

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](mailto:teacher@englishforlife.ca).

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Stevie Ray Vaughan is a [legendary](#) blues guitarist from the 1980's. Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Vaughan's sole purpose in life was music. Despite attempts to complete school and receive a [traditional](#) education, Vaughan dropped out of school and spent the first few years of his career couch surfing and doing odd jobs for money. Vaughan had started playing the guitar at age 7, [following](#) in his brother Jimmie's footsteps. By the age of 12 he was playing in local garage bands and within a few years was playing semi-professionally. All this despite the fact that, at age 15 or 16, he was not legally old enough to even go into the nightclubs where he played.

Vaughan played in several bands in the early to mid-1970's, many of which gained serious attention. After playing backup guitar in those bands, Vaughan created his own band Triple Threat. His band later became known as Double Trouble, after the band's female lead singer quit. The band name remained for the rest of Vaughan's [career](#). Double Trouble became one of the most popular bands on the Texas nightclub circuit in the early 1980's and received their first international recognition [Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland](#) in 1982. Videos of this [concert](#) can still be seen on Youtube.

Their performance at Montreux attracted attention from two famous musicians, David Bowie and Jackson Browne, both of whom reached out to Vaughan and the band with offers (Bowie invited Vaughan to play on his [upcoming](#) album "[Let's Dance](#)" and Browne offered Double Trouble recording time at his LA recording studio for free). These partnerships led to a recording [contract](#) with Epic Records and Double Trouble's first album, "[Texas Flood](#)" (recorded in 1983).

During his career, Vaughan played with a who's-who of accomplished musicians, such as Robert Cray, Buddy Guy, Robert Plant and many others. His career also [generated](#) a stream of awards and recognitions, but Vaughan's work [ethic](#) also led to health and drug problems, and the break up of his marriage in the early 1980's. Vaughan's recording of "[Cold Shot](#)", recorded in 1984, may have been his response to the breakup; the song was written for him by a friend and former bandmate, WC Clark.

Vaughan [voluntarily](#) checked himself into a rehabilitation program to get help but then returned to work afterwards. He continued to rack up critical and commercial recognition, and accolades from his peers. During a concert with famed blues guitarist Eric Clapton, Clapton left the concert in a fit of jealousy over how [talented](#) Vaughan was, a fact he would later publicly admit to after Vaughan's death. Stevie Ray Vaughan died later that evening in a helicopter crash after leaving the concert and heading to the tour's next venue in Chicago. Vaughan was at the peak of what many believed would be an inspirational career. His fame only increased following his death and Stevie Ray Vaughan fans can be found worldwide, still taking in any opportunity to listen to and enjoy his music.

## Cold Shot Lyrics

Once was a sweet thang baby, held out love in our hands  
Now I reach to kiss your lips the touch don't mean a thing  
And that's a cold shot baby, yeah that's a drag  
A cold shot baby, I let our love go bad

Remember the way that you loved me, do anything I said  
Now I see you out somewhere you won't give me the time of day  
And that's a cold shot darlin', yeah that's a drag  
And that's a cold shot baby, we let our love go bad

I really meant I was sorry, for ever causin' you pain  
You showed your appreciation by walkin' out anyway  
And that's a cold shot baby, yeah that's a drag  
And that's a cold shot baby, we let our love go bad

So sad, too bad, so sad  
Don't let our true love run cold baby

## Vocabulary

legendary: someone or something that inspires people to discuss the subject

traditional: to do something in the same way that others have done it before

following: to physically follow someone or [to repeat something they have done](#)

career: the length of time someone has worked at a job or other occupation; the achievements someone has made in the course of their career.

concert: a social engagement where people gather together to listen to live music.

upcoming: something that is about to be created (“upcoming album”) or to happen (“upcoming concert”)

contract: a written agreement between two or more people.

generated: when one thing causes something else to happen or to be created.

ethic: a belief or idea, one that usually leads to some result.

voluntarily: to do something without being asked or told to do it.

talented: to have a natural ability or gift to do something.

## Article Research Sources

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