

LEARN ENGLISH WITH MUSIC

Beautiful Things

Benson Boone

COMPLETE LEARNING WORKBOOK

Go beyond the song

Gratitude, fear of loss and grammar for uncertainty and emotional contrast.

19 verified learning cards / Level B1 / guided practice

SECTION 00

Your learning journey

Watch first, explore second, practise from memory and finish with the complete card library.

1 WATCH	Follow the official lyric video and synced cards.
2 EXPLORE	Study language, extended vocabulary, culture and sound.
3 PRACTISE	Complete the guided challenges without looking back.
4 REVIEW	Use the final 19-card library by category.

Three sources of value

Song language gives you patterns to reuse. **Extended vocabulary** helps you discuss the themes and music. **Context** helps you understand cultural references and form your own interpretation.

Official lyrics

[Open the official lyric video](#)

Listen, read and return to the workbook whenever you want to explore a language point in greater depth.

SECTION 01

Map the song

Follow the movement from stability to fear: the grammar repeatedly weakens certainty with might, hope and conditional reasoning.

STAGE	LEARNING LENS
Calm opening	Recent improvement and gratitude
Rising doubt	Fear enters the narrative
Chorus	A plea built from repetition
Return	External success versus internal anxiety

Listening challenge

For each stage, write one word for the sound and one for the speaker's emotional position. Then explain which language choice helped create that impression.

SECTION 02

Language Lab

Move beyond the quick cards: compare structures, notice register and learn how to avoid common mistakes.

LANGUAGE POINT	GO DEEPER	USE IT WELL
lately + present perfect	<i>Lately</i> connects a recent period to now and commonly appears with the present perfect simple or continuous.	<i>I have felt calmer lately. I have been sleeping better lately.</i>
rough, afraid, terrified	<i>Rough</i> evaluates a difficult period. <i>Afraid</i> expresses fear; <i>terrified</i> is an extreme adjective.	<i>Say absolutely terrified, not normally very terrified.</i>
recall, remember, remind	<i>Recall</i> and <i>remember</i> retrieve a memory. <i>Remind</i> causes another person to remember.	<i>I remember the day. Please remind me tomorrow.</i>
might, will and be going to	<i>Might</i> shows uncertain possibility. <i>Will</i> can predict; <i>be going to</i> often uses present evidence or a plan.	Choose the modal according to confidence, not simply future time.
stand to gain or lose	<i>Stand to</i> + verb describes a likely consequence of someone's present position.	<i>Customers stand to save money; investors stand to lose it.</i>
get used to vs used to	<i>Get used to</i> means become accustomed; <i>be used to</i> means already accustomed; <i>used to</i> + verb describes a past habit.	<i>I am getting used to working early. I used to work nights.</i>
hope vs wish	Use <i>hope</i> for a possible desired result. Use <i>wish</i> for distance, regret or an unreal situation.	<i>I hope she stays. I wish she were here. I wish I had called.</i>
rhetorical contradiction	A question can expose a conflict rather than request information. An if-clause may establish the premise being challenged.	Notice how good circumstances and anxious thinking can coexist.

SECTION 03

Extended vocabulary: go beyond the lyrics

This bonus language expands what you can say about the narrative, emotion, performance and production.

to cherish	verb	To protect and value something or someone deeply, aware that you could lose them. <i>After the accident, he cherished every ordinary morning with his family.</i>
fragile	adjective	Easily broken or lost - used for objects, but also for happiness, trust or peace of mind. <i>Their new friendship felt fragile, so nobody wanted to say the wrong thing.</i>
to take something for granted	expression	To fail to appreciate something good because it has always been there. <i>We took the quiet neighbourhood for granted until the building work started.</i>
blessing	noun	Something good in your life that feels like a gift rather than something you earned. <i>Her recovery felt like a blessing nobody had expected.</i>
overwhelmed	adjective	So affected by a strong emotion that you temporarily can't think or react normally. <i>He was overwhelmed with relief when the test results came back clear.</i>
brehtaking	adjective	So beautiful, moving or exciting that it momentarily stops you catching your breath. <i>The view from the ridge at sunrise was breathtaking.</i>
to hold on to something	phrasal verb	To keep something safe and refuse to let it slip away. <i>Whatever happens with the merger, hold on to the values that built this company.</i>
gut feeling	noun	A strong instinct about something that isn't based on logic or evidence. <i>I had a gut feeling I shouldn't sign that contract, and I was right.</i>
to jinx something	verb	To say or do something that superstitiously risks ruining a run of good luck. <i>Don't jinx it by talking about the promotion before it's official.</i>
radiant	adjective	Glowing with happiness, health or light. <i>The bride looked radiant as she walked down the aisle.</i>
gratitude	noun	A deep feeling of thankfulness for something you have. <i>He kept a journal to remind himself to practise gratitude every evening.</i>
to brace yourself	phrasal verb	To mentally prepare for something difficult or shocking that might be coming. <i>Brace yourself - the doctor is about to read out the results.</i>

