- **Activity types:** Vocabulary, listening for specific words, gap fill, rhyming words
- **Level:** Elementary/Pre-intermediate
- **Language:** Talking about time and festivities; phonetics
- **Notes:** This song was released on Stevie Wonder’s 1984 soundtrack album for the comedy *The Woman in Red*. It was a #1 hit in both the USA and UK. It also won an Academy Award for “Best Original Song” in 1985.

1. Explain to students they are going to repeat words about time. Write the word **TIME** on the board and ask them to think of words referring to it. Write their answers on the board as a spidergram.
   **Possible answers:** second – minute – hour – day – week – month – season - year
2. Do students remember all the days of the week, the months of the year and the four seasons? If necessary allow them to repeat. You can also ask them simple questions like:
   - Which day is it today?
   - Which is your favourite season/month?
   - Do you prefer summer or winter?
3. Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet and ask them to do **Activity 1**. You can divide them into small groups. Then check the answers. The group with most correct words wins.
4. Ask students to listen for the words in Activity 1, numbering them in the order they hear them. Play the song. Then students can unfold the page and complete the song (**Activity 2**) according to their answers to the previous activity and context.
   **Key:**
   1. Spring 6. July
   2. April 7. August
   3. Saturday 8. Autumn
   5. Summer 10. Christmas
5. Play the song again. Students check their answers in pairs or in groups.
6. Correct in open class, play the song again and sing together!
7. **Phonetics.** Focus on the sounds /ei/, /ai/, /iː/, /uː/ and /iŋ/ .
   Ask students to group the rhyming words in the song and match them to the corresponding rhyming vowel sound.
   **Key:**
   /ei/: celebrate, away, day, rain
   /ai/: high, July, night, skies
   /iː/: breeze, leaves, Halloween
   /uː/: bloom, June, true, you, new, do
   /iŋ/: spring, sing, bring
8. **Festivities.** Can students find the festivities in the song? What do they know about them?
   **Key:** New Year’s Day (line 1), St. Valentine’s Day (line 2), etc.
ACTIVITY 1. Write the corresponding day, month, season or festivity.

1. The fourth month _____________________________
2. The season before winter _____________________________
3. The month after May _____________________________
4. The day before Sunday _____________________________
5. Between June and August _____________________________
6. Between winter and summer _____________________________
7. It is celebrated on the 25th December _____________________________
8. The month before September _____________________________
9. It is celebrated on the 31st of October _____________________________
10. The season after spring _____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

ACTIVITY 2. Complete the song with the words from Activity 1.

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

No New Year's Day to celebrate
No first of __________
No song to sing
In fact here's just another ordinary day

No _________'s high
No warm _________
No harvest moon to light one tender ________ night
No __________ breeze
No falling leaves
Not even time for birds to fly to southern skies

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you, uh
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,

Made up of these three words that I must say to you
I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

No New Year's Day to celebrate
No chocolate covered candy hearts to give away
No first of spring
No song to sing
In fact here's just another ordinary day

No April rain
No flowers bloom
No wedding Saturday within the month of June
But what it is, is something true
Made up of these three words that I must say to you

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

No summer's high
No warm July
No harvest moon to light one tender August night
No autumn breeze
No falling leaves
Not even time for birds to fly to southern skies

No Libra sun
No Halloween
No giving thanks to all the Christmas joy you bring
But what it is, though old so new
To fill your heart like no three words could ever do

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you, uh
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,
Of my heart

I just called to say I love you
I just called to say how much I care, I do
I just called to say I love you
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,
Baby of my heart