

**MARTHA, MY DEAR** by The Beatles**A lesson about imperatives (Chapter 7)****Notes for the Teacher****1. The Song**

Do a search on the Internet to find the song “Martha, My Dear” by The Beatles. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist.

2. Song background

You are going to hear a song by The Beatles, a very successful musical group from England that played music throughout the 1960s. In this song, the singer is talking to a friend (Martha) who he wants to spend more time with.

3. Grammar background

Go over the use of the imperative. Explain that the imperative form is used to give orders or make requests. Tell students that the imperative is the **simple form** of the verb, and if the command is negative, we use **don't + the simple form**. Here are some examples:

Take a bus to the zoo.

Don't forget to water the plants.

Encourage students to give some examples of commands. They can tell you or another student to perform some action in the classroom.

You can find more information on imperatives on p. 213 of *Fundamentals of English Grammar*.

4. Vocabulary

These are just some of the words you may want to discuss during your lesson.

- **in the thick of it:** in trouble
- **inspiration:** someone or something that encourages you to do good
- **bound to:** certain to do something



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Student Worksheet

While you listen

1. Listen through the song once for meaning. What does the singer want Martha to do?
2. Now listen again. Write down the imperative forms that you hear. Don't look at the text yet!
3. Listen a third time and follow along with the text. Underline all the imperative forms that you find? Then look at your list. Did you hear them all the first time?
4. The singer also wants Martha to do something for him. Name two things he wants her to do for him. Write them here.

1.

2.

After you listen

1. Things to think about and discuss

In pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, share your answers to the question below.

The singer wants Martha to do something for herself. He says “hold your hand out,” “hold your head up,” and “help yourself to a bit of what is all around you.” What do you think he means?

2. Speaking & Writing

Work in pairs, small groups, or as a whole class.

Tell about a person that you know who you think needs to change something about him or herself. It could be a friend or family member, a famous person, a politician, or even yourself.

Write a paragraph in which you ask him or her to do something for you and something for him or herself. Use imperatives. Remember that “please” makes an imperative more polite. Share what you wrote with the other students.