



### Activity: Present Perfect Songs

**Materials needed:** A recorded song, written lyrics

#### Description:

Use music to enliven the present perfect and help students practice its formation. Songs also provide an opportunity for discussing the usage of the tense. You can find even the most obscure lyrics on the Internet, and you can buy and download individual songs inexpensively at various Internet sites. Below are some songs that use the present perfect extensively.



- Paul McCartney – “My Brave Face” (present perfect and present perfect progressive)
- U2 – “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking for” (present perfect)
- Brandy – “Have You Ever?” (present perfect question form)
- Foreigner – “I’ve Been Waiting” (present perfect progressive)
- EmmyLou Harris – “You Been on My Mind” (both present perfect and present perfect progressive, and also a good example of the reduced form used in rapid speech, as evident in the title)
- Celine Dion – “Have You Ever Been in Love?” (question form)

Lyrics sites – [www.lyrics.com](http://www.lyrics.com); [www.azlyrics.com](http://www.azlyrics.com); [www.sing365.com](http://www.sing365.com)

There are many ways to use songs and lyrics to emphasize a grammar point:

- Prepare a cloze exercise featuring the verb tense.
- Read and discuss the meaning of the lyrics and why the present perfect tenses are used.
- Sing the song, helping the students notice that in rapid speech, the contraction of *have/has* in the present perfect is almost inaudible, and in fact, it is sometimes (incorrectly) left out altogether.
- Write another verse modeled on one that uses the present perfect.