You Are Not Alone – Michael Jackson – Notes

- **Activity type:** phonetics, spelling, matching rhyming pairs.

- **Time:** 30 mins.

- **Level:** Pre-Intermediate

- **Note:** Taken from Jackson’s 1995 album “HIStory”, this holds a Guinness World Record as the first song in the 37-year history of the U.S.A.’s Billboard Hot 100 to debut at number one. Written by R. Kelly, the song became a top ten hit in every major market, with the exception of Italy. The video created some controversy with its scenes of Jackson and his then-wife Lisa Marie Presley semi-nude. The song became a UK Number One in November 2009 when it was recorded by the finalists of Britain’s X Factor, with proceeds going to London’s Great Ormand Street Hospital.

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Step 1 – Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to fold it so they cannot see the lyrics.

**Step 2** – Look at the phonetic transcriptions:

1. /bɪ/ /mi/  
2. /ə'weɪ/ /steɪ/  
3. /ə'pɑːt/ /hɑːt/  
4. /ˈbɛər/ /ˈpreərs/  
5. /ˈɡʊd.baɪ/ /ˈweɪ/  
6. /ˈnɑːt/ /ˈkraɪ/

Tell the students these are the phonetic transcriptions of some words, listed in rhyming pairs. Ask students to write the words. You can help them, by giving them the first pair: be / me. Let them work in small groups, and give them as much time as needed to find the correct spelling. Play the song in the background as they work.

**Key:** 1. be me  
2. away stay  
3. apart heart  
4. bear prayers  
5. goodbye why  
6. night cry

**Step 3** – Tell students to unfold the page to see the lyrics. Let them read and complete the gaps with the rhyming pairs of the words of exercise 1 – they will be able to use context and their previous knowledge of the song to help them.

**Step 4** - Play the song. Let them check their answers.

**Step 5** - Check their answers in open class.

**Step 6** – Students with a good understanding of phonetics could write the complete chorus in phonetics.

**Step 7** - Play the song again and sing together.
You Are Not Alone – Michael Jackson

Write the words for the following phonetic transcriptions of these rhyming pairs.

1- /bɪ/ /mɪ/
2- /ə'weɪ/ /stɛt/  
3- /ə'pæt/ /hæt/ 
4- /beər/ /prɛərs/ 
5- /'ɡud.bɑr/ /wæɪ/ 
6- /næt/ /kræt/ 

Complete the song with the words from the previous activity.

Another day has gone
I'm still all alone
How could this ________
You're not here with ________
You never said ________
Someone tell me ________
Did you have to go
And leave my world so cold

Everyday I sit and ask myself
How did love slip away
Something whispers in my ear and says
That

**Chorus:**
You are not alone
For I am here with you
Though you're far ________
I am here to ________
But you are not alone
For I am here with you
Though we're far ________
You're always in my ________
But you are not alone

('Lone, 'lone, Why, 'lone)

Just the other ________
I thought I heard you ________
Asking me to come
And hold you in my arms
I can hear your ________
Your burdens I will ________
But first I need your hand
Then forever can begin

Everyday I sit and ask myself
How did love slip away
Something whispers in my ear and says
That

**Repeat Chorus**

Whisper three words and I'll come runnin'
And girl you know that I'll be there
I'll be there

**Repeat Chorus to fade**
You Are Not Alone – Michael Jackson – Complete

Another day has gone
   I'm still all alone
   How could this be
You're not here with me
   You never said goodbye
   Someone tell me why
   Did you have to go
   And leave my world so cold

Everyday I sit and ask myself
   How did love slip away
Something whispers in my ear and says
   That

**Chorus:**
   You are not alone
   For I am here with you
   Though you're far away
   I am here to stay
   But you are not alone
   For I am here with you
   Though we're far apart
   You're always in my heart
   But you are not alone

   'Lone, 'lone
   Why, 'lone

   Just the other night
   I thought I heard you cry
   Asking me to come
   And hold you in my arms
   I can hear your prayers
   Your burdens I will bear
   But first I need your hand
   Then forever can begin

Everyday I sit and ask myself
   How did love slip away
Something whispers in my ear and says
   That

**Repeat Chorus**

Whisper three words and I'll come runnin'
   And girl you know that I'll be there
   I'll be there

**Repeat Chorus to fade**