

LEARN ENGLISH WITH MUSIC

Good Luck, Babe!

Chappell Roan

COMPLETE LEARNING WORKBOOK

Go beyond the song

Phrasal verbs, concession and emotionally complex language for denial and consequence.

20 verified learning cards / Level B2 / 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 20-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

Notice how casual expressions gradually become a precise prediction about avoidance and regret.

STAGE	LEARNING LENS
Denial	Fine and cool mask conflict
Avoidance	Labels, excuses and distraction
Prediction	An impossible condition exposes denial
Future scene	Consequences arrive years later

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
say vs tell	Say introduces words; tell normally requires a person.	She said that; she told me that.
call off vs call something	Call off means cancel; call it love assigns a label.	They called it off; they called it progress.
try to vs try -ing	Try to means make an effort; try -ing tests a possible method.	Try to sleep; try turning off the phone.
make an excuse	Make is the fixed collocation; do is not used here.	Stop making excuses.
would have to	This modal phrase gives hypothetical necessity.	You would have to change everything.
a little vs a few	A little modifies uncountable nouns; a few modifies plural countable nouns.	A little time; a few minutes.
even if	It introduces a condition that does not change the result.	I will go even if it rains.
who in relative clauses	Subject who cannot be omitted; object who can be.	The person who calls; the person I called.

SECTION 03

Extended vocabulary: go beyond the lyrics

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

situationship	noun	An informal, undefined romantic relationship without clear labels or commitment. <i>After three months, she still didn't know if it was a situationship or something real.</i>
to deny	verb	To refuse to accept or admit that something is true. <i>He denied being nervous, even though his hands were shaking.</i>
fate	noun	A force some people believe controls events, or the outcome that seems inevitable for someone. <i>She felt it was fate that brought them back to the same city.</i>
to freak out	phrasal verb	To become suddenly anxious, panicked, or overwhelmed. <i>Don't freak out - we still have time to fix the schedule.</i>
restless	adjective	Unable to relax, stay still, or feel settled. <i>He was restless the night before the interview, checking his phone every ten minutes.</i>
to settle for	phrasal verb	To accept something less satisfying than what you truly want. <i>She refused to settle for a job that didn't excite her.</i>
gut feeling	noun	A strong instinct about something, felt rather than reasoned out. <i>My gut feeling told me not to sign the contract yet.</i>
to numb	verb	To make a feeling less intense, often as a way of avoiding it. <i>He kept working late to numb the stress of the breakup.</i>
closeted	adjective	Hiding one's sexual orientation from others. <i>She spent years closeted before finally telling her parents.</i>
denial	noun	The refusal to accept a painful or uncomfortable truth. <i>He was in complete denial about how much the job was hurting him.</i>
starry-eyed	adjective	Naively hopeful or idealistic, especially about love. <i>The starry-eyed couple booked a wedding venue after two months of dating.</i>

SECTION 04

Idioms and expressive English

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

to shoot your shot	extension	To take a bold romantic or personal risk, hoping for a good outcome. <i>He finally shot his shot and asked her to dinner.</i>
good luck with that	extension	A sarcastic way of wishing someone luck while doubting they will succeed. <i>You think he'll change his mind by Friday? Good luck with that.</i>
to come to terms with something	extension	To gradually accept a difficult truth after resisting it. <i>It took her a year to come to terms with leaving her hometown.</i>
to face the music	extension	To accept the consequences of a decision, however uncomfortable. <i>Eventually he had to face the music and admit the plan had failed.</i>
at the end of the day	extension	Used to introduce the essential point after considering everything else. <i>At the end of the day, you have to do what feels honest to you.</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.

Fully rhotic R	Unlike British singers, Roan pronounces every R - in 'heart', 'her', 'world' - with a strong tongue curl. This is classic General American, and it's the opposite of the R-dropping you'd hear in a British ballad.
Flat, nasal A	Midwestern American English keeps the short A in words like 'man', 'fast' and 'dance' flat and slightly nasal, rather than opening it into the broader 'ah' sound common in British or Southern-Hemisphere English.
Tapped T ('American D-sound')	In the faster, spoken-style verses, T between vowels softens into a quick tap that sounds close to a D - 'gotta', 'better', 'little'. Listen for it whenever the beat picks up.
Theatrical, drag-cabaret vowel stretching	Roan's background in drag performance shows in how she elongates vowels and jumps into a bright falsetto at emotional peaks - a stylistic choice, not a regional feature, but central to how expressive the song feels.

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.

"Good Luck, Babe!" arrived on April 5, 2024, as a standalone single through Amusement and Island Records - the first new material Chappell Roan released after her September 2023 debut album, *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess*. Roan (born Kayleigh Rose Amstutz) wrote it with Justin Tranter and her longtime producer Daniel Nigro. The song actually began life back in November 2022, as a rough sketch during the *Midwest Princess* sessions, and took over a year of reworking - including violinist Paul Cartwright layering roughly a hundred string tracks - before Roan felt it was finished.

Commercially, it was a slow burn rather than an instant smash. It debuted modestly at number 77 on the Billboard Hot 100 the week of release. Later that same month, Roan's Coachella sets on April 12 and 19 went viral online, introducing her performance of the song to a much wider audience and helping fuel its climb through the summer. By the time it peaked, 'Good Luck, Babe!' had reached number four on the Hot 100 and topped the US Pop Airplay chart - Roan's first single to do either.

