

You probably already know that music is a great way to learn and practice English. Choosing who to listen to can be difficult, though, as there are so many great artists and music genres available. Choosing who to listen to can be almost as difficult as learning English.

In these handouts, we're going to look at some of the more popular western artists. We'll talk a little bit about their personal lives and also learn the lyrics (words) from one or two of their more popular songs. Questions about the artists and their music can be sent to me at teacher@englishforlife.ca.

~~The Oneeders~~ The Wonders

Although technically not a band, "The Wonders" are the **fictitious** band from a movie titled "That Thing You Do". The movie is a **cult classic** that has inspired other bands to take the fictitious band's name (in one form or another) and numerous bands and musicians to perform covers of the movie's music. In the movie, a group of young musicians from smalltown Erie, Indiana, get a lucky break when a last minute replacement drummer decides to turn the group's song, a romantic ballad, into a dance tempo. This sets off a **chain reaction** that results in the song's becoming a nationwide hit and the band's becoming a national phenomenon.

The movie, which was released publicly in 1996, was given a **mediocre** review by famous movie critic Roger Ebert but this didn't dissuade an enthusiastic public from making the film a hit movie. The ripples spread even further, with the city of Erie **latching onto** the film as a calling card for the city's 15 minutes of fame. The actors from the movie were even invited to come and **perform** in Japan, an event that almost didn't happen when actor Tom Everett Scott got to the plane only to realize he didn't have his passport.

In the movie, the band's leader Jimmy decides the band should be called "the One-ders" which leads to the general public thinking the band is called "the On-eeders" and one of the central jokes in the film. When they **sign** with the fictitious Playtone Records, they're renamed "the Wonders" and become part of a music industry **campaign** to replace the Beatles with an American band. It doesn't happen and the band breaks up within several months, due to the pressures of the industry and the long days on tour.

Clips of the movie are **widespread** on YouTube and the movie can be purchased from or viewed on iTunes. It's worth watching but, even if you don't, the songs which were written for the movie are infectious and worth listening to. The movie's actors have reunited on several occasions, including during the recent COVID pandemic when they **reunited** once again in memory of Adam Schlesinger, who wrote the movie's songs but died as a result of the COVID outbreak.

Lyrics

That Thing You Do

You, doing that thing you do,
Breaking my heart into a million pieces
Like you always do,
And you, don't mean to be cruel,
You never knew about the heartache
I've been going through

Well, I try and try to forget you, girl
But it's just so hard to do
Every time you do that thing you do

I know all the games you play
And I'm gonna find a way to let you know that
You'll be mine someday
'Cause we could be happy
Can't you see, if you'd only let me
Be the one to hold you
And keep you here with me

Well, I try and try to forget you, girl
But it's just so hard to do
Every time you do that thing you do

I don't ask a lot, girl,
But I know one thing's for sure,
It's the love I haven't got, girl,
And I just can't take it anymore.
'Cause we could be happy
Can't you see, if you'd only let me
Be the one to hold you
And keep you here with me

Well, it hurts me so just to see you go
Around with someone new,
And if I know you you're doing that thing,
Every day just doing that thing,
I can't take you doing that thing you do.

Dance With Me Tonight

Come on pretty baby
Put your little hand in mine
Things are shaking on the dance floor
Everybody's feeling fine
Don't waste another minute
Step into the light
Come on and dance with me tonight

Tell your momma that you're leaving
Tell your daddy that we're gone

Tell everyone in Philadelphia
There's a party going on
Now move a little closer let me hold you tight
Come on and dance with me tonight
Come on come on
There's a party going on
Come on come on
We'll be rocking till dawn
Come on come on
Let me sweep you off your feet
Come on pretty baby won't you dance with me

Tell your momma that you're leaving
Tell your daddy that we're gone
Tell everyone in Philadelphia
There's a party going on
Now move a little closer let me hold you tight
Come on and dance with me tonight
Come on pretty baby
Come on come on pretty darling come on
Now move a little closer
Let me hold you tight
Come on and dance with me tonight

All My Only Dreams

Every night I pray I'll have you here someday
I'll count the stars tonight and hope with all my might
And when I close my eyes
You'll be right by my side
If I could only have one wish
You'd be the girl whose lips I'd kiss
All my only dreams

And when I close my eyes
You'll be right by my side
If I could have just one request
Stay with me girl I confess
All my only dreams

Every waking hour it seems
I only have you in my dreams

So every night I'll pray I'll have you here one day
I'll count the stars tonight and hope with all my might
And when I close my eyes
You'll be right by my side
If I could have just one request
Stay with me girl I confess
All my only dreams

Vocabulary

fictitious: something that isn't real

cult classic: something, usually a movie, that has a small but extremely loyal group of followers

chain reaction: a series of events where each event is caused by the one before it

mediocre: neither good nor bad

latching onto: attaching to or associating oneself with something

perform: to play in front of an audience (usually music)

sign: to write one's signature on a legal or other document

campaign: a series of activities done to achieve a purpose or result

widespread: something that appears in many different locations and in large numbers

reunited: when members of something (a band, a group, a personal relationship) come back together after ending the relationship

Article Research Sources

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YouTube movie clips

[The Wonders, "That Thing You Do"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRvWtCYTaCU)

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

[That Thing You Do: Dance With Me Tonight](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lW8TGwsBfYQ)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lW8TGwsBfYQ>

[All My Only Dreams](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZK0TGmx5HQ)

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Covers of the title song

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AschlSEXV3A>

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