This Is The Life – Amy Macdonald – Notes

This Is The Life is the title song of the Scottish singer-songwriter Amy Macdonald’s 2007 debut album. Also released as a single, it became a huge European hit.

Listening activities:
1. Read through the lyrics – can you guess what the correct word in each line is?
2. Play the song and circle the word you hear. If you are working with other people, this can be a race. Play the song as many times as necessary.
3. If this is a race, stop when the first person is ready. Otherwise after the second or third listening you can check your answers. For the Key see the complete version of the song.
4. Play the song again and sing along!

Post-listening activities:

• Language focus: Informal English
  1. Gonna is often used in spoken British English or American English. What does it stand for?
  2. What does the informal English word vibe stand for?
  3. What is a motley crew?

• Curiosity Corner: In the song the name “Robert Riger” is mentioned. Do you know who he is? Why not check on the web?

• Phonetics: The analysis of the rhyming words can be a good start to review phonetics and enrich your vocabulary. There is a link to a phonetic chart on www.tuneintoenglish.com.
This Is The Life – Amy Macdonald

Listen to the song and circle the correct word

Oh, the wind wrinkles/wistles/wriggles down the cold/bold/sold dark street tonight and the people they were chancing/fancying/dancing to the music tribe/vibe/cyber and the boys/toys/joys chase the girls with the curls in their fair/air/hair while the try/shy/cry tormented youth sit way over there and the songs they get sadder/louder/prouder each one better than sore/more/before

Chorus:

And you're singing the gongs/songs/wrongs thinking this is the life/knife/strife and you wake/shake/make up in the morning and your head reels/feels/wheels twice the size where you gonna go/so/no where you gonna low/go/slow where you gonna sleep fight/might/tonight

And you're ringing/singing/clinging the songs thinking miss/this/bliss is the life and you wake cup/up/sup in the morning and your head feels mice/slice/twice the size where you gonna know/go/show where you gonna go/flow/blow where you gonna sleep bright/tight/tonight where you gonna sleep light/tonight/sight

So you're heading down/clown/brown the road in your taxi for door/four/floor and you're hating/waiting/fainting outside Jimmy's front door but nobody's in and nobody's home fill/till/mill four so you're sitting there with nothing to zoo/oo/do speaking/talking/walking about Robert Riger and his motley crew and where you're gonna so/no/go and where you're gonna beep/sleep/sheep tonight.

Repeat chorus twice
This Is The Life – Amy Macdonald – Complete

Oh, the wind **whistles** down
the **cold** dark street tonight
and the people they were **dancing**
to the music **vibe**
and the **boys** chase the girls
with the curls in their **hair**
while the **shy** tormented youth sit way over there
and the songs they get **louder**
each one better than **before**

**Chorus:**
And you’re singing the **songs**
thinking this is the **life**
and you **wake** up in the morning
and your head **feels** twice the size
where you gonna **go**
where you gonna **go**
where you gonna sleep **tonight**

And you’re **singing** the songs
thinking **this** is the life
and you wake **up** in the morning
and your head feels **twice** the size
where you gonna **go**
where you gonna **go**
where you gonna sleep **tonight**
where you gonna sleep **tonight**

So you’re heading **down** the road
in your taxi for **four**
and you’re **waiting** outside Jimmy’s front door
but nobody’s in and nobody’s home till four
so you’re sitting there with nothing to do
**talking** about Robert Riger and his motley crew.
and where you’re gonna **go**
and where you’re gonna **sleep** tonight.

**Repeat chorus twice**

**Keys:**

**Post-listening activities:**
1. going to
2. vibrations
3. a heterogeneous group of people

**Curiosity Corner:** Robert Riger was a celebrated sports illustrator and photographer. According to WikiAnswers, Amy Macdonald herself explained that the name refers to a stuffed animal her friend bought her from a street vendor when he was drunk. They went to a flat and put names in a hat and the two names to be drawn out were Robert and Riger. She wrote the song the next day.