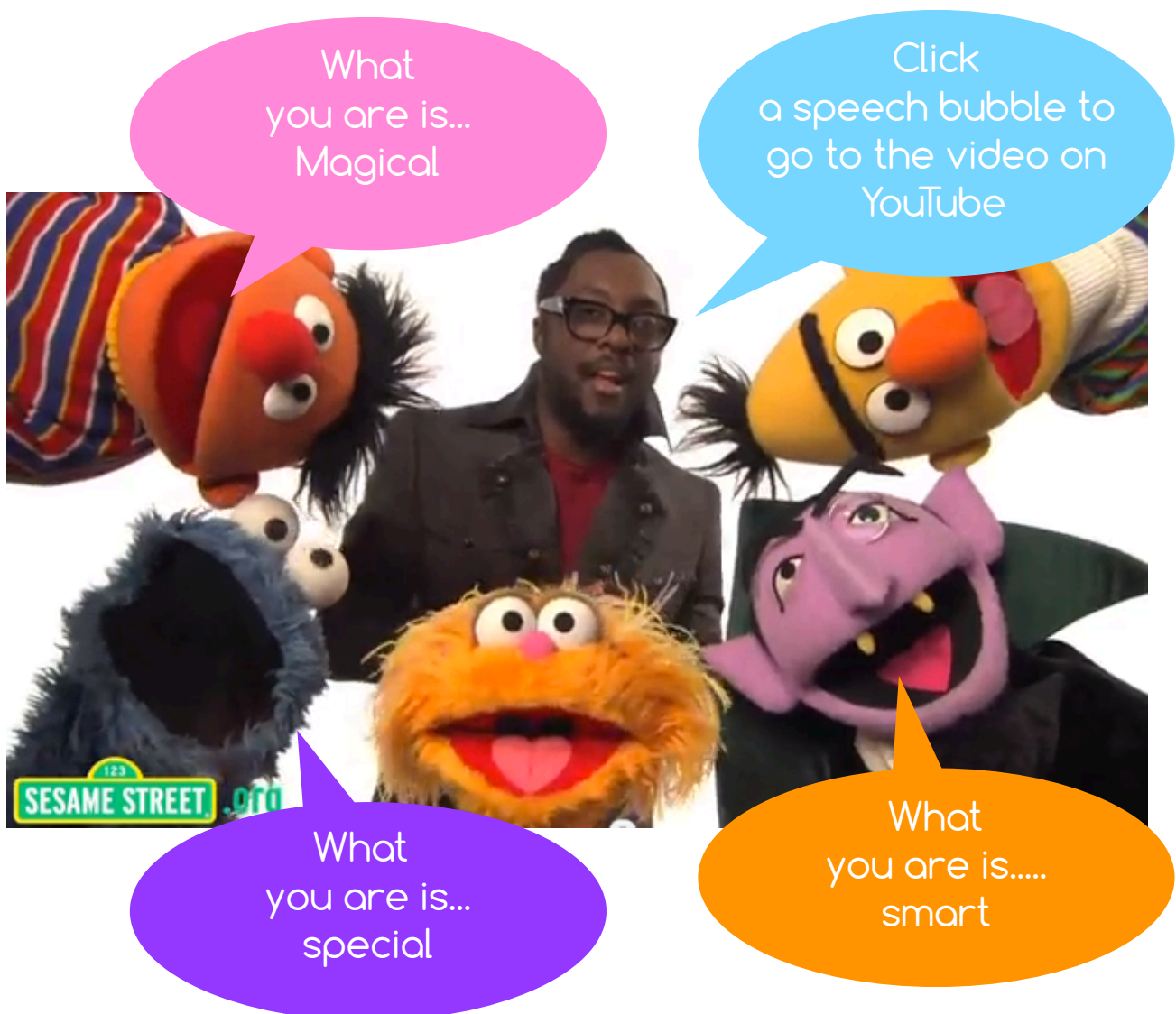


How Will.i.am can help boost your child's confidence

Lesson ideas

The following lesson ideas use the song collaboration between Will.i.am and Sesame Street, the song is called What I Am and it has a fantastic positive message for both children and adults. It is fun and catchy and I can definitely think of worse songs to be stuck in your child's head.

These lessons can be used for both native English speakers and those studying English, I deliberately haven't marked them with an age or level. You know your children/students the best so just print off the pages that you think will work for them.



If what I am is what's in me
Then I'll stay strong - that's who I'll be
and I will always be the best
"me" that I can be.

There's only one me, I am it
have a dream I'll follow it
It's up to me to try.

Oh! I'm a keep my head up high
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna quit
I'll be getting stronger.

And nothing's gonna bring me down (no!)
Never gonna stop, gotta go. (go)
Because I know
I'll keep getting stronger.

And what I am is thoughtful
what I am is musical
what I am is smart
and what I am is brave
what I am is helpful
what I am is special
There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in myself I believe in oh...

Gonna keep our heads up high
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna quit
Just keep getting stronger.

And nothing's gonna bring us down (no!)
Never give it up, gotta go.
Because I know
I'll keep getting stronger.

What I am is super
what I am is proud
what I am is friendly
what I am is grouchy
what you are is magical
what you are is special

There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in myself I believe in oh...

Gonna hold my head up high
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna stop
I'll be getting stronger.

Nothing's gonna bring me down
Never give it up gotta go, oh... yeah...
I'll keep getting strong--er.

