



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**

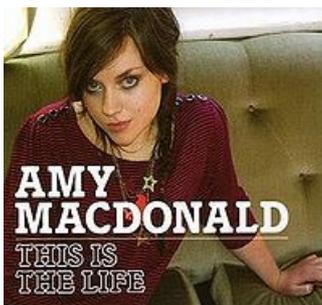
1. *Gonna* is often used in spoken British English or American English. What does it stand for?
2. What does the informal English word *vibe* stand for?
3. What is a *motley crew*?

- **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/whistles/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/too/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.