

**HELLO** by Lionel Richie*Focus on:* **Noun Clauses—UEEG 3e Ch. 12**

Notes for the Teacher**1. Preparing the Song**

Find the lyrics to “Hello” by Lionel Richie. Re-type the lyrics, replacing the noun clauses with blank lines. The original video of the song is available on YouTube if you want to use it as a follow up to the writing activity.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDZcqBgCS74&feature=related>

2. Song background

Lionel Richie began as an R & B singer before moving more into pop music in the 1980s. The song “Hello,” a romantic ballad, was released in 1984 and was a Top Ten hit in the U.S. During the past ten years, Richie’s success has been mainly in Europe and the Middle East, but his career has successfully spanned 4 decades.

3. Grammar background

The grammar focus of this song is **Noun Clauses**. These are the kinds of **noun clauses** found in this song:

- **Question word** followed by **subject and verb**

*I wonder **how you are**.*

- **Question word** followed by **infinitive**

*You know just **what to do**.*

- Beginning with **that** (*that* can also be omitted)

*Is it me **(that) you’re looking for**?*

Noun clauses can be used in the same roles as nouns: the subject of a verb, the object of a verb, or the object of a preposition.

4. Vocabulary

Students at this level may need help with these words. The definition given deals only with the word as it is used in the song.

- **overflow** (verb): fill to capacity and then go beyond the limit
- **have a clue**: have an idea or a hint about something, even without understanding the entire situation

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Student Worksheet**While you listen**

1. Listen to the song once. Discuss what you understood. Who is speaking to whom in the song? What is their relationship?
2. Listen to the song again. Write the missing noun clauses on the lyrics page as you hear them come up.
3. Check your answers by listening again.

After you listen

4. Look up the word “unrequited” in your dictionary. What does the expression “unrequited love” have to do with this song? Reflect again on your response to #1 above. Can you add more information to your earlier answer?
5. There are three kinds of noun clauses represented in this song. Identify the noun clauses in the song and decide which pattern below each one fits.
 - a. Question word + subject + verb
 - b. Question word + infinitive
 - c. *That* (or *that* omitted) + subject + verb
6. What is the difference in structure between a question beginning with a question word and a noun clause beginning with a question word?
7. Grammar bonus! Find the line with a coordinating conjunction that is a more formal way of saying *because*. Why do you think the writer chose this more formal expression than the word *because* or the shortened *'cause*?

Writing

8. Together with a partner, imagine you are producing a music video. Describe what the video for this song should include. Will it tell a story with pictures, or will it be an abstract interpretation? Write a paragraph with your video idea as if you are trying to “sell” your idea to the songwriter.