

LEARN ENGLISH WITH MUSIC

Ordinary

Alex Warren

COMPLETE LEARNING WORKBOOK

Go beyond the song

Sacred imagery, transformation and contemporary ballad English.

16 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 16-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

Notice how opposites make an ordinary relationship sound extraordinary.

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
ordinary, mundane and average	Ordinary is neutral; mundane often means dull; average refers to a statistical or typical middle.	Choose mundane only when you intend a negative shade.
lay and lie	Lay takes an object; lie does not. Present: lay/lie; past: laid/lay; participle: laid/lain.	Lay the book down. Lie down. Yesterday I lay down.
was vs were in hypotheticals	Was is common informally with I/he/she; were marks greater formality or distance in hypothetical clauses.	If the world were ending is the careful traditional form.
divine, heavenly and sacred	Divine and heavenly can be religious or simply extremely positive; sacred refers to what is holy or deeply protected.	Register changes when religious vocabulary becomes romantic metaphor.

SECTION 03

Extended vocabulary: go beyond the lyrics

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

to fall for someone	phrasal verb	To become romantically attracted to someone, often suddenly. <i>He fell for her the moment she laughed at his terrible joke.</i>
devotion	noun	Deep love and loyal commitment to someone or something. <i>Her devotion to her family never wavered, even in hard times.</i>
unwavering	adjective	Steady and not changing, especially under pressure. <i>His unwavering support got her through the toughest year of her career.</i>
to chase	verb	To run after someone or something in order to catch them. <i>The dog chased the ball across the entire park.</i>
to levitate	verb	To rise and float in the air without any physical support. <i>In the illusion, the magician appeared to levitate above the stage.</i>
breathtaking	adjective	So beautiful, exciting or amazing that it takes your breath away. <i>The view from the cliff was absolutely breathtaking.</i>
gravity	noun	The force that pulls objects toward the earth; used figuratively for a powerful, grounding pull. <i>Their friendship had a kind of gravity that always brought them back together.</i>
worship	noun / verb	Deep love, adoration or religious reverence shown toward someone or something. <i>He worships the ground she walks on.</i>
mundane	adjective	Ordinary, everyday and not exciting. <i>Even mundane tasks like grocery shopping felt fun when they did them together.</i>
to soar	verb	To fly or rise quickly and smoothly, often used figuratively for emotions. <i>Her spirits soared the moment she heard the good news.</i>
everlasting	adjective	Lasting forever; permanent. <i>They promised each other an everlasting friendship, no matter where life took them.</i>
safe haven	noun	A place or situation that offers protection and comfort from difficulty. <i>Their tiny apartment became a safe haven during the chaos of those early years.</i>

SECTION 04

Idioms and expressive English

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

out of the ordinary	extension	Different from what is usual or expected; unusual. <i>Meeting a stranger who changes your whole life is definitely out of the ordinary.</i>
to sweep someone off their feet	extension	To make someone fall in love with you very quickly, often through romantic or impressive actions. <i>He swept her off her feet with a surprise trip to the coast.</i>
head over heels	extension	Completely and intensely in love. <i>They were head over heels for each other within a few weeks of meeting.</i>
through thick and thin	extension	Supporting someone in both good times and bad. <i>Her best friend stood by her through thick and thin, even during the bankruptcy.</i>
to take a leap of faith	extension	To do something risky or uncertain because you believe it will work out. <i>Quitting his stable job to make music was a huge leap of faith.</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.

The rhotic American R	Unlike the British non-rhotic accents elsewhere in this catalogue (think Ed Sheeran or Sam Smith), Warren pronounces the R clearly wherever it appears - in words like 'more', 'heart' and 'world' the tongue curls back for a strong American R. Compare it directly with the vanishing R of British singers in this collection.
The quick, D-like American T	In casual American speech and singing, a T sitting between two vowels softens into a fast tap that sounds almost like a D - 'water' becomes 'wa-der', 'little' becomes 'li-dle'. Listen for this flapped T whenever the phrasing loosens up between the ballad's held notes.
Worship-music melisma	Warren has spoken about growing up around worship music, and it shows in the way single syllables stretch and bend across several notes - a gospel and R&B; vocal habit (melisma) that turns plain words into small, emotional runs.
Breathy falsetto on open vowels	On the song's biggest, most emotional lines, Warren shifts from his chest voice into a breathy falsetto, stretching open vowel sounds and adding audible air to the tone - a hallmark of modern pop-ballad belting, very different from a purely 'chest voice' power note.

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.

"Ordinary" is the breakout single from Alex Warren, released on February 7, 2025 through Atlantic Records as the lead single from his debut studio album, *You'll Be Alright, Kid*. Warren - born in Carlsbad, California, and previously known as a co-founder of the TikTok collective the Hype House - wrote the song with producer Adam Yaron, together with Cal Shapiro and Mags Duval. Critics have classified its sound as chamber pop, a lush, string-driven take on the modern piano ballad.

The song is a direct tribute to Warren's wife, Kouvr Annon. He has explained in interviews that before he found success he was living out of his car, and Annon chose to stay by his side through that uncertainty - the real relationship at the emotional core of the lyric. The couple met when they were both eighteen, and the song turns that shared history into its central story.