The song also became her first major certification story: the RIAA marked it gold in May 2024, then Platinum that October, with further multi-Platinum status following before the year was out. Roan has described the track simply as being about 'wishing good luck to someone who is denying fate.' Listeners and critics read it more specifically as an anthem about compulsory heterosexuality - addressed to a woman resisting her feelings for another woman - and it was widely praised for its unapologetically queer perspective.

Visually, Roan kept things deliberately low-key: rather than a full music video, she released only a lyric video on the day of the single's launch, built around a deliberately clunky, early-internet look heavy on the Comic Sans typeface. She later explained she was too exhausted from constant touring and recording to shoot anything more elaborate at the time.

The accolades kept arriving well into 2025. At the 67th Grammy Awards that February, 'Good Luck, Babe!' picked up nominations for Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Best Pop Solo Performance, while Roan herself won Best New Artist on the night. The song also won the Brit Award for International Song in 2025 and topped Australia's triple j Hottest 100 poll for 2024.

In this catalogue, it sits alongside other 2020s hits like *Espresso* and *Birds of a Feather* as a snapshot of very current pop English - but its Midwest-raised, drag-inflected delivery and its unmistakably American vowels make a sharp contrast with the British ballads and Australian belters elsewhere in the collection.

SECTION 07

Practice zone

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

A. Complete

1. She ____ me the truth. (said/told)
2. They called the meeting _____. (off/out)
3. I need a ____ time. (little/few)
4. Try ____ the app. (restarting/to restarting)

B. Choose

5. Cancel: call off/call love.
6. Unchanged result: if/even if.
7. Hypothetical necessity: would have to/had to.
8. Correct: the one calls/the one who calls.

C. Correct

9. She said me that.
10. Make it off.
11. A few air would help.
12. Try to restarting it.

SECTION 08

Answer key

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

1. 1. told
2. 2. off
3. 3. little
4. 4. restarting
5. 5. call off
6. 6. even if
7. 7. would have to
8. 8. the one who calls
9. 9. She told me that
10. 10. Call it off
11. 11. A little air would help
12. 12. Try restarting it

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 20-card library

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

Vocabulary / 3 cards

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:46

Take or shoot a shot

A shot can be a small alcoholic drink, an attempt, a photograph or a sports action. Here the bar setting activates the drinking meaning.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 1:10

Cliche and register

A cliché is an overused idea or expression. Calling yourself a cliché shows self-awareness about repeating a familiar emotional pattern.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:50

Make an excuse

English says make an excuse, not do an excuse. An excuse is a reason offered to defend or avoid responsibility.

Grammar / 9 cards

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:16

Say + that-clause

Say can introduce the content of a statement: say that we are nothing. Tell normally needs a person: tell me that we are nothing.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:24

Like an angel: a simile

Like + noun phrase creates a comparison: arms out like an angel. As introduces roles or clauses and cannot simply replace like here.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:34

Call something + noun

Call it love means name or describe the situation as love. Compare call it off, where call off is a phrasal verb meaning cancel.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:38

The one who + verb

The one who uses a subject relative pronoun, so who cannot be omitted. It identifies the person performing the following action.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:48

Try to stop vs try stopping

Try to stop means make an effort to stop. Try stopping suggests testing that action as a possible solution.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:58

Would have to: hypothetical necessity

Would have to expresses necessity inside an imagined situation. The impossible scale of stopping the world intensifies the feeling.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:20

A little + uncountable noun

A little modifies uncountable nouns such as love, air and time. A few is used with plural countable nouns.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:34

Even if introduces concession

Even if means the result remains true regardless of the condition. It is stronger than a neutral if-clause.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:56

Would have to remains hypothetical

The final return to the impossible condition preserves would have to. The modal keeps the necessity inside an imagined scenario rather than reporting a real obligation.

Idioms / 5 cards

IDIOM / VIDEO 0:20

Play the fool

The fool is the person made to look naive or ridiculous. Calling oneself the fool admits being deceived or misreading a situation.

IDIOM / VIDEO 0:30

Call it off

Call something off means cancel it. With a pronoun, it is separable: call it off, not call off it.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:10

Wake up next to someone

Wake up is intransitive here; next to identifies position. The phrase implies sharing a bed without needing to state it directly.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:16

Head in your hands

Have your head in your hands describes a posture associated with distress, shame or frustration.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:28

Face to face and I told you so

Face to face means directly in one another's presence. I told you so highlights that an earlier warning proved correct and often sounds triumphant.

Culture / 2 cards

CULTURE / VIDEO 0:10

Fine and cool can hide conflict

Fine and cool may signal genuine acceptance or dismissive resignation. Intonation and context reveal the difference.

CULTURE / VIDEO 0:42

A hundred as deliberate hyperbole

A hundred boys is not necessarily a literal count. Pop language often uses round large numbers as hyperbole for repeated or excessive behaviour.

Pronunciation / 1 cards

PHONETICS / VIDEO 3:24

Outro repetition and emotional insistence

The last repetitions stretch the key words while the grammar stays simple. Listen for how pitch and duration add insistence without changing the sentence structure.

Keep learning

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