Fill In The Blanks

This is a great listening exercise and is easily adjusted to the level of the student.

For lower level students, give them the printout and read through the words together. Elicit their predictions for the missing words. Let them listen to the song a couple of times before asking them to fill in the answers.

For higher level students reduce the amount of time they have to study the words before they listen to it.

An alternative: supply the students with the missing words (below), they can first guess where each of the words will go and then listen to see if they were correct.

There are two versions of the fill in the gaps, choose the version you think is suitable for your students.

Missing words from the first 'fill in the gaps'

me	high	stronger
special	quit	super
stop		

Missing words from the second 'fill in the gaps'

me	high	stronger
special	quit	super
stop	me	dream
gonna	smart	give
magical		

Make The Song Your Own

Together, brainstorm words to describe people, use the positive and negative sheet to jot down the words you come up with.

In the song there is one negative word - grouchy, which is a good balance because we all have our negative sides too. Once you have a good selection of words, ask the student to fill in their lyric sheet using words to describe themselves. They can use one negative word, that should be written on the blue line on the lyric sheet. Now it is time to KARAOKE!

To make this more difficult you can get the student to find words with the same syllables as the original lyrics

Another version of this is to write the lyrics about someone you all know or someone famous, which words would you use for Obama? Angelina Jolie? Bart Simpson?

Finally, to help expand vocabulary, ask your students to come up with alternative words for the ones in the song such as, another meaning from grouchy (grumpy, sad, miserable).

TPR

TPR or Total Physical Response is great for kids classes and it is a proven method to help with memory. Using movement whilst learning new words helps the neurons build stronger connections in the brain.

On the TPR sheet I have marked words in orange that I suggest using as action, you can of course, use whichever words you like.

Some suggestions...

Me - point to yourself

High - point to the ceiling

Grouchy - slump shoulders and look sad

Stronger - like a muscle man, Will.i.am does this in the video

You will probably find that the kids start to shout out the words too!

William & Sesame Street :: What I Am ::

Fill
in the gaps
Version 1
Page 1

If what I am is what's in _____
Then I'll stay strong - that's who I'll be
and I will always be the best
"me" that I can be.

There's only one me, I am it
have a dream I'll follow it
It's up to me to try.

Oh! I'm a keep my head up _____
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna quit
I'll be getting stronger.

And nothing's gonna bring me down (no!)
Never gonna stop, gotta go. (go)
Because I know
I'll keep getting _____.

And what I am is thoughtful
what I am is musical
what I am is smart
and what I am is brave
what I am is helpful
what I am is _____

There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in myself I believe in oh...

Gonna keep our heads up high
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna _____
Just keep getting stronger.

And nothing's gonna bring us down (no!)
Never give it up, gotta go.
Because I know
I'll keep getting stronger.

What I am is _____
what I am is proud
what I am is friendly
what I am is grouchy
what you are is magical
what you are is special

There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in myself I believe in oh...

Gonna hold my head up high
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna _____
I'll be getting stronger.

Nothing's gonna bring me down
Never give it up gotta go, oh... yeah...
I'll keep getting strong--er.

Wii.i.am & Sesame Street :: What I Am ::

Fill
in the gaps
Version 2
Page 1

If what I am is what's in _____
Then I'll stay strong - that's who I'll be
and I will always be the best
" _____ " that I can be.

There's only one me, I am it
have a _____ I'll follow it
It's up to me to try.

Oh! I'm a keep my head up _____
Keep on reaching high
Never _____ quit
I'll be getting stronger.

And nothing's gonna bring me down (no!)
Never gonna stop, gotta go. (go)
Because I know
I'll keep getting _____.

And what I am is thoughtful
what I am is musical
what I am is _____
and what I am is brave
what I am is helpful
what I am is _____
There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in myself I believe in oh...

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Never gonna _____
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And nothing's gonna bring us down (no!)
Never _____ it up, gotta go.
Because I know
I'll keep getting stronger.

What I am is _____
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what you are is special

There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in myself I believe in oh...

Gonna hold my head up high
Keep on reaching high
Never gonna _____
I'll be getting stronger.

Nothing's gonna bring me down
Never give it up gotta go, oh... yeah...
I'll keep getting strong--er.

Make the song your own

Positive words

Negative words



Make the song your own

Wiliam & Sesame Street :: What I Am :: Lyrics

If what I am is what's in me
Then I'll stay strong - that's who I'll be
and I will always be the best
"me" that I can be.

Make
the song
your own
page 1

There's only one me, I am it
have a dream I'll follow it
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Never gonna stop, gotta go. (go)
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Never give it up gotta go, oh... yeah...
I'll keep getting strong--er.

If what I am is what's in **me**
Then I'll stay **strong** - that's who I'll be
and I will always be the best
"**me**" that I can be.

There's only one **me**, I am it
have a dream I'll follow it
It's up to **me** to try.

Oh! I'm a keep my head up **high**
Keep on reaching **high**
Never gonna quit
I'll be getting **stronger**.

And nothing's gonna bring me **down** (no!)
Never gonna stop, gotta go. (go)
Because I know
I'll keep getting **stronger**.

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what you are is magical
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There's nothing I can't achieve.
Because in **myself** I believe in oh...

Gonna hold my head up **high**
Keep on reaching **high**
Never gonna stop
I'll be getting **stronger**.

Nothing's gonna bring me **down**
Never give it up gotta go, oh... yeah...
I'll keep getting **strong--er**.

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useful?
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children or students
enjoyed it!