

## Finish the Song Lyric

Can you complete the lyrics to these well-known songs? Read the following and pause for a response. Then follow up with a brief discussion about each song.

1. “Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it, let’s do it, let’s fall in \_\_\_\_\_.” (love)

Ella Fitzgerald’s recording of “Let’s Do It (Let’s Fall in Love)” was featured on her notable 1956 album *Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Song Book*. Written by Cole Porter in 1928 for his first Broadway hit, *Paris*, the song showcases Fitzgerald’s witty phrasing and exceptional vocal ability.



2. “Love and marriage, love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage, this I tell you, brother, you can’t have one without the \_\_\_\_\_.” (other)

“Love and Marriage” is a classic American tune that was first introduced by Frank Sinatra in 1955 for the television production of *Our Town*. That production won an Emmy, which boosted the song’s visibility and success. Frank Sinatra ended up recording the tune twice—once in 1955 for Capitol Records and then again in 1965 for Reprise Records (his own label). Both became hits.

3. “Somewhere beyond the sea, somewhere waiting for \_\_\_\_\_.” (me)

“Beyond the Sea” is an English adaptation of the 1946 French song “La Mer,” composed by Charles Trenet. Jack Lawrence wrote the English lyrics, which transformed the song from an ode to the sea into a romantic ballad about longing. Bobby Darin’s 1959 recording became the most iconic version, showcasing his smooth vocals and big band flair.

4. “I love coffee, I love tea, I love the java jive and it loves \_\_\_\_\_.” (me)

Milton Drake and Ben Oakland wrote “Java Jive” in 1940, and it was popularized by the vocal group the Ink Spots that same year. The song is a lighthearted ode to coffee and tea. In 1975, a band called the Manhattan Transfer revived the song, introducing it to a new generation of listeners. The song remains a favorite for barbershop quartets and vocal jazz groups.

5. “They try to tell us we’re too young, too young to really be in love, they say that love’s a word, a word we’ve only heard, but can’t begin to know the \_\_\_\_\_.” (meaning of)

This romantic ballad is often credited with helping Nat King Cole transition from jazz pianist to full-fledged pop vocalist. Written by Sidney Lippman and Sylvia Dee, the lyrics tell the heartfelt story of young lovers whose feelings are dismissed as immature. When released in 1951, “Too Young” struck a chord with audiences and topped the *Billboard* charts for five weeks, becoming the biggest-selling song of the year.

6. "Fools rush in, where angels fear to \_\_\_\_\_." (tread)

Originally written in 1940 by Johnny Mercer and Rube Bloom, "Fools Rush In" had been made popular by artists like Doris Day, Frank Sinatra, Ricky Nelson, and Etta James. Elvis Presley recorded "Fools Rush In" in 1972 for his album *Elvis Now*.

7. "I'll be loving you, always, with a love that's true, \_\_\_\_\_." (always)

Irving Berlin wrote "Always" in 1925 as a wedding gift for his wife, Ellin Mackay. Although it was not originally composed as a jazz piece, the song eventually became a popular jazz standard. Over time, it has been recorded by numerous artists and featured in films and plays, including the 1942 biographical film *The Pride of the Yankees*, starring Gary Cooper.

8. "It's very clear, our love is here to stay, not for a year, but ever and a \_\_\_\_\_." (day)

"Love Is Here to Stay," written by George and Ira Gershwin for the 1938 film *The Goldwyn Follies*, was the final composition completed by George Gershwin. The song gained widespread popularity when it was featured in the 1951 film *An American in Paris*, where Gene Kelly performed it with Leslie Caron.

9. "No one to talk with, all by myself, no one to walk with, but I'm happy on the shelf. Ain't misbehavin,' saving my love for \_\_\_\_\_." (you)

Fats Waller helped make "Ain't Misbehavin'" a jazz standard. He co-wrote and first performed the tune in 1929 for the Broadway musical *Hot Chocolates*. He later re-recorded the song with vocals for the 1943 movie *Stormy Weather*, which received the Grammy Hall of Fame Award in 1984. It has also been covered by many other artists, including Louis Armstrong in 1944, Sarah Vaughan in 1950, and Nat King Cole in 1957, to name a few.

