

LEARN ENGLISH WITH MUSIC

Levitating

Dua Lipa

COMPLETE LEARNING WORKBOOK

Go beyond the song

Cosmic metaphor, invitation and dance-floor connected speech.

18 verified learning cards / Level B1-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 18-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.

Lyrics on video

[Open the lyric video used for this lesson](#)

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

SECTION 01

Map the song

Separate literal space vocabulary from the relationship meanings it carries.

STAGE	LEARNING LENS
Opening	Identify the speaker, situation and first useful pattern.
Development	Track the main contrast, image or relationship problem.
Hook	Notice how repetition changes emphasis and memory.
Late return	Retrieve earlier language under new vocal or narrative pressure.

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
wanna, gonna and gotta	These spellings represent reductions of want to, going to and have got to. They signal informal speech, not careless grammar.	Recognise them in listening; use full forms in formal writing.
all night vs every night	All night expresses duration through one night; every night expresses repeated frequency.	We danced all night yesterday. We practise every night.
even if vs even though	Even if introduces a possible condition; even though introduces a fact accepted as true.	Even if it rains, we will go. Even though it rained, we went.
space as relationship metaphor	Orbit, gravity, stars and levitation let speakers describe attraction without naming it directly.	When reusing a metaphor, keep its internal image coherent.

SECTION 03

Extended vocabulary: go beyond the lyrics

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

to levitate	verb	To float in the air without any physical support, as if by magic. <i>In the illusion, the magician appeared to levitate above the stage.</i>
galaxy	noun	A vast system of stars, dust and gas bound together by gravity. <i>On a clear night in the desert, you can actually see the Milky Way galaxy.</i>
weightless	adjective	Having no weight; feeling completely free of gravity. <i>Astronauts float weightless inside the space station.</i>
to glow	verb	To shine with a soft, steady light. <i>The city skyline glowed orange just after sunset.</i>
starlight	noun	The light that reaches us from distant stars. <i>They walked home by starlight after the party ended.</i>
groove	noun	A strong, steady musical rhythm that makes you want to move. <i>The bassline locks into a groove you can't sit still to.</i>
dance floor	noun	The open space in a club or at a party where people dance. <i>By midnight the dance floor was completely packed.</i>
to spin	verb	To turn round and round quickly. <i>She spun around twice before catching her balance.</i>
orbit	noun	The curved path an object follows around a planet or star. <i>The satellite has been in orbit for over a decade.</i>
euphoric	adjective	Feeling intense happiness and excitement. <i>The crowd was euphoric when the home team scored in the final minute.</i>
to sparkle	verb	To shine with small, quick flashes of light. <i>Frost made the whole garden sparkle in the morning sun.</i>
phenomenal	adjective	Extraordinary; remarkable enough to seem almost unbelievable. <i>Her first solo album was a phenomenal success.</i>

SECTION 04

Idioms and expressive English

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

to be on cloud nine	extension	To feel extremely happy, as if floating above everyday life. <i>Ever since she got the job offer, she's been on cloud nine.</i>
to walk on air	extension	To feel so happy that you barely notice the ground beneath you. <i>He's been walking on air since the engagement.</i>
out of this world	extension	So good or unusual that it seems to belong to another world. <i>The view from the rooftop restaurant was out of this world.</i>
to be over the moon	extension	To be extremely pleased about something. <i>Grandma was over the moon when she heard about the baby.</i>
to dance the night away	extension	To keep dancing for hours, often until very late. <i>We danced the night away at their wedding reception.</i>
written in the stars	extension	Destined to happen; determined by fate rather than choice. <i>Some people believe true love is written in the stars.</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.

A blended, semi-transatlantic pop-singing accent	Dua Lipa grew up in London, but like many British pop singers she softens some of her most identifiable British vowels when she sings, drifting toward a more neutral, radio-friendly accent. Listen for how much less 'London' she sounds here than she does in an interview.
Non-rhotic R survives the disco beat	Even inside the four-on-the-floor groove, words like 'star', 'more' and 'floor' keep their British silent R - the vowel simply lengthens instead. Compare this with an American disco vocal, where the R would be fully pronounced.
The vanishing G in -ing, disco style	'Dancing' and 'levitating' both lose their final g-sound in the sung delivery: 'dancin', 'levitatin'. It's one of the few reduction habits British and American pop singing share almost identically.
Crisp, clipped consonants on the beat	Dua Lipa's diction stays unusually sharp against the groove - final T's and D's land right on the beat instead of disappearing, which is part of why her lyrics are so easy to make out by ear.

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.

"Levitating" was the fifth track on Dua Lipa's second studio album, *Future Nostalgia*, released by Warner Records on 27 March 2020 - a record built around the same nu-disco, funk-inflected sound the song is best known for. It was written by Dua Lipa with Clarence Coffee Jr., Sarah Hudson and Stephen Kozmeniuk, and produced by Kozmeniuk (credited as Koz) together with Stuart Price, the British producer behind earlier dance-pop records for Madonna and Kylie Minogue.

The song only became a single months later, on 1 October 2020, released alongside a remix featuring the American rapper DaBaby. That remix version is the one that climbed the US charts: it entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number 73 in October 2020 and eventually peaked at number 2, tying "Don't Start Now" as Dua Lipa's highest position on that chart - kept off the top spot only by Silk Sonic's "Leave the Door Open".

