



I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) – The Proclaimers - Notes



- **Activity types:** vocabulary, discussion.
- **Grammar:** Present Simple, Present Continuous.
- **Note:** This was a 1988 hit for Scottish group The Proclaimers and is often used at sporting events. It is sung in a Scottish accent.
In 2011 a Chinese man walked 1,000 miles to persuade his girlfriend to marry him:
<http://www.odditycentral.com/funny/guy-walks-1000-miles-in-the-name-of-love.html>

- 1) Scotland has not converted to the metric system, and still uses miles to measure distances. Ask students to guess how many kilometres 500 miles is. (Game: who can make the closest guess!) **Key:** 804.67
Is there anything students would walk 500 miles for? (You can tell them about the Chinese man in the notes above.)
- 2) Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to work in pairs to guess what each picture is. Play the first verse of the song – students write the correct word under each picture. They will not know the final word, as this is Scottish slang for speaking nonsense!
Key: get drunk, wake up, go out, haver
Ask students if they have any similar slang words in their language.
- 3) Ask students to unfold the worksheet. They can complete the first verse (point out they need to take care with the first and third person forms of the verb).
Ask them to read the rest of the lyrics and to work in pairs to fill in the gaps using the given definitions.
- 4) Play the song, students check and correct.
Key: See complete lyrics.
- 5) Discuss the pronunciation – what words in the Scottish accent are pronounced differently to Standard English?
- 6) Feedback, then sing the song together.

Grammar Focus:

Ask students to reflect on the following:

- How many verbs can you spot that change from first person to third person singular? Why?
- How many change to present continuous?
- A lot of the lines in the song use the contraction "gonna". What is that short for? Why do we use it? What other examples can you think of?

Follow Up:

This worksheet was published in September 2014 to coincide with the Scottish Independence Referendum. You can discuss this further with your students:

- is their country independent?
- do they think it is a better to be independent of to be part of a Union, like the UK?

Students can read more information on the referendum at the following links:

- <http://scotreferendum.com/>
- <http://www.yesscotland.net/>
- <http://bettertogether.net/>



I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) – The Proclaimers



What can you see in these pictures? Discuss with a partner, then listen to the first part of the song and write the verbs under the correct picture. Three are phrasal verbs and the fourth is a Scottish slang word.



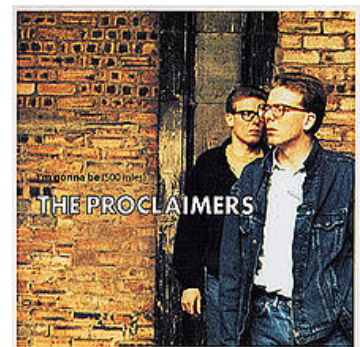
FOLD

Fill in the gaps in the first verse with the verbs from the previous activity, then use the definitions to complete the rest of the song. Then listen and check.

When I _____, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who _____ next to you
When I _____, yeah, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who goes along with you
If I _____, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who _____ next to you
And if I _____, hey, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's _____ to you

Chorus:

But I would walk five hundred miles
And I would walk five hundred more
Just to be the man who walked a _____ miles
To fall down at your door



five hundred plus five hundred

When I'm _____, yes, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's _____ hard for you
And when the _____ comes in for the work I do
I'll pass almost every _____ on to you
When I _____ (when I _____), oh, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who _____ home to you
And if I _____, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's _____ with you

to do a job

what you earn
one hundredth of a pound
to return to your house

to advance in years

Repeat Chorus

Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da
Repeat

When I'm _____, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's _____ without you
And when I'm _____, well, I know I'm gonna _____
I'm gonna _____ about the time when I'm with you
When I _____ (when I _____), well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who goes along with you
And when I _____ (when I come home), yes, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who _____ home with you
I'm gonna be the man who's _____ with you

to feel alone

to think while sleeping

to leave the house or to date a girl

to return to your house

Repeat Chorus

Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da
(Repeat 4 times)

Repeat Chorus



I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) – The Proclaimers – Complete



When I wake up, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who wakes up next to you
When I go out, yeah, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who goes along with you
If I get drunk, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who gets drunk next to you
And if I haver, hey, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's havoring to you

But I would walk five hundred miles
And I would walk five hundred more
Just to be the man who walked a thousand miles
To fall down at your door

When I'm working, yes, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's working hard for you
And when the money comes in for the work I do
I'll pass almost every penny on to you
When I come home (When I come home), oh, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who comes back home to you
And if I grow old, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's growing old with you

But I would walk five hundred miles
And I would walk five hundred more
Just to be the man who walked a thousand miles
To fall down at your door

Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da
Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da

When I'm lonely, well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who's lonely without you
And when I'm dreaming, well, I know I'm gonna dream
I'm gonna dream about the time when I'm with you
When I go out (When I go out), well, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who goes along with you
And when I come home (When I come home), yes, I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the man who comes back home with you
I'm gonna be the man who's coming home with you

But I would walk five hundred miles
And I would walk five hundred more
Just to be the man who walked a thousand miles
To fall down at your door

Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da
Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da
Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da
Da lat da (Da lat da), da lat da (Da lat da)
Da-da-da dun-diddle un-diddle un-diddle uh da-da

And I would walk five hundred miles
And I would walk five hundred more
Just to be the man who walked a thousand miles
To fall down at your door