



Sunday Bloody Sunday – U2 – Notes



- **Activity types:** discussion, vocabulary, listening for specific words, gap fill.
- **Grammar:** Past participles; modal verbs: *can, must*.
- **Time:** 30 mins.
- **Note:** This song is from U2's 1983 album *War*. On Sunday 30th January 1972, British soldiers opened fire on unarmed civil rights protesters in Derry, Northern Ireland. Thirteen people, including six minors, were killed outright and many more were seriously wounded. On 15th June 2010 the Saville Report, an inquiry commissioned in 1998 by then Prime Minister Tony Blair, was published. It was heavily critical of the British Army, with Prime Minister David Cameron declaring "The Bloody Sunday killings were unjustified and unjustifiable" and that he was "deeply sorry". See more at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10320609>

1) PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITIES - Discussion

- a) Do you know what happened on Bloody Sunday?
- b) **Vocabulary.** Write the following verbs in the base form on the board (they are all in the song, but in different forms and tenses)

break, close, win, dig, tear, believe, put, wipe, eat, drink, cry, be, claim, begin, make, go, sing, heed, begin, lose, tell, die, strew

- c) Divide the students into groups and ask them to write the past participle of the verbs. They can use a dictionary if available. The group that finishes first wins.

Key: broken, closed, won, dug, torn, believed, put, wiped, eaten, drunk, cried, been, claimed, begun, made, gone, sung, heeded, begun, lost, told, died, strewn

2) LISTENING ACTIVITIES

- d) Ask the students to **listen for 6 past participles** (underlined in the key above) in activity c), numbering them in the order they hear them (if they appear more than once, refer to the first time). Play the song.
- e) Give each student a copy of the worksheet and ask them to **fill in the gaps** with the missing past participles and all the other missing verbs (in any form and tense).
- f) Play the song again. The students check their answers in pairs or in groups.
- g) Correct in open class, play the song again and sing together.

3) GRAMMAR FOCUS AND FURTHER DISCUSSION

- h) Modal verbs: the students find all the lines containing *can* or *must* and try to express their function (possibility, necessity, etc.)
- i) Past participle formation: 1. regular: base form of the verb + -ed; 2. irregular: it varies. Make examples from the song. put/put, win/won, tear/torn, etc.
- j) **Pronunciation focus:** 1. tear (noun) [tiə*] – tear (verb) [tɛə*]; 2. "oo" can be pronounced as /u/ in "book", as /o:/ in "door", as /ʌ/ in "blood"
- k) **Discussion:** A. What feelings does the song express? (despair, anger, bewilderment, grief, hope for reconciliation, etc.) B. Ask the students to discuss the following two lines from the song: 1. "The trench is dug within our hearts" 2. "When fact is fiction and TV reality".

- 4) **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES.** Ask the students to find more information about the Bloody Sunday event. Show them the 2002 documentary "Bloody Sunday" by Paul Greengrass.



Sunday Bloody Sunday – U2



Complete the song using the following words
(you may have to change the form).

**break, close, win, dig, tear,
believe, put, wipe, eat, drink,
cry, be, claim, begin, make,
go, sing, heed, begin, lose,
tell, die, strew.**



I can't _____ the news today,
I can't _____ my eyes and _____ it _____ away.
How long, how long must we _____ this song?
How long? How long? 'cause tonight we can _____ as one, tonight.

_____ bottles under children's feet,
Bodies _____ across a dead end street,
But I won't _____ the battle call,
It _____ my back up, _____ my back up against the wall.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

And the battle's just _____,
There's many _____, but tell me who has _____?
The trenches _____ within our hearts,
And mothers, children, brothers, sisters _____ apart.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

How long, how long must we _____ this song?
How long? How long? 'cause tonight we can _____ as one,
Tonight, tonight.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

_____ the tears from your eyes,
_____ your tears away, _____ your tears away,
_____ your bloodshot eyes.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

And it's true we _____ immune.
When fact _____ fiction and T.V. reality,
And today the millions _____,
We _____ and _____ while tomorrow they _____.
The real battle just _____.
To _____ the victory Jesus _____

On a Sunday, bloody Sunday,
Sunday, bloody Sunday.





Sunday Bloody Sunday – U2 – Complete



I can't believe the news today,
Oh, I can't close my eyes and make it go away.
How long, how long must we sing this song?
How long? How long? 'cause tonight we can be as one, tonight.

Broken bottles under children's feet,
Bodies strewn across a dead end street.
But I won't heed the battle call,
It puts my back up, puts my back up against the wall.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

And the battle's just begun,
There's many lost, but tell me who has won?
The trenches dug within our hearts,
And mothers, children, brothers, sisters torn apart.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

How long, how long must we sing this song?
How long? How long? 'cause tonight we can be as one,
Tonight, tonight.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

Wipe the tears from your eyes,
Wipe your tears away, wipe your tears away,
Wipe your bloodshot eyes.

Sunday, bloody Sunday.
Sunday, bloody Sunday.

And it's true we are immune,
When fact is fiction and T.V. reality
And today the millions cry,
We eat and drink while tomorrow they die.
The real battle just begun
To claim the victory Jesus won

On a Sunday, bloody Sunday,
Sunday, bloody Sunday.