

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

The Beatles' Here Comes the Sun

Uno degli ultimi grandi successi del quartetto di Liverpool è una semplice ode all'arrivo del bel tempo dopo un lungo e freddo inverno. Ha una melodia facile da ricordare e un testo quasi infantile, eppure ora il suo messaggio acquisisce un nuovo significato.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**

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GLOSSARY

- 1 **to stream:** riprodurre online
- 2 **to release:** pubblicare
- 3 **to involve:** partecipare a
- 4 **countless:** innumerevoli
- 5 **to argue:** discutere, litigare
- 6 **mates:** compagni
- 7 **tonsils:** tonsille
- 8 **to remove:** togliere
- 9 **to take a day off:** prendersi il giorno libero
- 10 **release:** liberazione
- 11 **to build up:** costruire
- 12 **Sardinia:** Sardegna
- 13 **over:** più di
- 14 **dawn:** alba
- 15 **lonely:** solitario
- 16 **nonsense:** assurdo, senza senso
- 17 **to melt:** sciogliere
- 18 **fair:** chiaro
- 19 **bright:** luminoso

The most **streamed**¹ Beatles song on Spotify was not written by John Lennon or Paul McCartney, but by guitarist George Harrison. *Here Comes the Sun* is on "Abbey Road", the Beatles' final recorded album, **released**² in September 1969.

Harrison wrote *Here Comes the Sun* during a particularly difficult period of his life. It was April 1969 and the Beatles were **involved**³ in **countless**⁴ business meetings and tense recording sessions, during which time the guitarist **argued**⁵ with his band **mates**⁶ and temporarily left. He had also recently been arrested for possession of drugs and had spent time in hospital to have his **tonsils**⁷ **removed**⁸.

George decided to **take a day off**⁹ to visit his friend Eric Clapton's country house. He wrote the song in the garden, telling the BBC, "it was just sunny and it was all just the **release**¹⁰ of that tension that had been **building up**¹¹ in me." He finished the song on a summer holiday in **Sardinia**¹².

The lyrics are very positive, simply repeating the title and saying how long and cold the winter had been. In fact, London's meteorological records show that the early months of 1969 were colder than usual, but when spring finally came, it was the sunniest April for **over**¹³ a decade. The optimistic song has been described as a "promise of a new **dawn**¹⁴ after a **lonely**¹⁵ winter" and is now more relevant than ever. ☺



The Beatles (clockwise from top left): Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon and George Harrison, backstage at The Regal in Cambridge in 1963.

alright: this one-word spelling of 'all right', often seen in informal writing and in song, is mostly considered incorrect.

darling: this is one of the most used terms of endearment. It derives, in fact, from 'dear', which can also mean 'expensive'.

it seems like years: it is possible (but not necessary) to use the present perfect in this phrase: 'It feels like it's been years'.

clear: when the sky is clear, it is **fair**¹⁸, **cloudless**, but not necessarily **bright**¹⁹ nor sunny.

Here comes the sun **doo, doo, doo, doo** ←
 Here comes the sun
 And I say it's **alright**

Little **darling**, it's been a **long cold lonely winter** ←
 Little **darling**, it seems like years since it's been

here
 Here comes the sun **doo, doo, doo**
 Here comes the sun
 And I say it's **alright**
 Little **darling**, the smiles returning to the faces

Little **darling**, it feels like years since it's been here
 Here comes the sun **doo, doo, doo**
 Here comes the sun
 And I say it's **alright**

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little **darling**, I feel that ice is slowly **melting**¹⁷

Little **darling**, it seems like years since it's been **clear**

Here comes the sun **doo, doo, doo**
 Here comes the sun
 And I say it's **alright**
 Here comes the sun **doo, doo, doo**
 Here comes the sun
 It's **alright**
 It's **alright**



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Tune Into English www.tuneintoenglish.com
 Fergal Kavanagh runs the website www.tuneintoenglish.com, the web's largest free resource for learning English through pop music.

doo, doo, doo, doo: songs often use vocalizations, or vocables, in place of lyrics. These are a form of **nonsense**¹⁶ used in a wide variety of music, usually mixed with meaningful text.

Long cold lonely winter: adjectives follow a determined order in English. As a general rule, opinions or attitudes come first, before more neutral, factual ones. This is not the case here, but it can be considered a poetic licence.

it's been: this is a contraction of the auxiliary verb 'have': 'it has been'. The use of the present perfect here is incorrect as it refers to a point in time and not a period up to now.