September – Earth, Wind and Fire – Not
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- Activity types: vocabulary, listening for specific words, gap fill, crossword.
- Level: Elementary/ Pre-intermediate
- **Grammar**: Present simple vs Past simple; Past simple vs Past Continuous
- Time: 30 mins.
- **Note:** Earth, Wind and Fire, from Chicago, achieved worldwide success in the 1970's. *September* was released as a single in September 1978 and became a huge worldwide hit. In 1999 it was remixed by the British duo Phats & Small and became a dance hit again. It is used in the closing scene of the 2006 film *Night at the Museum*.
 - **A)** Ask the students the following questions:
 - Which is your favourite season? Which season starts in September?
 - Do you know when exactly autumn begins and ends?

Key: It usually begins on 23rd September (autumn equinox) and ends on 21st December (winter solstice), but dates can vary.

- Do you like autumn? Why?
- What is the American word for "autumn"?

Key: fall

B) Divide students into different groups, give them a copy of the worksheet and ask them to find the right words for the following definitions (exercise 1). Then, check the answers. The group with most correct words wins.

Key: (the number in brackets are the key to the next ordering exercise)

1)	The 12 th month of the year.	December (10)
2)	The opposite of "there".	here (8)
3)	If it is not false, it is	true (11)
4)	The opposite of "day".	night (3)
5)	21 as an ordinal number.	21 st /twenty-first (2)
6)	The 9 th month of the year.	September (4)
7)	They shine in the sky.	stars (5)
8)	The opposite of the verb "forget".	remember (1)
9)	You can hold, shake or clap them.	hands (7)
10)	The day after yesterday.	today (12)
11)	Opposite of the verb "leave".	stay (9)
12)	If there are clouds, the sky is	cloudy (6)

- **C)** Ask students to listen for the words in ex 1, numbering them in the order they hear them (See **key** above). Play the song. Then students complete the song (ex 2) according to their answers to the previous activity and context.
- **D)** Play the song again. Students check their answers in pairs or in groups.
- **E)** Correct in open class, play the song and sing together!
- **F) Grammar:** Write on the board the following sentences from the song and ask students to explain the difference between them.
 - We share today We shared in September

 If students already know the past tenses, they can also list the regular and irregular verbs in the past simple (**Key: danced, shared; stole, was/were, knew, found**) and compare them to the actions in progress expressed by the past continuous.
- **G) Follow up:** Using definitions and words in ex 1 students make a crossword. They can invent new definitions to other words from the song (e.g. *blue*, *golden*, *day*, *bell*, etc.)



September – Earth, Wind and Fire



1. Find the right word for the following definitions.

1) The 12" month of the year.	
2) The opposite of "there".	
3) If it is not false, it is	
4) The opposite of "day".	
5) 21 as an ordinal number.	
6) The 9 th month of the year.	
7) They shine in the sky.	
8) The opposite of the verb "forget".	
9) You can hold, shake or clap them.	
10) The day after yesterday.	
11) The opposite of the verb "leave"".	
12) If there are clouds the sky is	

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

Do you the of? Love was changing the minds of pretenders While chasing the clouds away.								
Our hearts were ringing In the key that our souls were singing As we danced in the how the stole the away, oh yeah.								
Chorus 1	Hey, hey, hey,	you j in						
My thoughts are with you Holding with your heart to see you Only blue talk and love, how we knew love was to								
Now found the love we shared in, Only blue talk and love, the love we share								
Hey, hey, hey, Repeat Chorus 1								
Chorus 2	There was a Ba de ya, say do Ba de ya, dancing Ba de ya, golden	j in						
Now our bell was ringing, Our souls were singing Do you Never a day, yeah. There was a								







Repeat Chorus 1 and 2

Do you **remember** the **21**st **night** of **September**? Love was changing the minds of pretenders While chasing the clouds away.

Our hearts were ringing
In the key that our souls were singing
As we danced in the **night**Remember how the **stars** stole the **night** away, oh yeah.

Hey, hey, hey,

Chorus 1 Ba de ya, say do you remember

Ba de ya, dancing in September

Ba de ya, never was a cloudy day.

My thoughts are with you Holding **hands** with your heart to see you Only blue talk and love, Remember how we knew love was **here** to **stay**.

Now **December** found the love we shared in **September**, Only blue talk and love, **Remember** the **true** love we share **today**.

Hey, hey, hey,

Repeat Chorus 1

Ba de ya, say do you remember

Ba de ya, dancing in September

Ba de ya, never was a cloudy day.

Chorus 2 There was a

Ba de ya, say do you remember

Ba de ya, dancing in September

Ba de ya, golden dreams were shiny days.

Now our bell was ringing, Our souls were singing Do you **remember** Never a **cloudy** day, yeah.

There was a

Repeat chorus 1 and 2