10. "There's a saying old, says that love is blind. Still we're often told, seek and ye shall \_\_\_\_\_." (find)

"Someone to Watch Over Me," was written by George and Ira Gershwin for the 1926 musical *Oh, Kay!* It was originally written as a fast, jazzy number but has since been transformed into the slow ballad we know today.

11. "I don't want to set the world on fire, I just want to start a flame in your \_\_\_\_\_." (heart)

"I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire," was written in 1938 and gained widespread popularity after the Ink Spots recorded a version of it in 1941. Reportedly, the song was turned down by several big-name artists because some thought the title sounded too violent during tense global times.

12. "The best is yet to come and babe, won't that be \_\_\_\_\_?" (fine)

"The Best Is Yet to Come" is a pop standard composed by Cy Coleman with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, first recorded by Tony Bennett in 1962. Frank Sinatra's 1964 version made it iconic, and the song's title is engraved on his tombstone.

13. "Fly me to the moon, let me play among the \_\_\_\_\_." (stars)

Frank Sinatra's 1964 version of "Fly Me to the Moon" is the most popular recording, though many others have performed the tune, including Kaye Ballard, Nat King Cole, and Tony Bennett. **Fun fact:** The song's original title was "The Other Words."

14. “You made me happy sometimes, sometimes you made me glad, but there were times, dear, you made me feel so \_\_\_\_\_.” (bad)

Judy Garland first performed her rendition of “You Made Me Love You (I Didn’t Want to Do It)” in 1937. She was 15 years old when she sang it as a birthday tribute to Clark Gable in *Broadway Melody of 1938*. Other legendary artists who have recorded the song include Al Jolson, Harry James (featuring Helen Forrest), Ella Fitzgerald, and Patsy Cline.

15. “It had to be you, it had to be you. I wandered around and finally found, the somebody who, could make me be \_\_\_\_\_.” (true)

“It Had to Be You,” composed by Isham Jones with lyrics by Gus Kahn, was first published in 1924. Over the years, it has been covered by numerous artists and appeared in several films and television shows, perhaps most memorably as the theme for the 1989 film *When Harry Met Sally*, starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan.

16. “Pack up all my care and woe, here I go, singing low, bye, bye, \_\_\_\_\_.” (blackbird)

“Bye, Bye Blackbird” was published in 1926 and originally performed in a vaudeville style. It later became a jazz standard, with recordings by Miles Davis in the 1950s and Joe Cocker in the 1960s.

17. “‘Baba, daba, daba, daba, daba, daba, dab,’ said the Monkey to the \_\_\_\_\_.” (Chimp)

“Aba Daba Honeymoon” became a surprise hit when it was performed by Debbie Reynolds and Carleton Carpenter in the MGM musical *Two Weeks with Love*. Originally written in 1914, the song tells the silly, sweet story of two monkeys falling in love—all in playful, nonsensical “monkey talk.” When Reynolds and Carpenter revived the tune in their bouncy duet, it captured hearts and tickled funny bones. It also climbed all the way to the top five on the *Billboard* charts.

18. “Gonna take a sentimental journey, gonna set my heart at ease. Gonna take a sentimental journey, to renew old \_\_\_\_\_.” (memories)

“Sentimental Journey,” a popular song published in 1944, features music by Les Brown and Ben Homer and lyrics by Bud Green. It was first recorded that same year with Doris Day’s vocals and became her first No. 1 hit in 1945.

19. “L is for the way you look at me, O is for the only one I see, V is very, very extraordinary, and E is even more than anyone that you \_\_\_\_\_.” (adore)

“L-O-V-E” is a jazz standard popularized by Nat King Cole in 1965. The song was featured on Cole’s album of the same name, which was his final studio recording.

20. “Give me your lips, the lips you only let me borrow, love me tonight and let the devil take tomorrow, I know that I must have your kiss although it dooms me, though it consumes me, your kiss of \_\_\_\_\_.” (fire)

“Kiss of Fire” is a passionate and dramatic tune that took the music world by storm in the early 1950s. The melody comes from an Argentine tango that was composed in the early 1900s. In 1952, it was given new life with English lyrics by Robert Hill and Allen Allen, transforming the sultry tango into a smoldering pop ballad about love’s dangerous grip. The song was recorded by several artists, including Georgia Gibbs and Louis Armstrong, both achieving hit versions in the same year.

