



## I Just Called to Say I Love You – Stevie Wonder – Notes



- **Activity types:** Vocabulary, listening for specific words, gap fill, rhyming words
- **Level:** Elementary/Pre-intermediate
- **Language:** Talking about time and festivities; phonetics
- **Notes:** This song was released on Stevie Wonder's 1984 soundtrack album for the comedy *The Woman in Red*. It was a #1 hit in both the USA and UK. It also won an Academy Award for "Best Original Song" in 1985.

1. Explain to students they are going to repeat words about time. Write the word **TIME** on the board and ask them to think of words referring to it. Write their answers on the board as a spidergram.

**Possible answers: second – minute – hour – day – week – month – season - year**

2. Do students remember all the days of the week, the months of the year and the four seasons? If necessary allow them to repeat. You can also ask them simple questions like:

- **Which day is it today?**
- **Which is your favourite season/month?**
- **Do you prefer summer or winter?**

3. Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet and ask them to do **Activity 1**. You can divide them into small groups. Then check the answers. The group with most correct words wins.

**Key: 1. April 2. Autumn (also Fall in American English) 3. June 4. Saturday 5. July 6. Spring 7. Christmas 8. August 9. Halloween 10. Summer**

4. Ask students to listen for the words in Activity 1, numbering them in the order they hear them. Play the song. Then students can unfold the page and complete the song (**Activity 2**) according to their answers to the previous activity and context.

**Key:**

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Spring   | 6. July       |
| 2. April    | 7. August     |
| 3. Saturday | 8. Autumn     |
| 4. June     | 9. Halloween  |
| 5. Summer   | 10. Christmas |

5. Play the song again. Students check their answers in pairs or in groups.

6. Correct in open class, play the song again and sing together!

7. **Phonetics.** Focus on the sounds /ei/, /ai/, /i:/, /u:/ and /ɪŋ/ .

Ask students to group the rhyming words in the song and match them to the corresponding rhyming vowel sound.

**Key:**

- /ei/: celebrate, away, day, rain  
/ai/: high, July, night, skies  
/i:/: breeze, leaves, Halloween  
/u:/: bloom, June, true, you, new, do  
/ɪŋ/: spring, sing, bring

8. **Festivities.** Can students find the festivities in the song? What do they know about them?

**Key: New Year's Day** (line 1), **St. Valentine's Day** (line 2), etc.



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**ACTIVITY 1. Write the corresponding day, month, season or festivity.**

1. The fourth month
2. The season before winter
3. The month after May
4. The day before Sunday
5. Between June and August
6. Between winter and summer
7. It is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> December
8. The month before September
9. It is celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October
10. The season after spring

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FOLD

**ACTIVITY 2. Complete the song with the words from Activity 1.**

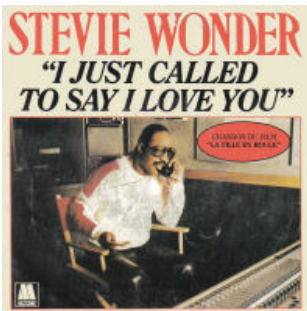
No New Year's Day to celebrate  
 No chocolate covered candy hearts to give away  
 No first of \_\_\_\_\_  
 No song to sing  
 In fact here's just another ordinary day

No \_\_\_\_\_ rain  
 No flowers bloom  
 No wedding \_\_\_\_\_ within the month of \_\_\_\_\_  
 But what it is, is something true  
 Made up of these three words that I must say to you

**I just called to say I love you  
 I just called to say how much I care  
 I just called to say I love you  
 And I mean it from the bottom of my heart**

No \_\_\_\_\_'s high  
 No warm \_\_\_\_\_  
 No harvest moon to light one tender \_\_\_\_\_ night  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ breeze  
 No falling leaves  
 Not even time for birds to fly to southern skies

No Libra sun  
 No \_\_\_\_\_  
 No giving thanks to all the \_\_\_\_\_ joy you bring  
 But what it is, though old so new  
 To fill your heart like no three words could ever do



**I just called to say I love you  
 I just called to say how much I care, I do  
 I just called to say I love you  
 And I mean it from the bottom of my heart**

**I just called to say I love you  
 I just called to say how much I care, I do  
 I just called to say I love you, uh  
 And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,  
 Of my heart**

**I just called to say I love you  
 I just called to say how much I care, I do  
 I just called to say I love you  
 And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,  
 Baby of my heart**



## I Just Called to Say I Love You – Stevie Wonder - Complete



No New Year's Day to celebrate  
No chocolate covered candy hearts to give away  
No first of spring  
No song to sing  
In fact here's just another ordinary day

No April rain  
No flowers bloom  
No wedding Saturday within the month of June  
But what it is, is something true  
Made up of these three words that I must say to you

I just called to say I love you  
I just called to say how much I care  
I just called to say I love you  
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

No summer's high  
No warm July  
No harvest moon to light one tender August night  
No autumn breeze  
No falling leaves  
Not even time for birds to fly to southern skies

No Libra sun  
No Halloween  
No giving thanks to all the Christmas joy you bring  
But what it is, though old so new  
To fill your heart like no three words could ever do

I just called to say I love you  
I just called to say how much I care, I do  
I just called to say I love you  
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart

I just called to say I love you  
I just called to say how much I care, I do  
I just called to say I love you, uh  
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,  
Of my heart

I just called to say I love you  
I just called to say how much I care, I do  
I just called to say I love you  
And I mean it from the bottom of my heart, of my heart,  
Baby of my heart