

www.**Breaking News English**.com
Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

UK cathedral to play Lennon's "Imagine"

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0905/090510-john_lennon.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE ARTICLE

A British cathedral will soon play John Lennon's song "Imagine". This is a very unusual event, considering the song contains anti-religious lyrics. The cathedral in Liverpool, John Lennon's birthplace and hometown, has agreed to let its bell-ringers play the tune three times on May the 16th. The idea came from British artist Cleo Evans. She teamed up with the cultural festival organizer, FutureSonic, and they developed the concept with Liverpool Cathedral. The song is one of the best-known tunes in the world. It speaks of a world in which everyone is at peace because there is no religion. Lennon's song starts, "Imagine there's no heaven," and continues, "and no religion too". These words will not be sung on the 16th; just the tune will be heard.

People have mixed feelings about the idea of playing "Imagine" in one of Britain's biggest cathedrals. A cathedral spokesman said: "Allowing "Imagine" to be [played] on our bells does not mean we agree with the song lyrics." Lennon's widow Yoko Ono loved the idea, saying it was "so beautiful, it made me choke up". The artist Cleo Evans agreed. She said: "Imagine is an incredibly gentle, philosophical and moving song which speaks strongly of the need for peace." The FutureSonic festival director Drew Hemment was enthusiastic about using cathedral bells. He told reporters: "What we're doing is twisting something that's already there; we're "hacking" the bells." An online poll of "Church Times" readers found 64% were against the idea.

WARM-UPS

1. IMAGINING: Walk around the class and talk to other students about imagining. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

John Lennon / unusual events / birthplace / song lyrics / festivals / religion / heaven / mixed feelings / widows / choking up / moving songs / being enthusiastic / bells

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. IMAGINE: With your partner(s), talk about these lyrics from John Lennon's song. Change partners and share your ideas.

Imagine...	Can you imagine this?	How?
there's no heaven		
people living for today		
no countries		
no religion		
no possessions		
the world living as one		

4. ... AND THE WORLD WILL LIVE AS ONE: Students A **strongly** believe we will all live in perfect harmony one day; Students B **strongly** believe there will always be things to divide us. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. IMAGINATION: How does imagination help these things? Tell your partner(s). Change partners share your ideas. Vote as a class on who has the biggest imagination.

- studying English
- being friends
- global warming
- family life
- politics
- hobbies
- life
- food

6. RELIGION: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'religion'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. A pop group called UK Cathedral will play a cover version of "Imagine". T / F
- b. The song "Imagine" by John Lennon celebrates religion. T / F
- c. Liverpool Cathedral agreed to the idea of its bells playing "Imagine". T / F
- d. No one will sing the song "Imagine" in the cathedral. T / F
- e. Liverpool Cathedral agrees with the lyrics of "Imagine". T / F
- f. John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono nearly choked on her food. T / F
- g. The festival head said he was using something old in a different way. T / F
- h. Most people who read "Church Times" don't like the idea. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. unusual | a. collaborated |
| 2. lyrics | b. survey |
| 3. teamed up | c. amazingly |
| 4. concept | d. words |
| 5. at peace | e. excited |
| 6. feelings | f. surprising |
| 7. spokesman | g. calm |
| 8. incredibly | h. emotions |
| 9. enthusiastic | i. idea |
| 10. poll | j. representative |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. the song contains anti- | a. will be heard |
| 2. John Lennon's birthplace | b. festival organizer |
| 3. She teamed up with the cultural | c. idea |
| 4. a world in which everyone | d. feelings about the idea |
| 5. just the tune | e. and hometown |
| 6. People have mixed | f. me choke up |
| 7. it was so beautiful, it made | g. using cathedral bells |
| 8. an incredibly gentle, philosophical | h. religious lyrics |
| 9. Hemment was enthusiastic about | i. and moving song |
| 10. 64% were against the | j. is at peace |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A British cathedral will soon _____ John Lennon's song "Imagine". This is a very unusual event, considering the song _____ anti-religious lyrics. The cathedral in Liverpool, John Lennon's birthplace and hometown, has _____ to let its bell-ringers play the tune three times on May the 16th. The idea _____ from British artist Cleo Evans. She teamed up with the cultural festival organizer, FutureSonic, and they developed the _____ with Liverpool Cathedral. The song is one of the best-known tunes in the world. It speaks of a world in which everyone is at _____ because there is no religion. Lennon's song _____, "Imagine there's no heaven," and continues, "and no religion too". These words will not be sung on the 16th; just the tune will be _____.

