



Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da – The Beatles - Notes



- **Activity types:** matching pictures to phrases, comprehension.
- **Level:** Elementary / Pre-Intermediate
- **Note:** Written by Paul McCartney for the 1968 album *The Beatles*, the title is based on a Nigerian phrase. John, George and Ringo hated the song!
This activity is also appropriate for dyslexic students, who learn more easily with the help of images.

- 1) Play the song and ask students to listen and guess what the song is about. Do they know the name of the band?
- 2) Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to look at the first two activities. Play the song, then allow them to check in pairs before feedback.

Key: questions: 1 – c, 2 – c, 3 – b, 4 – a
pictures: 1 – g, 2 – d, 3 – c, 4 – f, 5 – a, 6 – b, 7 – h, 8 – e

- 3) Ask students to unfold the worksheet. Play the song, they add the missing lyrics- they should be able to do this without listening again, based on context and their answers to the previous activity.
- 4) Feedback, then sing the song together.

Complete lyrics:

Desmond has a barrow in the market place
Molly is the singer in a band
Desmond says to Molly "girl, I like your face"
And Molly says this as she takes him by the hand

Ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on
Ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on

Desmond takes a trolley to the jeweller's stores
Buys a twenty carat golden ring (golden ring)
Takes it back to Molly waiting at the door
And as he gives it to her she begins to sing (sing)

Ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on
Ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on, yeah (no)

In a couple of years they have built
A home sweet home
With a couple of kids running in the yard
Of Desmond and Molly Jones
(Ha ha ha ha ha ha)

Happy ever after in the market place
Desmond lets the children lend a hand (arm! leg!)
Molly stays at home and does her pretty face
And in the evening she's still singing with the band

Yes, ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on (ha ha ha)
Hey, ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on

In a couple of years they have built
A home sweet home
With a couple of kids running in the yard
Of Desmond and Molly Jones
(Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha)

Yeah, happy ever after in the market place
Molly lets the children lend a hand (foot!)
Desmond stays at home and does his pretty face
And in the evening she's a singer with the band

Yeah, ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on
Yeah, ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on

And if you want some fun
Take ob-la-di ob-la-da
(Thank you, uh, ha ha ha!)



Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da – The Beatles

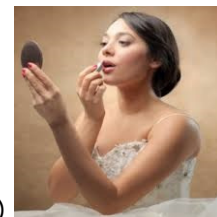


Listen to the song and choose the correct answer:

- 1) The song is about – a) a band, b) a market, c) a young couple
- 2) Desmond is – a) a jeweller, b) a singer, c) a trader
- 3) Molly is – a) a trader, b) a singer, c) a housewife
- 4) At the end of the song Molly – a) still sings in a band, b) no longer sings, c) helps at the market

Match the pictures with the lines from the song, then listen and put them in the order they appear.

1. With a couple of kids running in the yard.
2. Buys a twenty carat golden ring.
3. Desmond takes a trolley to the jeweller's stores.
4. They have built a home sweet home.
5. Desmond has a barrow in the market place.
6. Molly is the singer in a band.
7. Molly stays at home and does her pretty face.
8. Molly says this as she takes him by the hand.



FOLD

Complete the song with the missing lines

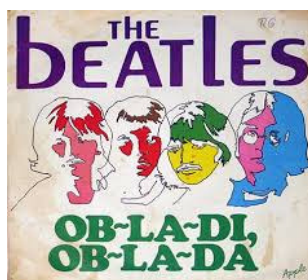
Desmond says to Molly "girl I like your face"
And _____

Chorus:

Ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on
Ob-la-di ob-la-da life goes on, bra
La-la how the life goes on

And as he gives it to her she begins to sing (sing)

Repeat Chorus



In a couple of years

Of Desmond and Molly Jones
(Ah ha ha ha ha ha)

Happy ever after in the market place
Desmond lets the children lend a hand (arm! leg!)

And in the evening she's still singing with the band

Repeat Chorus

Repeat third verse ("In a couple of years....")

Yeah, happy ever after in the market place
Molly lets the children lend a hand (foot!)

Repeat Chorus

And if you want some fun
Take ob-la-di ob-la-da

(Thank you, uh, ha ha ha!)