SECTION 04

Idioms and expressive English

Use these additional expressions to discuss the song's situations and themes in natural English.

too good to be true	extension	So wonderful that it makes you suspicious it can't possibly last. <i>The salary they offered sounded too good to be true, and it was.</i>
to fall head over heels	extension	To fall suddenly and completely in love with someone. <i>They met at a wedding and fell head over heels within a week.</i>
to knock on wood	extension	A superstitious gesture (touching wood) done after mentioning good luck, hoping not to jinx it - the standard American version of 'touch wood'. <i>We've had no problems with the car so far - knock on wood.</i>
to pinch yourself	extension	To check that something wonderful happening to you is real and not a dream. <i>Standing on that stage, she had to pinch herself to believe it was real.</i>
to count your blessings	extension	To deliberately focus on what is good in your life instead of complaining. <i>Whenever he feels stressed, he tries to stop and count his blessings.</i>

Make the language yours

Complete the exercises later in the workbook to check meaning, structure and register.

SECTION 05

Pronunciation as performance

A sung voice is not a neutral accent sample. Listen for concrete features, then compare theatrical delivery with everyday speech.

Rhotic R, coast to coast	Boone pronounces every R exactly where it's written - in 'heart', 'world' and 'more' the R is fully voiced. This is standard American English and the opposite of the non-rhotic British accents you hear in Perfect or Stay With Me.
The American flap T	Between vowels, /t/ softens into a quick D-like tap: 'pretty', 'better' and 'little' come out closer to 'priddy', 'bedder', 'liddle' - a constant feature of relaxed American pop singing.
Falsetto leaps and stretched vowels	On the song's big climactic notes, Boone jumps from his chest voice into a high falsetto and holds a single vowel for several beats. Consonants get swallowed while the vowel stretches - listen for how a one-syllable word can fill an entire musical phrase.
The vocal break as ornament	Boone deliberately lets his voice 'crack' or catch on certain held notes, a rock-ballad technique used for emotional effect rather than a mistake. Native ears read a controlled break like this as heightened feeling, not a vocal error.

Three-pass shadowing

1. Tap only the stressed beats.
2. Reproduce the phrase slowly and clearly.
3. Contrast a natural spoken version with the musical performance.

SECTION 06

Context and creative choices

Discover the cultural and creative decisions that shaped the song, then listen again with this context in mind.

Benson Boone released "Beautiful Things" on 19 January 2024 through Night Street Records and Warner Records, as the lead single from his debut studio album *Fireworks & Rollerblades*. He wrote the song with Jack LaFrantz and Evan Blair (who also produced it), starting the track on 8 September 2023, shortly after moving to Los Angeles and beginning a new relationship - the mix of gratitude and fear of losing something good that runs through the lyrics grew directly out of that period of his life.

The song's chart run was fast and global. In the United States it peaked at number two on the Billboard Hot 100, while topping the Streaming Songs, Digital Song Sales, Pop Airplay and Adult Pop Airplay charts. It reached number one on the Billboard Global 200 and the Billboard Global Excl. U.S. chart, hit number one in the UK, and topped the charts in nineteen countries in total, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany and Ireland.

Certifications followed at an unusual scale for a debut single: 8× Platinum from the RIAA in the United States, 5× Platinum from the BPI in the UK, 12× Platinum from ARIA in Australia, and Diamond status in Canada. The IFPI named it the best-selling single worldwide for 2024. It also won Best Alternative Video at the 2024 MTV Video Music Awards and Song of the Year at the 2025 iHeartRadio Music Awards.

The music video, directed by Matt Eastin and filmed on a mountaintop near St. George, Utah, shows Boone performing live with his band against open sky and rock formations; it reportedly drew half a million views within its first hour online and has since passed a billion views. Boone brought the same physical energy to the stage at the 67th Grammy Awards in February 2025, where he performed "Beautiful Things" and landed a backflip mid-song during his debut as a Best New Artist nominee.

Boone, born 25 June 2002 in Monroe, Washington, briefly competed on season 19 of *American Idol* in 2021, making the top 24 before voluntarily withdrawing because he did not want his career defined by the show. He built an audience on TikTok instead, which led to a deal with Dan Reynolds' label Night Street Records and a different route into the music industry.

For English learners, "Beautiful Things" is a showcase of contemporary American pop-rock delivery: fully rhotic R's, soft flapped T's, and a huge dynamic range that swings from quiet, spoken-style verses into full-voiced, falsetto-topped choruses - useful listening for hearing how emotion reshapes pronunciation in real singing.

