Ylvis – The Fox (What Does The Fox Say?) - Notes

- **Activity types:** vocabulary, animal sounds.

- **Level:** Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

- **Note:** This was recorded to promote Norwegian comedy duo Ylvis’ new television series, as an EDM (Electronic Dance Music) parody. Published on youtube on the 3rd September 2013, it instantly became one of the site’s most viewed videos, registering almost 54 million hits in just three weeks. Shocked by its success, Bård Ylvisåker, one of the brothers that form the duo, explained at the time: “This song is made for a TV show and is supposed to entertain a few Norwegians for three minutes — and that’s all. It was done just a few days ago and we recently had a screening in our office. About 10 people watched — nobody laughed.”

1) Ask the students to write down as many animals as they can in one minute. Who can write the most?

2) Play the first verses of the song (as far as 0’42”) – which ones do they hear?  
   **Key:** See Activity One on worksheet, as well as fox.

3) Give each student a copy of the worksheet and ask them to write the names of the animals under each picture (you can point out that they are in alphabetical order), then match them to the sounds they make.

4) Play the first verses of the song again and allow them to check. Ask them to also put them in the correct order in which they hear them in the song.  
   **Key:** See complete lyrics.

5) Ask students to read the questions in the next activity. Play the rest of the song, students listen for the answers.  
   **Key:** - see complete lyrics  
   - horse, morse  
   - students’ own answers, based on second verses

6) Feedback and correct.

7) Give students a copy of the complete lyrics and play the song, students sing along (and dance if they want to!)

8) **Discussion:** Do students think the sounds given for each animal represent the real ones? What are they in their language?
1. Write the names of the animals under each picture, then match them to their sounds.

blub, croak, meow, moo, ow ow ow, quack, squeak, toot, tweet, woof

2. Listen to the first verses of the song and check. In what order do you hear the animals?

3. Listen to the rest of the song and answer the following questions.

- Here are the sounds the singer suggests the fox makes, put them in the order you hear them. There are also two that the fox sings!

  A-hee-ahee ha-hee!
  A-oo-oo-oo-ooo!
  Bay-budabud-dum-bam
  Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow!
  Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho!
  Jacha-chacha-chacha-chow!
  Joff-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff!
  Ring-ding-ding-ding-dingereding!
  Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow!
  Wa-wa-way-do Wub-wid-bid-dum-way-do Wa-wa-way-do

- What other animal does he mention? How does he suggest they would communicate?

- Imagine you meet someone from outer space who does not know what a fox looks like. Use words from the lyrics to describe one.
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Dog goes woof
Cat goes meow
Bird goes tweet
and mouse goes squeak
Cow goes moo
Frog goes croak
and the elephant goes toot
Ducks say quack
and fish go blub
and the seal goes ow ow ow

But there’s one sound
That no one knows
What does the fox say?

Ring-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding!
Gering-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding!
Gering-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding!
What the fox say?

Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow!
Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow!
Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow!
What the fox say?

Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho!
Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho!
Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho!
What the fox say?

Joff-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff!
Tchoff-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff!
Joff-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff!
What the fox say?

Big blue eyes
Pointy nose
Chasing mice
and digging holes
Tiny paws
Up the hill
Suddenly you’re standing still
Your fur is red
So beautiful
Like an angel in disguise

But if you meet
a friendly horse
Will you communicate by
mo-o-o-o-orse?
mo-o-o-o-orse?
mo-o-o-o-orse?

How will you speak to that
ho-o-o-o-orse?
ho-o-o-o-orse?
ho-o-o-o-orse?
What does the fox say?

Jacha-chacha-chacha-chow!
Chacha-chacha-chacha-chow!
Chacha-chacha-chacha-chow!
What the fox say?

Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow!
Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow!
Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow!
What the fox say?

A-hee-ahee ha-hee!
A-hee-ahee ha-hee!
A-hee-ahee ha-hee!
What the fox say?

A-oo-oo-oo-o0o!
Woo-oo-oo-oo-o0o!
What does the fox say?

The secret of the fox
Ancient mystery
Somewhere deep in the woods
I know you’re hiding
What is your sound?
Will we ever know?
Will always be a mystery
What do you say?

You’re my guardian angel
Hiding in the woods
What is your sound?

Fox: Wa-wa-way-do Wub-wid-bid-dum-way-do Wa-wa-way-do

Will we ever know?

Fox: Bay-budabud-dum-bam

I want to

Fox: Mama-dum-day-do

I want to
I want to know!

Fox: Abay-ba-da bum-bum bay-do

This worksheet is to be used for educational purposes only
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