



Where The Streets Have No Name – U2 - Notes



- **Activity type:** vocabulary, gap fill, listening for specific words.
- **Time:** 20 mins.
- **Note:** This is taken from U2's 1987 album "The Joshua Tree", and is a favourite at their live shows. Bono has said he was thinking of Northern Ireland when he wrote it: "in Belfast you can tell somebody's religion from what street they live on." The video was filmed on a Los Angeles hotel rooftop in homage to the Beatles's 1969 performance on the roof of the Apple building in London. Both performances were closed down by local police.

Pre-listening activity:

- 1) Ask the students the following questions:

Do you know the band U2?
 What nationality are they?
 What do you know about its singer, Bono?

While-listening activities:

- 2) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Play the first part of the song - students complete Exercise 1).
- 3) Play the second part of the song – students complete Exercise 2).
- 4) Play the Chorus – students complete Exercise 3). Note that the blanks are not given – they must also identify the correct position of the missing word.
- 5) Play the next verse – students complete Exercise 4).
- 6) Play the complete song again. Students check their answers to the previous exercises and follow the lyrics.

Post-listening activities:

- 7) Students complete Exercise 5)

Key:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| a. to pull or knock down a building, wall, etc. | ...tear down..... |
| b. to extend your arm | ...reach out |
| c. fine powder that consists of very small pieces of sand, earth, etc | ...dust..... |
| d. to be destroyed, or to destroy something, by fire | ...burn..... |
| e. a large amount of water covering an area that is usually dry | ...flood..... |
| f. a reddish-brown substance that is formed on some metals by
the action of water and air | ...rust..... |
| g. to step heavily on somebody/something so that you crush or
harm them/it with your feet | ...trample..... |

- 8) Sing the song together.
- 9) Students do the writing in class or as homework.





Where The Streets Have No Name – U2



- 1) Listen to the first part of the song, and put the following words in the correct space.
 down flame hide hold reach run walls

I want to _____
 I want to _____
 I want to tear _____ the _____
 That _____ me inside
 I want to _____ out
 And touch the _____
 Where the streets have no name



- 2) Listen to the next part of the song, and cross out the extra word in every line.

I want to feel the sunlight on my face
 I can see the dust cloud disappear without a trace
 I want to take shelter from the heavy poison rain
 Where all the streets have no name



- 3) Listen to the Chorus and write the missing words in every line.

Where the streets have no name
 Where the streets have no name
 We're building
 burning down love, burning down love
 And when I go
 I go with you
 all I can do



- 4) Listen to the next part of the song circle the correct option.

The city's a *flood* / *blood*
 And our love *turns* / *burns* to rust
 We're *eaten* / *beaten* and blown by the wind
 Trampled in *dust* / *fast*
 I'll *show* / *flow* you a place
 High on the desert *plain* / *name*
 Where the streets have no name

(Repeat Chorus – see Exercise 3)

Our love turns to rust
We're beaten and blown by the wind
Blown by the wind
Oh, and I see love
See our love turn to rust
We're beaten and blown by the wind
Blown by the wind
Oh, when I go there
I go there with you
It's all I can do

- 5) Find the right words for the following definitions.

- a. to pull or knock down a building, wall, etc.
- b. to extend your arm
- c. fine powder that consists of very small pieces of sand, earth, etc
- d. to be destroyed, or to destroy something, by fire
- e. a large amount of water covering an area that is usually dry
- f. a reddish-brown substance that is formed on some metals by
 the action of water and air
- g. to step heavily on somebody/something so that you crush or
 harm them/it with your feet

- 6) **Writing:** The song talks about going somewhere... where the streets have no name. Where do you go and what do you do when you feel sad or lonely? Write a short paragraph.



Where The Streets Have No Name – U2 - Complete



I want to **run**
I want to **hide**
I want to tear **down** the **walls**
That **hold** me inside
I want to **reach** out
And touch the **flame**
Where the streets have no name

I want to feel the sunlight on my face
I can see the dust cloud disappear without a trace
I want to take shelter from the heavy poison rain
Where all the streets have no name

Chorus:

Where the streets have no name
Where the streets have no name
We're **still** building
Then burning down love, burning down love
And when I go **there**
I go **there** with you
It's all I can do

The city's a *flood / blood*
And our love *turns/ burns* to rust
We're *eaten / beaten* and blown by the wind
Trampled in *dust/ fast*
I'll *show/ flow* you a place
High on the desert *plain / name*
Where the streets have no name

Repeat Chorus

Our love turns to rust
We're beaten and blown by the wind
Blown by the wind
Oh, and I see love
See our love turn to rust
We're beaten and blown by the wind
Blown by the wind
Oh, when I go there
I go there with you
It's all I can do