



WONDERFUL WORLD by Sam Cooke

A lesson about the simple present: negative (Chapter 3)

Notes for the Teacher

1. The Song

Do a search on the Internet to find the song “Wonderful World” by Sam Cooke. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist.

2. Song background

Sam Cooke was born in Mississippi, a state in the southern United States. He had seven brothers and sisters. When he was little, he sang with his family in a group called The Singing Children. Later, he sang gospel music (religious music) in his church. Then he began to sing popular music. His music is called soul music. Soul music is a mix of gospel music and rock and roll. Sam Cooke is called the King of Soul because he was one of the first to play soul music.

Sam Cooke first sang “Wonderful World” in the 1950s. It is about a high school student who isn’t a very good student, but who knows a lot about love.

3. Grammar background

This song uses a lot of negatives in the simple present tense. Go over the examples with your students.

Subject	do/does not	main verb
We	do not	eat fish.
She	does not	like coffee.

Ask for a volunteer to form the contractions. Remind them that people usually use contractions when they speak.

*We **don't** eat fish.*
*She **doesn't** like coffee.*

There are many sentences like this in the song.

Some of the sentences in “Wonderful World” leave out the subject like this:

***Don't** know much about ...*

Explain that sometimes people might leave out the subject in music or poetry, but not in ordinary speech and writing.



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4. Vocabulary These are just a few of the vocabulary words you might want to discuss for this lesson.

algebra: a type of math class that uses letters and signs to talk about numbers, for example, " $X + Y = Z$ "

history: a class where you study things that happened in the past

biology: a class where you study living things: plants and animals

geography: a class where you study countries, oceans, cities of the world

trigonometry: a class where you study the parts of a triangle

slide rule: a kind of calculator

an "A" student: a very good student

claim: say that something is true



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Student Worksheet

While you listen

1. Listen to the song once.
Is the singer a good student or a bad student?
Why do you think so?
2. Now listen again. Use the chart below. First, make a list of what the singer doesn't know. Then make a list of what the singer does know.

Don't worry about spelling right now. You can even write a quick note in your language. Then go back and write the English word.

Doesn't know	Does know

3. Check your answers with another student.
4. Listen one more time. Look at the words of the song. Can you find any other simple present forms?

After you listen

1. Things to think about and discuss

In pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, share your answers to these questions:

- Do you think the singer is smart about some things?
Which things?
- The singer wants a young woman that he knows to love him.
Do you think the woman is a good student or a bad student?
Why?



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2. Speaking & Writing

In a small group or as a whole class, share the information that you enter in the chart below.

Write three things that you know about.

Write three things that you don't know much about.

Now talk to three other students.

Ask each student to tell you one thing they do know about and one thing they don't know about.

Write their answers in your chart.

Be sure to write their name too.

I know	I don't know
1.	
2.	
3.	
Three other students	
1.	
2.	
3.	

Now write sentences for all the information in your chart. For example:

I know a lot about English.

I don't know much about Italian.

Maria knows a lot about food.

She doesn't know much about plants.

Tony ...