Commercially, "Ordinary" became one of the defining hits of 2025. It spent ten non-consecutive weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and ten consecutive weeks atop the Billboard Global 200. On Billboard's Pop Airplay chart it set an all-time record, spending sixteen non-consecutive weeks at number one and beating the thirty-year-old mark of fourteen weeks held by Ace of Base's "The Sign." In the UK it spent thirteen non-consecutive weeks at number one - the longest reign of any song so far in the 2020s - after an initial twelve-week consecutive run, the longest ever for an American male solo artist on that chart. Billboard later named it the Song of the Summer for 2025.

The single's global reach earned heavyweight certifications: three-times Platinum from the RIAA in the United States, five-times Platinum from the BPI in the United Kingdom, and Diamond certifications in Canada, France and the Netherlands. It also finished as the best-selling song of the year in Australia, Iceland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and the UK.

The music video, released the same day as the single, also stars Kouvr Annon: Warren chases her through a series of shifting landscapes before the two end up levitating together, a visual echo of the song's promise to lift someone out of an ordinary life. The song's success carried into awards season too - Warren was nominated for Best New Artist at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards in February 2026, where he performed an orchestral version of "Ordinary" live.

In this catalogue, "Ordinary" sits among the most recent additions - a 2025 American chamber-pop ballad shaped by Warren's background in worship music, making an interesting pair with the British gospel-soul of Sam Smith's *Stay With Me* or the equally confessional, contemporary balladry of Benson Boone's *Beautiful Things*.

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 become romantically attracted to someone, often suddenly.*
to fall for someone / devotion
2. Choose the best term for this meaning: *Deep love and loyal commitment to someone or something.*
devotion / unwavering
3. Choose the best term for this meaning: *Steady and not changing, especially under pressure.*
unwavering / to chase
4. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To run after someone or something in order to catch them.*
to chase / to levitate
5. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To rise and float in the air without any physical support.*
to levitate / breathtaking
6. Choose the best term for this meaning: *So beautiful, exciting or amazing that it takes your breath away.*
breathtaking / to fall for someone

B. Retrieve the expression

7. Which expression matches this meaning: *Different from what is usual or expected; unusual.?*
8. Which expression matches this meaning: *To make someone fall in love with you very quickly, often through romantic or impressive actions.?*
9. Which expression matches this meaning: *Completely and intensely in love.?*
10. Which expression matches this meaning: *Supporting someone in both good times and bad.?*

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 fall for someone
2. devotion
3. unwavering
4. to chase
5. to levitate
6. breathtaking
7. out of the ordinary
8. to sweep someone off their feet
9. head over heels
10. through thick and thin
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 16-card library

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

Vocabulary / 5 cards

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:12

the edge of my knife

The edge is the cutting part of a knife. Figuratively, an edge can represent danger, pressure or a decisive boundary.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:39

mundane vs ordinary

Both can mean everyday, but mundane often suggests dullness, while ordinary is more neutral. The lyric transforms both through contrast with divine.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 1:27

lay me down

Lay requires an object: lay me down. Lie is intransitive: I lie down. The distinction is frequently confused by native speakers too.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 2:15

black and white

Black and white can mean completely clear or divided into opposites. Here the contrast helps represent certainty and transformation.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 2:54

ordinary as the final contrast

The title word returns after repeated sacred imagery. Its meaning has shifted: ordinary life is now valuable because of the relationship.

Grammar / 5 cards

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:30

made the mundane feel divine

Make can take object + bare adjective: made the mundane divine. Feel remains a bare infinitive after make.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:48

until you: ellipsis

Lyrics often omit predictable words for rhythm. Until you can stand for until you arrived or until I met you, inferred from context.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:15

if the world was ending

Informal English often uses was in hypothetical clauses. Formal careful English may prefer were: if the world were ending.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:39

your love is heavenly

Heavenly is a subject complement after be. It describes love; an adverb would not fit this structure.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:03

thought I had found

Past perfect places the finding before the later realisation. Thought adds distance: the belief may have changed.

Idioms / 1 cards

IDIOM / VIDEO 0:57

at the end of my rope

At the end of your rope means having no patience, energy or options left. It comes from the image of reaching a physical limit.

Culture / 3 cards

CULTURE / VIDEO 0:21

angels in the clouds

Angels and heaven create a spiritual register. The imagery elevates romantic love beyond ordinary daily experience.

CULTURE / VIDEO 1:06

holy water and sacred love

Religious vocabulary is used metaphorically to describe emotional rescue and devotion, not necessarily a literal ritual.

CULTURE / VIDEO 2:27

romantic salvation narrative

The song presents love as rescue from emptiness. This is a powerful pop convention, but students can also question its emotional assumptions.

Pronunciation / 2 cards

PHONETICS / VIDEO 1:51

ordinary: stress and reduction

Ordinary begins with primary stress, while later vowels reduce. Singing may stretch the word, but everyday pronunciation remains rhythmically uneven.

PHONETICS / VIDEO 2:39

final chorus: intensity changes meaning

The repeated language stays stable while greater volume and vocal strain make the promise sound more urgent and absolute.

Keep learning

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