I’ve Got A Feeling – The Beatles – Notes

- Activity types: gap fill, tense review, idioms, writing.
- Grammar: Present continuous, past simple, can (modal verb), will (future), present simple, going to (future), present perfect, gerund.
- Time/Level: approx. 50 mins/ high pre-intermediate – intermediate.
- Note: Paul McCartney and John Lennon share lead vocals on this song – the lyrics come from two different unfinished songs – Paul’s “I’ve Got A Feeling” and John’s “Everybody Had A Hard Year”. They were both having very different feelings at the time - Paul had a feeling about how his life was going to change after meeting his future wife, Linda Eastman. John was having feelings about the break up of the band, his divorce from Cynthia and his relationship with Yoko Ono. The song can be interpreted as both artists predicting happy as well as sad events. This was the last song the duo wrote as a partnership, and appears on the Let It Be album. It was famously played at the Beatles rooftop concert in London, above their Apple offices in January 1969.

1) Ask students some of the most commonly used words in everyday speech to elicit “yeah” and “no”. Ask them to predict how many times they think these words are used in this Beatles’ song. Play the song - students listen and count how many times each word appears. You could divide the class into two groups; one half listens for “yeah”, the other half listens for “no”. Compare their answers with their predictions.
   **Key:** Yeah: 35 times, No: 8 times (not counting nobody).

2) Ask the students how many singers were singing. (There are two.) Explain about John and Paul’s different points of view (see notes.) Ask: Who believed…
   “Everybody had a hard year”? (John Lennon)
   “I’ve got a feeling, I think that everybody knows”? (Paul McCartney)

3) Grammar awareness
   Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask them when you normally use the expression “I’ve got a feeling”.
   **(Key: when you make a prediction or as another way of saying “I think”.)**
   What tenses can we use after “I’ve got a feeling”? Elicit some examples. Tell students to work in pairs and look at exercise 1 on the worksheet. They tick (√) the sentences which are usable in English and match each sentence with a tense.
   **(Key: all sentences are correct.)**
   Check they can identify the tenses correctly.
   **(Key: 1.will (future), 2.present continuous, 3.gerund, 4.going to (future), 5.past simple, 6.present simple, 7.can (modal verb), 8.present perfect.)**
   Ask the students to tell you 2-3 things they have a feeling about e.g. “I’ve got a feeling Brad and Angelina have/will split up.”

4) Idioms
   There are several idioms in the song which are worth exploring with the students. In pairs, the students look at exercise 2 on the worksheet and choose the most likely meaning. Check their answers.
   **(Key: a, a, b, b, a)**
   In pairs, students then use an idiom to talk about each situation. (If you have more time you could build these up into improvised role-plays.)

5) Listening to the song
   Ask students to fill in the missing verbs in the correct tense. Play the song again. (You could ask students to note any differences in the repetition of final verse – Key: Lennon inverts ‘good’ and ‘hard’) Give them a minute or so to compare their answers with a partner, then check their answers. Explain any necessary vocabulary (note: use your discretion with “wet dream” – this means “nocturnal ejaculation”).

6) Writing
   This is a chance for students to express their personal reaction to the song and/or the Beatles. Ask students to write a short message to post on Yoko Ono’s or Paul’s blog about the predictions in the song. (80-100 words.)
   Explain the task and then monitor the students as they write, ensuring they use an appropriate format. Help them with vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. As a follow-up you could ask them to visit the Games/Activities section of the Student’s Area of www.tuneintoenglish.com for more information about the band.
**Exercise 1 - Grammar** Tick (✓) the sentences which are correct in English.

1. I've got a feeling he won't come to my party.
2. I've got a feeling she isn't listening to you.
3. He's got a good feeling about Italy winning the next World Cup.
4. She's got a feeling it's going to be sunny this weekend.
5. Fred's got a feeling Sara went on holiday last week.
6. We've got a feeling the Johnsons live in Spain now.
7. I've got a feeling you can buy the latest i-phone online.
8. Have you got a feeling you've passed your driving test?

**What tenses are used after “have got a feeling” in each of the above?**
Choose from: Present continuous, past simple, can (modal verb), will (future), present simple, going to (future), present perfect, gerund.

