We Are The Champions – Queen – Notes

- **Activity type:** phonetics, rhyming words, gap fill, comprehension.
- **Grammar:** present simple, present perfect, past simple, future will and be going
- **Time:** 30 mins.
- **Level:** Intermediate
- **Note:** Queen recorded this song for the 1977 album “News Of The World”, and it immediately became a concert favourite, now often being played at sporting events. You can read an analysis of the lyrics on the Speak Up page of www.tuneintoenglish.com.

1) **Phonetics exercise (optional):** To discriminate the sounds /ʊ/ and /u:/
   Write the following words on the board and ask students to list them in 2 columns with according to their sounds:
   
   a few  book  cook  do  dues  foot  good  group  look  new  through  who
   
   **Key:** /ʊ/  book, cook, foot, good, look  /u:/ a few, do, dues, group, new, through, who

2) Write the following words on the board:

   all  crime  cruise  face  friend  end  calls  lose  mistakes  time

   Ask students to match the words with similar vowel sounds (all but one are direct rhymes).

   **Key:** all-calls; crime-time; cruise-lose; end-friend; face-mistakes.

3) Play the song. Students tick each word as they hear it (they will hear each word once, apart from time (twice), friend and end (three times each). Point out that rhyming words occur very close to each other.

4) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to complete the lyrics before listening to the song again, based on context and their answers to the previous activity.

   **Language note:** ask students what they think 'cos, ain’t and gonna mean. ('cos is often used in songs to mean because, ain’t to mean am not, are not or is not and gonna is used instead of going to.)

5) Play the song. Students check and complete.

6) **Grammar:** Point out the tenses of the verbs in the chorus (present and future) and the past tenses in the other lines. Ask students to list the verbs in their base forms and the tenses they occur in the song.

   **Key:** 
   - Present perfect  (pay-do-make-have-come-take-be)
   - Past participle  (kick)
   - Past simple  (bring-commit)
   - Future “going to”  (lose)
   - Present simple  (go-thank-consider)

7) Correct and sing together.

**Further practice:** This song is often used at sporting events. It can be used to start a debate about sports and fanclubs. It could also be a starting point for a discussion on violence and other problems connected with sport.
I’ve paid my dues,
Time after ________
I’ve done my sentence,
But committed no ________
And bad ________
I’ve made a few,
I’ve had my share of sand kicked in my ________
But I’ve come through

**Chorus:**

We are the champions, my ________
And we’ll keep on fighting till the ________.
We are the champions
We are the champions
No time for losers ’cos
We are the champions of the world.

I’ve taken my bows and my curtain________
You brought me fame and fortune and everything that goes with it
I thank you ________,
But it’s been no bed of roses
No pleasure ________
I consider it a challenge before the whole human race
And I ain’t gonna ________.

**Repeat Chorus twice**
I’ve paid my dues,
  Time after time,
I’ve done my sentence,
  But committed no crime
   And bad mistakes
     I’ve made a few.
I’ve had my share of sand kicked in my face
  But I’ve come through

**Chorus:**

We are the champions, my friend
  And we’ll keep on fighting till the end.
We are the champions
  We are the champions
No time for losers ’cos
We are the champions of the world.

I’ve taken my bows and my curtain calls
You brought me fame and fortune and everything that goes with it
  I thank you all,
But it’s been no bed of roses
  No pleasure cruise.
I consider it a challenge before the whole human race
  And I ain’t gonna lose.

**Repeat Chorus twice**