concept
starts
contains
agreed
heard
play
peace
came

People have _____ feelings about the idea of playing "Imagine" in one of Britain's biggest cathedrals. A cathedral spokesman said: "Allowing "Imagine" to be [played] on our bells does not _____ we agree with the song lyrics." Lennon's widow Yoko Ono loved the idea, saying it was "so beautiful, it made me _____ up". The artist Cleo Evans agreed. She said: "Imagine is an _____ gentle, philosophical and moving song which speaks strongly of the _____ for peace." The FutureSonic festival director Drew Hemment was enthusiastic about _____ cathedral bells. He told reporters: "What we're doing is twisting something that's already _____; we're "hacking" the bells." An _____ poll of "Church Times" readers found 64% were against the idea.

need
online
mixed
choke
there
incredibly
using
mean

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the gaps.

A British cathedral will soon play John Lennon's song "Imagine". This is a _____, considering the song contains anti-religious lyrics. The cathedral in Liverpool, John Lennon's birthplace and hometown, has _____ bell-ringers play the tune three times on May the 16th. The idea came from British artist Cleo Evans. She _____ cultural festival organizer, FutureSonic, and they developed the concept with Liverpool Cathedral. The song _____ -known tunes in the world. It speaks of a world in which _____ because there is no religion. Lennon's song starts, "Imagine there's no heaven," and continues, "and no religion too". These words will not be sung on the 16th; just _____.

People have _____ the idea of playing "Imagine" in one of Britain's biggest cathedrals. A cathedral spokesman said: "Allowing "Imagine" to be [played] on our bells does _____ with the song lyrics." Lennon's widow Yoko Ono loved the idea, saying it was "so beautiful, it _____ ". The artist Cleo Evans agreed. She said: "Imagine is an incredibly gentle, philosophical and moving song which speaks strongly _____." The FutureSonic festival director Drew Hemment was enthusiastic about using cathedral bells. He told reporters: "What we're doing is twisting something _____; we're "hacking" the bells." An online poll of "Church Times" readers found 64% _____.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words **'mixed'** and **'feelings'**.

mixed	feelings
--------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• soon• anti-• three• best-• starts• sung	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mixed• agree• choke• gentle• twisting• poll
--	--

STUDENT PEACE SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about peace in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

PEACE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'peace'?
- c) What do you think about the John Lennon song "Imagine"?
- d) What do you know about John Lennon?
- e) Do you think a church should play an anti-religious song?
- f) When do you think everyone in the world will be at peace?
- g) Does religion reduce or increase problems in our world?
- h) What would the world be like without religion?
- i) What would you like to imagine?
- j) What would life be like without imagination?

UK cathedral to play Lennon's "Imagine" – 10th May, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

PEACE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) When was the last time you had mixed feelings about something?
- c) What are your favourite song lyrics?
- d) When was the last time you were choked up with emotion?
- e) Can songs and singers help bring about peace?
- f) What do you think of the sound of church or cathedral bells?
- g) What does "hacking the bells" mean?
- h) What's the greatest musical event you've been to or seen?
- i) What single thing would help world peace?
- j) What questions would you ask John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono?

UK cathedral to play Lennon's "Imagine" – 10th May, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright 2009

LANGUAGE

A British cathedral will soon (1) ____ John Lennon's song "Imagine". This is a very unusual event, considering the song contains (2) ____ religious lyrics. The cathedral in Liverpool, John Lennon's birthplace and hometown, has agreed to let its bell-ringers play the tune three times on May the 16th. The idea came from British artist Cleo Evans. She teamed (3) ____ with the cultural festival organizer, FutureSonic, and they developed the (4) ____ with Liverpool Cathedral. The song is one of the best-known tunes in the world. It speaks of a world (5) ____ which everyone is at peace because there is no religion. Lennon's song starts, "Imagine there's no heaven," and continues, "and no religion too". These words will not be (6) ____ on the 16th; just the tune will be heard.