**Exercise 2 - Idioms** Choose the best definition for these idioms.

“…keeps me on my toes”

a) makes me stay alert.  
b) makes me feel uncomfortable.

“Everybody had a good time.”

a) Everybody enjoyed themselves.  
b) Everybody arrived on time.

“Everybody let their hair down.”

a) Everybody was disguised.  
b) Everybody relaxed and had fun.

“Everybody pulled their socks up.”

a) Everybody got worse.  
b) Everybody improved.

“Everybody put their foot down.”

a) Everybody insisted or was strict.  
b) Everybody made a mistake.

Use the most suitable idiom to talk about each of these situations with your partner.

- You got 30% in your last test, you aren’t doing your homework and you’re always late for school.
- You danced all night, talked to your friends and met someone new.
- You want to go to school on a scooter but your dad says you can’t have a Vespa until your 18th birthday.
- You are at a formal dinner but later you go to meet your friends in a disco.
- You don’t know when your parents are coming home but you’ve invited some friends to your house to celebrate the end of term.

**Exercise 3** Listen to the song and complete the lyrics

I've got a feeling, a feeling deep inside  
Oh yeah, oh yeah. (That's right.)
I've got a feeling, a feeling I ________ hide  
Oh no. No. Oh no! Oh no!
Yeah! Yeah! I've got a feeling. Yeah!

Oh please believe me, I'd hate to _____ the train  
Oh yeah, yeah, oh yeah.
And if you leave me I won't _______ late again  
Oh no, oh no, oh no!
Yeah, yeah I've got a feeling, yeah.  
If[ve] got a feeling.

All these years I've been wandering around,  
Wondering how come nobody ________ me  
All that I was looking for was somebody  
Who looked like you.

I've got a feeling that ________ me on my toes  
Oh yeah, oh yeah.
I've got a feeling, I think that everybody ________  
Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah!
Yeah! Yeah! I've got a feeling. Yeah!

Everybody had a hard year.  
Everybody ________ a good time.
Everybody had a wet dream.  
Everybody ________ the sunshine.
Oh yeah, oh yeah. Oh yeah!
Everybody had a good year.
Everybody ________ their hair down.
Everybody ________ their socks up. (yeah.)  
Everybody ________ their foot down.
Oh yeah! Yeah! WOOOOHOO!

(Repeat)

[Oh my soul...it's so hard.]
I've got a feeling, a feeling deep inside
   Oh yeah, oh yeah. (That's right.)
I've got a feeling, a feeling I can't hide
   Oh no. No. Oh no! Oh no.
   Yeah! Yeah! I've got a feeling. Yeah!

Oh please believe me, I'd hate to miss the train
   Oh yeah, yeah, oh yeah.
And if you leave me I won't be late again
   Oh no. Oh no! Oh no.
   Yeah, yeah. I've got a feeling, yeah.
   I've got a feeling.

All these years I've been wandering around,
   Wondering how come nobody told me
All that I was looking for was somebody
   Who looked like you.

I've got a feeling that keeps me on my toes
   Oh yeah, oh yeah.
I've got a feeling, I think that everybody knows.
   Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah!
   Yeah! Yeah! I've got a feeling. Yeah!

   Everybody had a hard year.
   Everybody had a good time.
   Everybody had a wet dream.
   Everybody saw the sunshine.
   Oh yeah (oh yeah), oh yeah. Oh yeah!
   Everybody had a good year.
   Everybody let their hair down.
   Everybody pulled their socks up. (yeah.)
   Everybody put their foot down.
   Oh yeah! Yeah! WOOOOHOO!

   Everybody had a good year.
   Everybody had a hard time.
   Everybody had a wet dream.
   Everybody saw the sunshine.
   Oh yeah (oh yeah), oh yeah. Oh yeah!
   Everybody had a good year.
   Everybody let their hair down.
   Everybody pulled their socks up. (yeah.)
   Everybody put their foot down.
   Oh yeah! Yeah! Oh yeah! Oh yeah!

   [Oh my soul...it's so hard.]