



The Miracle (Of Joey Ramone) – U2 – Notes



- **Activity types:** listening for specific words, gap fill.
- **Grammar:** Past Simple, Past Participle.

Note: This was the first single from U2's 2014 album Songs of Innocence. It describes how singer Bono found his voice by hearing Joey Ramone. As a follow up you can ask students if they know the band The Ramones. Play them some of their music and ask what they think! (There is a worksheet for Louis Armstrong's What A Wonderful World on www.tuneintoenglish.com, with a video for Joey Ramone's version.)

- 1) Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet. Ask them to work in pairs to complete the chart with the correct form of the verb.

Key:

	Base form	Past simple	Past participle
1	disappear	disappeared	disappeared
2	hear	heard	heard
3	have	had	had
4	want	wanted	wanted
5	blind	blinded	blinded
6	to be	was / were	been
7	wake	woke	woken
8	occur	occurred	occurred
9	lose	lost	lost
10	return	returned	return
11	get	got	got /gotten (Am. Eng.)
12	steal	stole	stolen

- 2) Feedback, then complete vocabulary activity.

Key:

1 d - 2 f - 3 c - 4 h - 5 g - 6 a - 7 b - 8 e

- 3) Play the song and ask them to tick the words as they hear them.
- 4) Ask students to unfold the page to see the lyrics. Allow them to work in pairs to complete the activity without listening to the song using their answers to the previous activity, as well as context.
- 5) Play the song, students check and correct if necessary.
- 6) Sing the song together.



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1. Past simple and past participle: complete the chart.

	Base form	Past simple	Past participle
1			disappeared
2		heard	
3	have		
4	want		
5		blinded	
6		was / were	
7			woken
8		occurred	
9	lose		
10		returned	
11		got	
12		stole	

2. Vocabulary: match the words with their definitions:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. dumb | a. to follow or run after a person/animal/goal persistently |
| 2. brand new | b. frequented or visited by ghosts |
| 3. herd | c. a number of animals feeding, travelling or kept together |
| 4. pilgrims | d. stupid |
| 5. deserve | e. ghosts / visible but bodiless spirits |
| 6. to chase down | f. something totally new, never used |
| 7. haunted | g. to merit something because of an action or circumstances |
| 8. spectres | h. people who make a journey to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion |

FOLD

3. Use the verbs and the vocabulary above to complete the song. (Be careful: you may need to change the tense of the verbs and words may appear more than once)

I was chasing down the days of fear
 Chasing down a dream before it _____
 I was aching to be somewhere new
 Your voice was all I _____
 I was shaking from a storm in me
 _____ by the _____ that we _____ to see
 Yeah, I _____ to be the melody
 Above the noise, above the _____

*I was young, not _____
 Just wishing to be _____
 By you, brand new
 And we were _____ on our way*

Chorus:

**I _____ up at the moment
 when the miracle _____
 _____ a song that made some sense out of the world
 Everything I ever _____ now has been _____
 The most beautiful sound I'd ever _____**

We've got language so we can communicate
 Religion so I can love and hate
 Music so I can exaggerate my pain

And give it a name
*I was young, not _____
 Just wishing to be _____
 By you, brand new
 And we were _____ on our way*

Repeat Chorus

We can hear, we can hear
 We can hear, ooh

I woke up at the moment when the miracle occurred

**I _____ so many things I don't _____
 All the _____ voices will some day be returned
 The most beautiful sound I'd ever heard**

And your voices will be heard
 And your voices will be heard





The Miracle (Of Joey Ramone) – U2 – Complete



I was chasing down the days of fear
Chasing down a dream before it **disappeared**
I was aching to be somewhere new
Your voice was all I **heard**
I was shaking from a storm in me
Haunted by the *spectres* that we **had** to see
Yeah, I **wanted** to be the melody
Above the noise, above the *herd*

*I was young, not dumb
Just wishing to be blinded
By you, brand new
And we were pilgrims on our way*

**I woke up at the moment
when the miracle occurred
Heard a song that made some sense out of the world
Everything I ever lost now has been returned
The most beautiful sound I'd ever heard**

We've got language so we can communicate
Religion so I can love and hate
Music so I can exaggerate my pain
And give it a name

*I was young, not dumb
Just wishing to be blinded
By you, brand new
And we were pilgrims on our way*

**I woke up at the moment
when the miracle occurred
Heard a song that made some sense out of the world
Everything I ever lost now has been returned
The most beautiful sound I'd ever heard**

We can hear, we can hear
We can hear, ooh

**I woke up at the moment
when the miracle occurred
I get so many things I don't deserve
All the stolen voices will some day be returned
The most beautiful sound I'd ever heard**

[Outro:]
And your voices will be heard
And your voices will be heard