



- **Activity types:** Vocabulary (opposites), listening for specific words, gap fill
- **Level:** Intermediate
- **Language focus:** Informal American English
- **Notes:** *FourFiveSeconds* is a song recorded by Barbadian singer Rihanna, American rapper Kanye West and English musician Paul McCartney. The song was released on 24th January 2015 the son and performed for the first time at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards a few weeks later and gave McCartney his first Top 10 hit in almost 30 years.

1. **Activity 1.** Ask students to match the opposites alone or in pairs.
Key: 1d – 2f – 3g – 4b – 5e – 6a – 7h – 8c
2. Play the song. Ask students to listen for the opposites from the previous activity, correcting if necessary, and numbering them in the order they hear them in any form. If they appear more than once, refer to the first time.
Key: 1. drunk - 2. kindness - 3. weakness - 4. optimist - 5. positive - 6. selfish - 7. reckless – 8. pride
3. Students unfold the page and complete the song (**Activity 2**) according to their answers to the previous activity and context.
4. Play the song again. Students check their answers in pairs or in groups,
5. Correct in open class, play the song again and sing together!

Language Focus

In the song there are some examples of informal American English:

- 'cause = because, 'bout = about
- trash = rubbish
- you was talkin' trash = you were talking nonsense/rubbish
- ain't = isn't
- to spaz: to go mad

Complete lyrics:

I think I've had enough, I might get a little drunk
I say what's on my mind, I might do a little time
'Cause all of my kindness is taken for weakness

Chorus:

**Now I'm FourFiveSeconds from wildin'
And we got three more days 'til Friday
I'm just tryin' make it back home by Monday
mornin'
I swear I wish somebody would tell me
Ooh that's all I want**

Woke up an optimist, sun was shining, I'm positive
Then I heard you was talkin' trash
Hold me back I'm 'bout to spaz

Repeat Chorus

And I know that you're up tonight
Thinkin' how could I be so selfish
But you called 'bout a thousand times wondering
where I've been
Now I know that you're out tonight
Thinkin' how could I be so reckless
But I just can't apologise, I hope you can understand

If I go to jail tonight, promise you'll pay my bail
See they want to buy my pride, but that just ain't up
for sale
See all of my kindness is taken for weakness

Repeat Chorus twice



FourFiveSeconds – Rihanna, Kanye West & Paul McCartney



Activity 1. Match the opposites:

1. ___ optimist	a. positive
2. ___ selfish	b. humility
3. ___ rudeness	c. drunk
4. ___ pride	d. pessimist
5. ___ strength	e. weakness
6. ___ negative	f. caring
7. ___ careful	g. kindness
8. ___ sober	h. reckless

FOLD

Activity 2. Complete the song with the words from Activity 1.

I think I've had enough, I might get a little _____
 I say what's on my mind, I might do a little time
 'Cause all of my _____ is taken for _____

Chorus:

**Now I'm FourFiveSeconds from wildin'
 And we got three more days 'til Friday
 I'm just tryin' make it back home by Monday mornin'
 I swear I wish somebody would tell me
 Ooh that's all I want**

Woke up an _____, sun was shining, I'm _____
 Then I heard you was talkin' trash
 Hold me back I'm 'bout to spaz

Repeat Chorus

And I know that you're up tonight
 Thinkin' how could I be so _____
 But you called 'bout a thousand times wondering where I've been
 Now I know that you're out tonight
 Thinkin' how could I be so _____
 But I just can't apologise, I hope you can understand

If I go to jail tonight, promise you'll pay my bail
 See they want to buy my _____, but that just ain't up for sale
 See all of my _____ is taken for _____

Repeat Chorus twice