SECTION 07

Practice zone

Complete every activity without looking back, then use the answer key to correct your work independently.

A. Complete the sentences

1. I have been feeling better _____. (lately / last)
2. She is absolutely _____. (terrified / rough)
3. Please _____ me to call tomorrow. (remember / remind)
4. I am getting used to _____ early. (wake / waking)

B. Choose the best form

5. There is a small possibility: **It might happen / It will happen.**
6. A possible future hope: **I hope she stays / I wish she stays.**
7. A past regret: **I hope I had prepared / I wish I had prepared.**
8. A past habit: **I used to worry / I am used to worry.**

C. Correct the error

9. I am very terrified.
10. She reminded the answer.
11. I am used to wake up early.
12. They stand to losing everything.

SECTION 08

Answer key

Check each answer and return to the Language Lab when a form or distinction is still unclear.

1. 1. lately
2. 2. terrified
3. 3. remind
4. 4. waking
5. 5. It might happen
6. 6. I hope she stays
7. 7. I wish I had prepared
8. 8. I used to worry
9. 9. I am absolutely terrified
10. 10. She remembered/recalled the answer
11. 11. I am used to waking up early
12. 12. They stand to lose everything

Review again

Cover the answers and repeat the activities after a few days. A delayed second attempt is a better test of learning than immediate rereading.

SECTION 09

Complete 19-card library

Use this compact summary for quick revision or return to the video cue when you want to hear a point again.

Vocabulary / 4 cards

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:08

rough: difficult, not only uneven

Rough can describe an uneven surface, but it also describes a difficult period or unpleasant experience. Context shifts it from a physical adjective to an emotional evaluation.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:16

recall vs remember

Recall and remember both involve bringing information back to mind. Recall often sounds more deliberate or formal, while remember is more frequent in everyday conversation.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:52

terrified: stronger than afraid

Terrified expresses extreme fear and is much stronger than worried or afraid. Strong adjectives normally do not need very, although absolutely terrified is natural.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 1:12

take away: remove something valued

Take away is a separable phrasal verb meaning remove. With a pronoun, English places the pronoun between the verb and particle: take it away.

Grammar / 9 cards

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:10

Lately with the present perfect continuous

Lately commonly appears with the present perfect or present perfect continuous to connect recent activity with the present. The form emphasises an ongoing improvement.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:27

might for uncertain possibility

Might expresses a possibility rather than a confident prediction. It leaves the speaker emotionally hopeful while still avoiding certainty.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:40

the things that...: a relative clause

That introduces a defining relative clause identifying which things the speaker means. The clause is essential information, so it is not separated by commas.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:48

stand to lose

Stand to + verb means be in a position where a particular result is likely. Stand to lose therefore describes exposure to a possible negative consequence.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:56

get used to + noun or -ing

Get used to means become accustomed to something. Here to is a preposition, so a following verb takes the -ing form: get used to working, not get used to work.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:04

hope + present for a future result

After hope, English often uses a present form even when the desired result concerns the future. This differs from wish, which commonly presents distance or regret.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:00

If everything is good, why do I...?

The if-clause presents a premise and the question exposes a contradiction between external circumstances and internal anxiety. This is rhetorical reasoning rather than a standard conditional promise.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:08

have got: present possession

Have got is common in spoken British and informal international English for present possession. It does not normally replace have in every tense.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:35

Might versus will: check the level of certainty

When the fear returns, notice how modal choice controls certainty. Might leaves the loss possible; will would present it as a confident prediction.

Idioms / 3 cards

IDIOM / VIDEO 0:06

For a while

For a while means for a period of time whose exact length is not specified. It can refer to the past, present or future depending on the surrounding tense.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:04

sit and wait

Sit and wait describes remaining passive while time passes. The coordination emphasises frustration and lack of control rather than literally requiring a seated position.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:16

lose it all

Lose it all means lose everything important in the situation. It is broader and more dramatic than losing one specific possession.

Culture / 2 cards

CULTURE / VIDEO 0:32

Thanking God in contemporary pop

References to God can express gratitude, fear or bargaining without making the entire song a formal religious statement. The cultural register here combines intimate prayer with mainstream pop confession.

CULTURE / VIDEO 1:35

A repeated plea can change emotional weight

When the central plea returns, it carries the memory of the earlier fear. Repetition does not add new facts, but it can deepen the listener's interpretation.

Pronunciation / 1 cards

PHONETICS / VIDEO 2:50

Final refrain: emotion stretches the vowels

The closing delivery lengthens key vowels and weakens some consonants. Use it for listening practice, then repeat the same words in a comfortable spoken voice.

Keep learning

[Return to the synced learning experience.](#)