



With Or Without You – U2 – Notes



- **Activity types:** Phonetics, listening for specific words, gap fill
- **Level:** Pre-Intermediate / Intermediate
- **Language focus:** Metaphors and idioms
- **Notes:** This song by the Irish rock band U2 was the first single from their fifth studio album, *The Joshua Tree* (1987). It became their first number-one hit in both the United States and Canada. The song is about a troubled relationship between two lovers.

1. Activity 1. Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet and ask them to match the rhyming words.

Key:

/ɪ/	/ɔ:/	/u:/	/aɪ/	/eɪ/
give	more	bruised	eyes	away
live	shore	lose	side	fate
twist	storm	through	slight	gave
win	thorn	you	tied	wait

(Note: *more* and *shore* can also be pronounced with the /ʊ/ sound).

2. Play the song. Ask students to listen for the words from the previous activity and number them in the order they hear them.

Key:

1. eyes 2. thorn 3. twist 4. side 5. wait 6. you 7. slight 8. fate 9. through 10. storm 11. shore 12. gave 13. more 14. live 15. give 16. away 17. tied 18. bruised 19. win 20. lose

3. Students unfold the worksheet and complete the song (**Activity 2**) according to their answers to the previous activity and context.

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

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

Grammar Focus – The language of the song is lyrical and rich in metaphors and idioms.

- *The stone set in your eyes:* the hard look
- *The thorn twist in your side:* the constant pain you are living (*twist= twisted*)
- *Bed of nails:* place of pain
- *Sleight of hand* (idiom): trick, illusion, deception
- *Twist of fate* (idiom): a sudden change in the events of life



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Activity 1. Write the following words in the correct column according to the sound of the underlined letter(s).

away
bruised
eyes
fate
gave

give
live
lose
more
shore

side
sleight
storm
thorn
though

tied
twist
wait
win
yo

/ɪ/	/ɔ:/	/u:/	/aɪ/	/eɪ/

FOLD

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

See the stone set in your _____
See the _____ in your _____
I'll _____ for _____

_____ of hand and _____ of _____
On a bed of nails she makes me _____
And I _____ without _____

With or without _____
With or without _____

_____ the _____, we reach the _____
_____ it all but I want _____
And I'm waiting for _____

With or without _____
With or without _____, aha
I can't _____ with or without _____

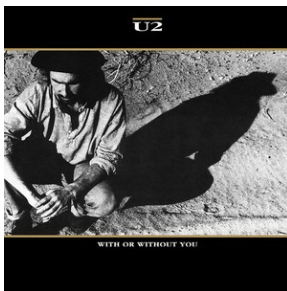
And _____ yourself _____
And _____ yourself _____
And _____, and _____
And _____ yourself _____

My hands are _____, my body _____
She got me with nothing to _____
And nothing left to _____

And _____ yourself _____
And _____ yourself _____
And _____, and _____
And _____ yourself _____

With or without _____
With or without _____, oh oh
I can't _____
With or without _____

With or without _____
With or without _____, oh oh
I can't _____
With or without _____
With or without _____





With Or Without You – U2 – Complete



See the stone set in your eyes
See the thorn twist in your side
I'll wait for you

Sleight of hand and twist of fate
On a bed of nails she makes me wait
And I wait without you

With or without you
With or without you

Through the storm, we reach the shore
You gave it all but I want more
And I'm waiting for you

With or without you
With or without you, aha
I can't live with or without you

And you give yourself away
And you give yourself away
And you give, and you give
And you give yourself away

My hands are tied, my body bruised
She got me with nothing to win
And nothing left to lose
And you give yourself away
And you give yourself away
And you give, and you give
And you give yourself away

With or without you
With or without you, oh oh
I can't live
With or without you

With or without you
With or without you
I can't live
With or without you
With or without you