

# The Application of English Pop Songs in College English Teaching

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## Abstract

English pop songs can improve the classroom atmosphere, and meanwhile have a positive impact on teaching activities so as to help teachers complete the teaching tasks. English pop songs can be used in different ways in College English Teaching and different teaching goals can be achieved through that. The use of English pop songs in College English Teaching is directly related to students' interest in learning and learning results too. The traditional College English Teaching focuses on the study of test questions played by the recording in improving students' listening ability, and this cannot effectively mobilize the enthusiasm of students. It also causes the weak base of students' listening and speaking ability. In order to change this situation, College English Teachers can apply some English pop songs to the teaching process. In this way, teachers can optimize the English teaching steps and contents, and then effectively improve students' comprehensive quality of College English as a whole.

## Keywords

English Pop Songs, College English Teaching, Listening Ability.

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## 1. Introduction

The traditional College English Teaching focuses on the study of test questions played by the recording in improving students' listening ability. Teachers always play some dull test questions in the front of the classroom. Most students in class either get lost like listening to mumbo-jumbo, or turn a deaf ear to it. The reason for this phenomenon is partly that students are weak in English listening ability and lack of motivation. As English pop songs contain a large number of modern fashion elements, in line with the psychological demands of modern students, the introduction of English pop songs into College English listening and speaking teaching can greatly stimulate students' interest in English learning and improve their participation in the classroom. Also, this can play an important role in optimizing the teaching of English listening and speaking. College English teachers should strengthen the analysis and application of English pop songs and choose the specific types and contents of English pop songs. At the same time, we should pay attention to the application of innovative songs in practical teaching methods to improve students' English ability.

## 2. Choose English Pop Songs Rationally

Since there are a wide variety of English pop songs, the effectiveness of the application of the English pop songs can be affected if we choose them casually. And this will reduce the teaching efficiency of English class. Therefore, College English teachers should carefully select English pop songs to assist College English teaching. In the process of selecting songs, we should consider the content, difficulty and melody of the song. At the same time, we must adhere to the needs of students from the study, taking into account the interests of students and the need for training English quality, so as to improve the pertinence of teaching and maximize the application value of English pop songs. There are several aspects need to be taken into consideration: First, the melody of the song must be graceful and pleasing to the ear. This is the first choice in the song to a request, because no students will be willing to listen to unpleasant songs, not to mention study it. Bad songs will directly affect the enthusiasm of

students in the classroom. Second, the song style must be elegant, and the lyrics must be able to reflect the human ideal and pursuit of goodness. In this way, it can guide the students to establish the correct values and promote the realization of the goal of college moral education. Third, the teacher must carefully study the content of English pop songs, so as to determine whether the songs can help the unit teaching and the cultivation of students' English language ability. Fourth, the difficulty of the chosen English pop songs must be in accordance with the students' cognitive level and the ability to accept knowledge. Fifth, in the teaching application of the song, it is necessary to learn different styles and types of popular songs as much as possible, and at the same time, take into account the times and the classical nature of the songs. According to the above requirements, we can use such popular English songs in College English Teaching as the following: *I Could Be the One*, *Valder Fields*, *I'm Yours*, *Shining Friends*, *To Love You More*, *Heal the World*, *Beautiful Soul*, *New Soul*, and so on.

### 3. Bring Forth New Ideas in English Pop Songs Teaching

In order to make the application of English pop songs be useful in College English Teaching, teachers must focus on the innovation of popular songs teaching methods, and they should pay attention to the appropriate combination and integration of popular songs, so as to promote the unit content and improve the quality of teaching. Teachers can use the following methods in particular: First, use the English pop songs in the lead-in part of each unit. College English teachers can use English pop songs in every unit's lead-in part, so as to attract the attention of students, stimulate students' interest in learning, and create a relaxed atmosphere for the new class teaching. The content of the song and the theme of the teacher's choice must be closely around the content of the unit, so as to introduce new courses and guide students into the learning state quickly. For example, in the teaching of the unit titled "Sports", in order to effectively import the course content, teachers can play several English pop songs on the theme of sports, such as *We Are One*, *Pass the Flame*, *Hand in Hand*, *You and Me*. These songs are related to the world cup and the Olympic Games, which are in line with the theme of sports content learning, and thus can optimize the teaching of College English. Second, the introduction of cultural background is also necessary. Language is an important carrier of culture, in the study of English language and cultural knowledge need to be combined, so as to be able to grasp the deep knowledge and content, truly cross-cultural communication. Through the introduction of popular songs in College English teaching, we can make students learn western popular culture, and cultural customs experience in song learning, to exercise their cultural connotations and intercultural communicative competence. Therefore, before the English pop song teaching, teachers can first introduce the relevant background to the students, and guide students to understand the western culture of the song and then appreciate the song together. Third, lead the students to sing the song together. College English teaching need to exercise students' comprehensive English ability, so it can be used with a method of singing to train students' listening and speaking ability, and with some significant explanations, let the students be in a strong learning atmosphere in the English culture and improve English comprehensive ability as a whole.

### 4. Optimize the Teaching Activities of English Pop Song

Teaching English pop songs in College English Teaching must highlight popular songs for auxiliary value of English teaching and to promote English teaching, rather than learning English songs singularly. Therefore, College English teachers should optimize the design of teaching activities, to encourage students to personalize the expression and discussion through the guidance of students, training students' autonomous learning ability, improve teaching efficiency. First of all, before the class, teachers should arrange the teaching tasks for the students, and guide the students to have a free discussion on the topic of music. Task one: Ask several questions related to the music, for example: *What are your favorite English songs? How many kinds of music do you know? What are the songs about? Could you please describe a song?* Task two: Put forward an English pop song which is

related to the teaching content of the unit, and briefly introduce the background of the creation of the song, and let the students to think about those questions: *What is your most intuitive feeling about the English songs? What story does this English song tell about? What is the main theme the English song wants to present?* After that, in the classroom activities, teachers can use multimedia to play the song or MV, requiring students to listen carefully and seriously consider the questions of Task two. Each student's point of view and focus on the content is quite different, so the same question will have a personalized answer. Teachers should adopt more encouraging and less critical attitude to the students' answers so as to keep the students motivated. Then teachers can encourage students to do some group discussions, and combine songs and unit content together with teachers' guidance and coaching to improve the quality of classroom teaching. Finally, after class activities, teachers can encourage students to express their favorite English pop songs, and a brief introduction of the story of the song and the background, training students' autonomous learning ability and the ability of language output.

## 5. Conclusion

In order to optimize College English Teaching, teachers should pay more attention to the introduction and reasonable application of English pop songs, select the popular songs which meet the teaching requirements, and promote the teaching methods of English pop songs. Meanwhile, teachers should optimize the classroom teaching activities of English pop songs, and to maximize the value of English pop songs in College English Teaching.

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