21. “My funny Valentine, sweet comic Valentine, you make me smile with my \_\_\_\_\_.” (heart)

“My Funny Valentine,” by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, was introduced by Mitzi Green in the 1937 musical *Babes in Arms*. It later became a jazz standard, recorded by artists Judy Garland, Tony Bennett, Shirley Bassey, Ella Fitzgerald, and others.

22. “Hold me close and hold me fast, the magic spell you cast, this is ‘La vie en \_\_\_\_\_.’” (rose)

Édith Piaf wrote the lyrics to “La Vie en rose” in 1945. Louiguy (Louis Guglielmi) later composed the music, and the song was officially released in 1947. Piaf’s recording propelled the song to international fame, making it a signature piece of her career. In the United States, the song gained popularity through English-language versions, most notably by Louis Armstrong in 1950, whose jazz interpretation helped establish it as a standard in American music.

23. “Georgia, Georgia, the whole day through, just an old sweet song, keeps Georgia on my \_\_\_\_\_.” (mind)

This song was written by Hoagy Carmichael and Stuart Gorrell in 1930. Carmichael is said to have composed the melody of “Georgia on My Mind” first and then asked his friend Gorrell to write the lyrics. Although commonly believed to be about the state, Gorrell once remarked that the song was likely inspired by a woman named Georgia who had been close to Carmichael.

24. “Smile, though your heart is aching, smile, even though it’s breaking, when there are clouds in the sky, you’ll get \_\_\_\_\_.” (by)

The song “Smile” was composed by Charlie Chaplin in 1936 as an instrumental theme for his film *Modern Times*. In 1954, John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons added lyrics, transforming the piece into a standalone song. With its hopeful message and Chaplin’s poignant melody, *Smile* has become a timeless classic, covered by artists such as Nat King Cole and Michael Jackson.

25. “I’m in the mood for love, simply because you’re near me, funny, but when you’re near me, I’m in the mood for \_\_\_\_\_.” (love)

“I’m in the Mood for Love” is a popular song composed in 1935 by Jimmy McHugh with lyrics by Dorothy Fields. Introduced by Frances Langford in the film *Every Night at Eight*, the song has since been recorded by many famous musicians, including Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Barbra Streisand, and Julie London.

26. “The very thought of you and I forget to do the little ordinary things that everyone ought to \_\_\_\_\_.” (do)

Written in 1934, “The Very Thought of You” was composed by British bandleader Ray Noble and first recorded by Ray Noble and His Orchestra, featuring vocals by Al Bowlly. Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, and Ella Fitzgerald have all recorded versions of it.

27. “You go to my head, and you linger like a haunting refrain, and I find you spinnin’ ’round in my brain, like the bubbles in a glass of \_\_\_\_\_.” (champagne)

“You Go to My Head” was written in 1938 by J. Fred Coots (music) and Haven Gillespie (lyrics). The song is a romantic ballad that describes the intoxicating effect love can have on a person, comparing it to the feeling of being tipsy. It became a hit in 1938, with notable recordings by Billie Holiday, Glenn Miller, and many others.

28. “Dream, dream, dream, when I want you in my arms, when I want you, and all your charms, whenever I want you all I have to do is \_\_\_\_\_.” (dream)

“Dream” was written in 1944 by Johnny Mercer (lyrics) and Jay Livingston (music). It became widely popular after being featured in the 1945 film *The Lost Weekend*, with versions by the Pied Pipers and Frank Sinatra achieving great success.

29. “And time after time, you’ll hear me say that I’m so lucky to be loving \_\_\_\_\_.” (you)

The song “Time After Time,” written by Jule Styne (music) and Sammy Cahn (lyrics), was introduced in the 1947 film *It Happened in Brooklyn*. Performed by Frank Sinatra, it quickly became a popular standard. The song’s appeal has led to many interpretations by artists across genres, including Tony Bennett and Rod Stewart.

30. “On top of old Smokey, all covered in snow, I lost my true lover, by courtin’ too \_\_\_\_\_!” (slow)

This beloved American folk tune is rooted in Appalachian tradition and tells a timeless tale of love lost. It had been passed down for generations before the Weavers recorded their version in 1951. That year it climbed to No. 2 on the *Billboard* charts, helping to ignite the folk music revival of the 1950s. It’s also famously been parodied with humorous lyrics involving spaghetti. Do you know that version? “On top of spaghetti, all covered with \_\_\_\_\_.” (cheese)

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