High energy, fun sound. Great upbeat message.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtGY4G7II6s>

**Song: Unwritten
Artist: Natasha
Bedingfield**

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Fast Paced, Fun, Feel-Good Songs to Sing Along to If You Can Keep Up!

Song title: "A Thousand Miles"


Singer: Vanessa Carlton

Year released: 2001

Type: Baroque Pop, Pop Rock

Very energetic. I love the music most. Story of missing a lost love. A bit fast to sing too, but clear lyrics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sg0CeRog-yQ>



Making my way
downtown,
walking fast

Song title: "As Long as you Love me"

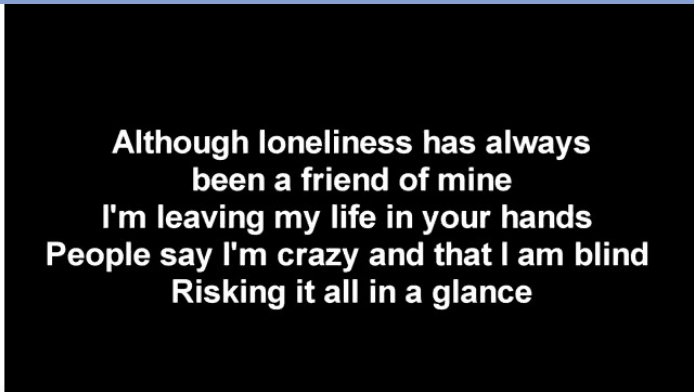
Singer: Backstreet Boys

Year released: 1997

Type: Pop

Peppy, love song. Lots of lyrics, but very clear. A challenge to sing - for those who are advanced.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLch6glos-U>



Although loneliness has always
been a friend of mine
I'm leaving my life in your hands
People say I'm crazy and that I am blind
Risking it all in a glance

Song title: “Can’t Stop the Feeling”

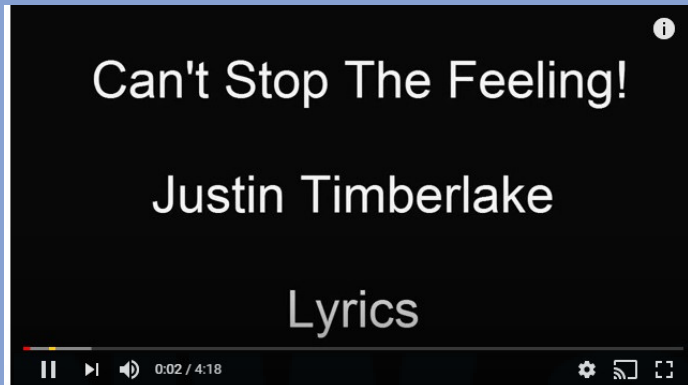
Singer: Justin Timberlake

Year released: 2016

Type: Pop

Great danceable high energy feel good song. Fast paced, but singable with some practice. Slightly sexually suggestive lyrics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEZq4I2wTBc>



Song title: “Counting Stars”

Singer: One Republic

Year released: 2013

Type: Pop

Fast paced peppy song. Lots of lyrics, so challenging to sing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yim4--J44gk>



Song title: "I Gotta Feeling"

Singer: The Black Eyed Peas

Year released: 2009

Type: Pop

Party song. Fast paced, fun to sing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAFSFmnxxBc>

**I Gotta Feeling That
Tonight's Gonna Be A Good
Night**

Song title: "It's My Life"

Singer: Bon Jovi

Year released: 2000

Type: Rock

Great melody, advanced level karaoke favorite.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SKFwtgUJHs>

No silent
prayer for faith-
departed.

Song title: “Shake it off”

Singer: Taylor Swift

Year released: 2014

Type: Pop

This song has it all, a catchy tune, great beat, danceable, fun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIOVMHMNfJ4>



Song title: “Walking on Sunshine”

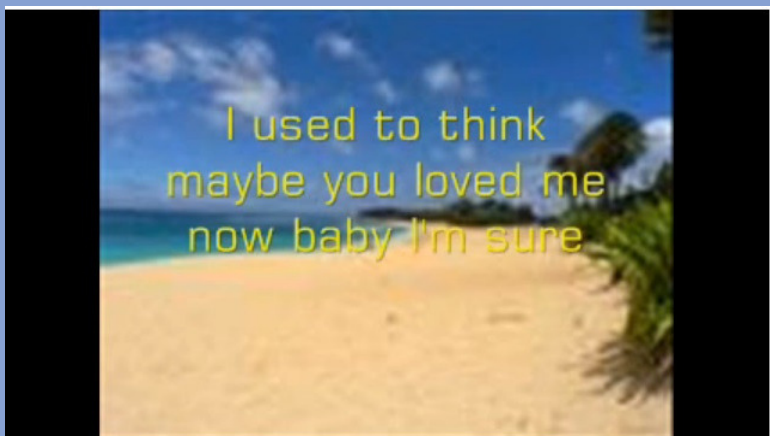
Singer: Katrina and the Waves

Year released: 1983

Type: Pop

Faced paced, happy song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKhOdLlulu8>





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