With A Little Help From My Friends – Notes

- **Activity types:** Rhyming words, gap fill.
- **Grammar:** Present Simple, Past Simple, Future *going to* and *will*, Second Conditional.
- **Time:** 30 mins.
- **Note:** Sung by Ringo Starr, this track appeared on The Beatles’ 1967 album “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”. It was a huge hit for Joe Cocker when he released his version the following year.

1) **Discussion:** Ask students who they go to when they need help.

2) Write the following words on the board, and ask students to find the rhyming words.

   *alone - away - day - light - mine - own - sight - time*

   **Key:**
   - alone - own
   - away - day
   - light - sight
   - mine - time

3) **Play the song, students put the words in the correct order they hear them.**

   **Key:**
   - away - alone - day - own - sight - time - light - mine

4) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to listen to the song, and complete the lyrics, using the Present Simple, Past Simple, Future *going to* and *will* and Second Conditional. Play the song.

5) **Students check their answers in pairs or small groups.**

6) **Play the song again and correct.**

7) **Vocabulary:** discuss the meanings of the following verbs:

   *sing out of key - get by - get high - keep (on)*

8) **Sing the song together.**

9) **Optional extra activity:** Play the Joe Cocker version of the song (see complete version on the final page of this worksheet), and ask students to note the differences.

   **From Wikipedia:**
   Joe Cocker’s version was a radical re-arrangement of the original, in a slower, 6/8 meter, in a different key, using different chords in the middle eight, and a lengthy instrumental introduction (featuring memorable guitar lines from Jimmy Page). It was used as the opening theme song of the American television series The Wonder Years. This cover has become one of Joe Cocker’s most famous songs, and it was played during the Woodstock Festival.
With A Little Help From My Friends – The Beatles

What (you/think) ______________________ if I (sing) ______________ out of tune, (you/stand up) ______________________ and walk out on me.
Lend me your ears and I (sing) ______________ you a song,
And I (try) ______________ not to sing out of key.
Oh I (get) ____________ by with a little help from my friends,
I (get) ______________ high with a little help from my friends,
Oh I (try) ________________ with a little help from my friends.

What (I / do) ______________ when my love (be) __________ _ _ _ _ _?
(it / worry) ________________ you to be __________ _ _ _ _ _?
How (I / feel) ________________ by the end of the __________ _ _ _ _ _?
(you / be) ______________ sad because you're on your __________ _ _ _ _ _?
No, I (get) ________________ by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm I (get) ______________ high with a little help from my friends,
Mmm I (try) ________________ with a little help from my friends.

(you / need) ________________ anybody?
I (need) ______________ somebody to love.
(it /can) ________________ be anybody?
I (want) ______________ somebody to love.

(you / believe) ________________ in a love at first __________ _ _ _ _ _?
Yes I'm certain that it (happen) ________________ all the __________ _ _ _ _ _.
What (you / see) ________________ when you turn out the __________ _ _ _ _ _?
I (can not) ________________ tell you, but I know it's __________ _ _ _ _ _.
Oh I (get) ________________ by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm I (get) ________________ high with a little help from my friends,
Oh I (try) ________________ with a little help from my friends.

(you / need) ________________ anybody?
I just (need) ______________ somebody to love.
(it /can) ________________ be anybody?
I (want) ______________ somebody to love.

Oh I get by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm, I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends
I get high with a little help from my friends
Yes, I get by with a little help from my friends,
With a little help from my friends.
**The Beatles:**

What would you think if I sang out of tune
Would you stand up and walk out on me?
Lend me your ears and I’ll sing you a song
And I’ll try not to sing out of key
Oh I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm going to try with a little help from my friends

What do I do when my love is away?
(Does it worry you to be alone?)
How do I feel by the end of the day?
(Are you sad because you’re on your own?)
No I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm going to try with a little help from my friends

(Do you need anybody?)
I need somebody to love
(Could it be anybody?)
I want somebody to love

(Would you believe in a love at first sight?)
Yes I’m certain that it happens all the time
(What do you see when you turn out the light?)
I can’t tell you, but I know it’s mine
Oh I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm I get high with a little help from my friends
Oh I’m going to try with a little help from my friends

(Do you need anybody?)
I just need somebody to love
(Could it be anybody?)
I want somebody to love

Oh I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm going to try with a little help from my friends
Oh I get high with a little help from my friends
Yes I get by with a little help from my friends
With a little help from my friends

**Joe Cocker:**

What would you do if I sang out of tune
Would you stand up and walk out on me
Lend me your ears and I’ll sing you a song
I will try not to sing out of key
Ohh baby I get by,
(by with a little help of my friends)
All I need is my buddies
(try with a little help of my friends)
I said I’m gonna get high I will
(high with a little help of my friends)
Who-ho-hoo-yeah

What do I do when my love is away?
(does it worry for you to be alone?)
No no
How do I feel at the end of the day
(are you sad because your on your own?)
I tell you don’t you say it no more
(by with a little help of my friends)
Gonna get by with my friends
(try with a little help from my friends)
Heel-heel-heel I’m gonna try
(high with a little help from my friends)
Keeping on gettin’ high, I will

(do you need anybody)
I need someone to love
(could it be anybody)
All I need is someone, who knows just where I’m going yeah
Someone who knows quite sure, baby
(by with a little help from my friends)
I’m gonna make it with my friends, I will
(try with a little help from my friends)
Who-hoo-I’m gonna keep on trying
(high with a little help from my friends)
I’m gonna keep on trying

(would you believe in a love at first sight?)
I’m certain it happens all the time yeah
(what do you see when you turn out the light)
I can’t tell ya, but it sure feel like mine
(by with a little friend from my friends)
I promised myself I’d get by
(high with a little friend from my friends)
Said I’m gonna try it a little too hard

(do you need anybody)
Ohaaa, yeah yeah yeah
(could it be anybody)
Oh there’s gotta be somebody
Going to be right I know

Said I’m gonna get by with my friend, I tell ya
(by with a little help from my friends)
Said I’m gonna keep trying
(high with a little help from my friends)
Keep on trying with my friends
(by with a little help from my friends)
Ooh you never gonna stop me anymore
(trial with a little help from my friends)
I’m gonna keep on trying
(high with a little help from my friends)
I’m getting’ high, I’m wanna make time oh lord
Gonna get by with my friends