What "Levitating" is really remembered for is not a single peak week but sheer staying power. It spent 41 weeks inside the Hot 100's top ten, the longest run there of any song by a female lead artist in the chart's history, overtaking a record LeAnn Rimes had held since "How Do I Live". Across 77 weeks on the chart altogether, it also became the longest-charting non-holiday song by a woman, and Billboard named it the number-one song of its entire 2021 year-end Hot 100 recap.

Awards recognition was more complicated. The track picked up nominations for Song of the Year and Song of the Summer at the 2021 MTV Video Music Awards, but for the 2022 Grammy Awards Dua Lipa chose not to submit it at all: the only version eligible was the DaBaby remix, and she had publicly criticised remarks the rapper made in mid-2021. In November 2023, "Levitating" was certified Diamond by the RIAA, for more than ten million units sold and streamed in the United States alone.

For learners, it makes a useful contrast with the ballads elsewhere in this catalogue: the same clear, British diction, but set against a four-on-the-floor disco pulse, with a vocabulary built almost entirely from space and light - orbit, glow, galaxy - rather than heartbreak.

SECTION 07

Practice zone

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

A. Extended vocabulary in context

1. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To float in the air without any physical support, as if by magic.*
to levitate / galaxy
2. Choose the best term for this meaning: *A vast system of stars, dust and gas bound together by gravity.*
galaxy / weightless
3. Choose the best term for this meaning: *Having no weight; feeling completely free of gravity.*
weightless / to glow
4. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To shine with a soft, steady light.*
to glow / starlight
5. Choose the best term for this meaning: *The light that reaches us from distant stars.*
starlight / groove
6. Choose the best term for this meaning: *A strong, steady musical rhythm that makes you want to move.*
groove / to levitate

B. Retrieve the expression

7. Which expression matches this meaning: *To feel extremely happy, as if floating above everyday life.?*
8. Which expression matches this meaning: *To feel so happy that you barely notice the ground beneath you.?*
9. Which expression matches this meaning: *So good or unusual that it seems to belong to another world.?*
10. Which expression matches this meaning: *To be extremely pleased about something.?*

C. Accuracy check

11. Correct the form: **I listened the song carefully.**
12. Choose the careful form: **The contrast lead to a new meaning / leads to a new meaning.**

SECTION 08

Answer key

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

1. to levitate
2. galaxy
3. weightless
4. to glow
5. starlight
6. groove
7. to be on cloud nine
8. to walk on air
9. out of this world
10. to be over the moon
11. I listened to the song carefully
12. The contrast leads to a new meaning

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 18-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 0:27

glitter in the sky

Glitter can be a noun or verb associated with reflected light. Here it contributes to the song's disco-inspired visual world.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:45

written in the stars

Written in the stars means destined or fated. It presents a future relationship as if it had already been decided cosmically.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 1:24

renegade

A renegade rejects accepted rules or loyalties. In pop lyrics it often creates a glamorous image of independence.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 3:03

sugarboo: playful endearment

Sugarboo is a playful invented term of affection. Creative pet names are common in pop but may sound intimate or unusual in everyday conversation.

Grammar / 5 cards

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:09

if you wanna: informal condition

Wanna represents want to in casual speech. The if-clause offers an invitation; in formal writing, use if you want to.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:36

I got you: conversational possession

I got you is informal for I have got you or I understand/support you, depending on context. It is not ordinary past got here.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:54

need you all night

Need can take a noun phrase directly. All night is a duration expression; compare every night, which describes frequency.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:36

you can fly away with me

Can expresses possibility or invitation. Fly away extends the cosmic metaphor while also functioning like a movement phrasal verb.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:18

even if: contrast despite a condition

Even if introduces a condition that will not change the result. It is stronger than if because it anticipates an obstacle.

Idioms / 3 cards

IDIOM / VIDEO 0:15

run away with me

Run away can mean escape, but in romantic language it can suggest leaving ordinary life together spontaneously.

IDIOM / VIDEO 1:12

blast off

Blast off literally describes a spacecraft launch and figuratively suggests a sudden energetic start.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:30

fall into rhythm

Fall into rhythm means begin moving or working in a natural shared pattern. Fall into can describe entering a state almost automatically.

Culture / 2 cards

CULTURE / VIDEO 0:21

galaxy and cosmic romance

The song builds attraction through space imagery. Galaxy, stars and orbit make a dance-floor connection feel limitless.

CULTURE / VIDEO 2:03

moonlight and starlight: disco vocabulary

Celestial light is a long-standing disco motif, connecting the dance floor with fantasy, escape and glamour.

Pronunciation / 4 cards

PHONETICS / VIDEO 1:03

levitating: four clear beats

Levitating has four syllables, with primary stress near the beginning: LEV-i-tat-ing. The melody stretches the word without changing its core stress.

PHONETICS / VIDEO 1:48

I want you: linking /t/ to /j/

In fast speech, want you may develop a /tj/-like sound. Recognising this helps learners hear the phrase without copying an exaggerated form.

PHONETICS / VIDEO 2:45

you want me: strong content words

The pronouns are grammatically necessary, but want carries the main rhythmic stress. Do not give every word equal weight.

PHONETICS / VIDEO 3:24

final hook: compressed repetition

The closing repetitions reward shadowing: keep function words light and land the stressed syllables of levitating and moonlight precisely.

Keep learning

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