People have (7) ____ feelings about the idea of playing "Imagine" in one of Britain's biggest cathedrals. A cathedral spokesman said: "Allowing "Imagine" to be [played] on our bells does not (8) ____ we agree with the song lyrics." Lennon's widow Yoko Ono loved the idea, saying it was "so beautiful, it (9) ____ me choke up". The artist Cleo Evans agreed. She said: "Imagine is an incredibly gentle, philosophical and (10) ____ song which speaks strongly of the need for peace." The FutureSonic festival director Drew Hemment was enthusiastic (11) ____ using cathedral bells. He told reporters: "What we're doing is twisting something that's already there; we're "hacking" the bells." An online poll (12) ____ "Church Times" readers found 64% were against the idea.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) playing | (b) played | (c) play | (d) plays |
| 2. | (a) ants | (b) anti- | (c) anti | (d) ant |
| 3. | (a) up | (b) for | (c) to | (d) in |
| 4. | (a) conception | (b) conceptual | (c) conceptions | (d) concept |
| 5. | (a) where | (b) there | (c) in | (d) on |
| 6. | (a) sang | (b) sing | (c) sung | (d) singing |
| 7. | (a) mixture | (b) mixed | (c) mixing | (d) mixes |
| 8. | (a) mean | (b) meant | (c) meaning | (d) means |
| 9. | (a) did | (b) made | (c) was | (d) took |
| 10. | (a) moving | (b) moved | (c) moves | (d) movable |
| 11. | (a) on | (b) for | (c) with | (d) about |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) at | (d) of |

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about John Lennon. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SONGS: Make a poster about your favourite song. Write the lyrics and explain what they mean. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PEACE: Write a magazine article about peace. Include imaginary interviews with two people. One of them thinks peace will come to the world, the other thinks peace will never come.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Yoko Ono. Ask her three questions about John Lennon and his song "Imagine". Give her three ideas on how she could use the song to help bring world peace closer. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. T e. F f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. unusual | a. surprising |
| 2. lyrics | b. words |
| 3. teamed up | c. collaborated |
| 4. concept | d. idea |
| 5. at peace | e. calm |
| 6. feelings | f. emotions |
| 7. spokesman | g. representative |
| 8. incredibly | h. amazingly |
| 9. enthusiastic | i. excited |
| 10. poll | j. survey |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. the song contains anti- | a. religious lyrics |
| 2. John Lennon's birthplace | b. and hometown |
| 3. She teamed up with the cultural | c. festival organizer |
| 4. a world in which everyone | d. is at peace |
| 5. just the tune | e. will be heard |
| 6. People have mixed | f. feelings about the idea |
| 7. it was so beautiful, it made | g. me choke up |
| 8. an incredibly gentle, philosophical | h. and moving song |
| 9. Hemment was enthusiastic about | i. using cathedral bells |
| 10. 64% were against the | j. idea |

GAP FILL:

UK cathedral to play Lennon's "Imagine"

A British cathedral will soon **play** John Lennon's song "Imagine". This is a very unusual event, considering the song **contains** anti-religious lyrics. The cathedral in Liverpool, John Lennon's birthplace and hometown, has **agreed** to let its bell-ringers play the tune three times on May the 16th. The idea **came** from British artist Cleo Evans. She teamed up with the cultural festival organizer, FutureSonic, and they developed the **concept** with Liverpool Cathedral. The song is one of the best-known tunes in the world. It speaks of a world in which everyone is at **peace** because there is no religion. Lennon's song **starts**, "Imagine there's no heaven," and continues, "and no religion too". These words will not be sung on the 16th; just the tune will be **heard**.

People have **mixed** feelings about the idea of playing "Imagine" in one of Britain's biggest cathedrals. A cathedral spokesman said: "Allowing "Imagine" to be [played] on our bells does not **mean** we agree with the song lyrics." Lennon's widow Yoko Ono loved the idea, saying it was "so beautiful, it made me **choke** up". The artist Cleo Evans agreed. She said: "Imagine is an **incredibly** gentle, philosophical and moving song which speaks strongly of the **need** for peace." The FutureSonic festival director Drew Hemment was enthusiastic about **using** cathedral bells. He told reporters: "What we're doing is twisting something that's already **there**; we're "hacking" the bells." An **online** poll of "Church Times" readers found 64% were against the idea.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - c 4 - b 5 - b 6 - c 7 - a 8 - d 9 - d 10 - b 11 - a 12 - c