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## ***Using Jazz Chants for Teaching Language Functions***

### **Objectives:**

- To use Jazz Chants for teaching language functions and for improving students' speaking and listening skills.
- To use Jazz Chants for motivating the students and for encouraging pair work and role playing activities.

### **How can we make our lessons interesting?**

We can make our lessons interesting and attractive by using various ways of teaching. One of these ways is "Jazz Chants".

### **What are Jazz Chants?**

Jazz Chants are Carolyn Graham's snappy, upbeat chants and poems that use jazz rhythms to illustrate the natural stress and intonation patterns of conversational American English. Jazz Chants are designed as a language tool to improve students' speaking and listening skills while reinforcing the language structures of everyday life.

### **Why Jazz Chants?**

- They introduce and reinforce the language structures and functions of everyday spoken English.
- They provide an innovative, exciting and effective way of improving students' speaking and listening skills.
- They are simple and repetitive, providing students with the language they really use.
- They appeal to students of all ages and work with large classes.
- They simulate pair work and role playing activities.
- They will surprise, inspire and delight students and teachers alike.
- They fire the students' imagination and help them remember difficult words and expressions.
- They help students combine grammatical syllables with functional dialogues to produce practical and natural sounding English.
- They constitute a context for language use for learners.
- Students become themselves when they sing or play.

**ACTIVITY (1):**

**Inviting, Accepting, Refusing**

- A:** *Can you come over for dinner tonight?*  
**B:** I'd like that very much.
- A:** *Can you come over for dinner tonight?*  
**B:** I'd like that very much.  
What time should I come?  
What time should I come?
- A:** *Come around six if you can.*  
**B:** Fine.
- A:** *Come around six if you can.*  
**B:** Fine.
- A:** *Can you come over?*  
*Can you come over?*  
*Can you come over for a drink tonight?*  
**B:** I'd love to.  
I'd love to.
- A:** *Can you come over for a drink tonight?*  
**B:** I'd love to.
- A:** *Can you come over for lunch tomorrow?*  
**B:** I wish I could but I'm afraid I can't
- A:** *Oh, I'm sorry. That's too bad.*  
**B:** I really wish I could.

**Exercise:**

In pairs, use Jazz Chants to practice inviting, accepting and refusing. The slashes in the sentences will help you find the rhythm. The first speaker will choose one of the invitations and the second speaker will select any of the responses.

**Invitations:**

- Do you feel like going / to the movies / tonight?
- What about / having lunch / together today?
- Can you come over / for dinner / tomorrow?
- We're going / for a walk. Do you want to come / with us?
- Would you like to study English with me tonight?
- Would you like to go to the cinema this afternoon?

### **Responses:**

- I'd love to.
- That sounds fine.
- I'd like that very much.
- That's a wonderful idea.
- Oh, I'm sorry. I'm busy.
- I wish I could but I'm afraid I can't.
- I'm sorry I Can't. May be some other time.

### **Activity (2):**

#### ***Expressing Confusion***

**A: Does this make sense to you?**

B: No. Does it make any sense to you?

**A: No. I can't figure it out, can you?**

B: No. I can't.

**A: Neither can I.**

B: I don't understand this at all, do you?

**A: No, I don't**

B: Neither do I.

**A: I'm very confused.**

B: I am too.

**A: I'm totally lost.**

B: So am I.

### **References:**

- [www.nystesol.org/pub/idiom\\_archive/idiom\\_fall2003.html](http://www.nystesol.org/pub/idiom_archive/idiom_fall2003.html)
- [www.esl.net/jazz\\_chants.html](http://www.esl.net/jazz_chants.html)
- [www.us.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/English](http://www.us.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/English)
- <http://www.amc.ru/?section=about&sub=3&sub2=13>
- Small talk "more jazz chants" by Carolyn Graham.

### **Other useful books:**

- Holiday jazz chants; student book by Carolyn Graham.
- Jazz chants for children. Rhythms of American English through chants, songs and poems. Teacher's book and student book by Carolyn Graham.
- Holiday jazz chants by Carolyn Graham (Audio CD)