

LEARN ENGLISH WITH MUSIC

Perfect

Ed Sheeran

COMPLETE LEARNING WORKBOOK

Go beyond the song

Romantic narrative, British pronunciation and reusable relationship language.

19 verified learning cards / Level A2-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.

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

Move from story sequence to promise while distinguishing lyrical choices from standard prose.

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
love as countable or uncountable	Uncountable love names the emotion; a love can name a beloved person, relationship or type of attachment.	Context decides whether an article is possible.
listen, hear and overhear	Listen to is intentional; hear is perception; overhear means hear accidentally without being addressed.	Do not add to after hear or overhear.
slow vs slowly	Slow is an adjective but also appears as an informal flat adverb. Slowly is the standard adverb in careful prose.	Drive slow is conversational; drive slowly is neutral and standard.
hope, expect and look forward to	Hope expresses desire; expect expresses belief; look forward to expresses positive anticipation and takes -ing.	I hope she comes. I expect her to come. I look forward to seeing her.

SECTION 03

Extended vocabulary: go beyond the lyrics

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

to dive in	phrasal verb	To start something fully and without hesitating. <i>Stop planning and dive in - you'll learn as you go.</i>
to follow someone's lead	expression	To copy what someone does because they know the way. <i>I'd never danced salsa, so I just followed her lead.</i>
barefoot	adjective / adverb	Without shoes. <i>The kids ran barefoot across the warm sand.</i>
to whisper	verb	To speak extremely quietly. <i>He whispered the answer so the teacher wouldn't hear.</i>
breathless	adjective	Unable to breathe normally - from effort or from emotion. <i>The view from the summit left us breathless.</i>
to deserve	verb	To have earned something, good or bad. <i>After that season, the team deserved the trophy.</i>
faith	noun	Strong trust or belief in someone or something. <i>She kept faith in the project when everyone else quit.</i>
a mess	noun	Something (or someone) untidy or chaotic - often used with affection. <i>I'm a mess before my morning coffee.</i>
milestone	noun	An important stage in a life or process. <i>Buying their first flat was a huge milestone.</i>
vows	noun	The formal promises two people make at a wedding. <i>They wrote their own vows in two languages.</i>
slow dance	noun	A dance done in a close embrace to slow music. <i>The night ended with a slow dance under fairy lights.</i>
sweetheart	noun	An affectionate word for the person you love - also 'childhood sweethearts'. <i>They were childhood sweethearts who met at fourteen.</i>

SECTION 04

Idioms and expressive English

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

to dive right in	extension	To commit completely from the first second, without testing first. <i>The course looked hard, but she dove right in.</i>
to follow someone's lead	extension	To let someone more confident guide your steps. <i>Just follow my lead in the negotiation and we'll be fine.</i>
against all odds	extension	Despite everything suggesting failure. <i>Against all odds, the little bakery survived the crisis.</i>
to carry the weight	extension	To bear a responsibility or burden, alone or together. <i>She carried the weight of the family business at 25.</i>
to be someone's other half	extension	A warm way to call someone's partner. <i>Bring your other half to the barbecue on Sunday!</i>
to look perfect	extension	With 'look' + adjective, English describes appearance without 'seem': look tired, look great, look perfect. <i>You look perfect in that jacket - buy it.</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 vanished G in -ing	Words like 'darling' and 'dancing' lose their final g-sound in relaxed British singing: 'dahh-lin', 'dahn-sin'. The -ing ending survives in spelling only - listen for the vowel.
Non-rhotic R, ballad edition	At slow tempo you can clearly hear British R-dropping: 'heard', 'girl' and 'first' have no American R-colour at all. Compare this with Flowers to hear both systems side by side.
Weak little words, even sung slowly	Even in a slow ballad, grammar words stay weak: 'and' becomes 'n', 'of' becomes 'uh-v', 'to' becomes 'tuh'. If a slow song keeps them weak, imagine fast conversation.
Linking into vowels	Sheeran glues final consonants to the next vowel - 'found a' becomes 'foun-da'. Practise reading phrases as sound-chains, not word-by-word.

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.

Ed Sheeran has said he wanted Perfect to be the best love song of his career - written for his future wife Cherry Seaborn, whom he had known since their school days in Suffolk. It appeared on ÷ (Divide), the 2017 album that broke streaming records worldwide, and became its fourth single that autumn.

The slow climb suited the song: it entered the UK chart months before its single release, then rose all the way to number one and was crowned the UK's Christmas number one of 2017 - the most fought-over chart position in British pop culture.

December 2017 brought two star-powered reinventions in two weeks: Perfect Duet with Beyoncé (released 1 December) and Perfect Symphony with the Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli. The Beyoncé version pushed the song to number one on the US Billboard Hot 100, completing a rare transatlantic double.

Since then it has settled into modern tradition as one of the world's default first-dance wedding songs - which is precisely what makes it gold for English learners: slow tempo, crystal-clear British diction, and the complete vocabulary of love, promises and growing up in under four and a half minutes.

In this catalogue it is the calm counterpart: British English at its gentlest, next to Miley Cyrus' American pop and Sia's powerhouse Australian vocals.

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 start something fully and without hesitating.*

to dive in / to follow someone's lead

2. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To copy what someone does because they know the way.*

to follow someone's lead / barefoot

3. Choose the best term for this meaning: *Without shoes.*

barefoot / to whisper

4. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To speak extremely quietly.*

to whisper / breathless

5. Choose the best term for this meaning: *Unable to breathe normally - from effort or from emotion.*

breathless / to deserve

6. Choose the best term for this meaning: *To have earned something, good or bad.*

to deserve / to dive in

B. Retrieve the expression

7. Which expression matches this meaning: *To commit completely from the first second, without testing first.?*

8. Which expression matches this meaning: *To let someone more confident guide your steps.?*

9. Which expression matches this meaning: *Despite everything suggesting failure.?*

10. Which expression matches this meaning: *To bear a responsibility or burden, alone or together.?*

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 dive in
2. to follow someone's lead
3. barefoot
4. to whisper
5. breathless
6. to deserve
7. to dive right in
8. to follow someone's lead
9. against all odds
10. to carry the weight
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 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 / 3 cards

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 0:48

give you up

Give someone up means stop pursuing or surrender the relationship. The object pronoun sits between give and up.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 1:42

between my arms

English normally says in someone's arms for an embrace. Between my arms is poetic spatial imagery.

VOCABULARY / VIDEO 2:57

future in your eyes

Seeing a future in someone's eyes is romantic metaphor, presenting expression as evidence of long-term possibility.

Grammar / 9 cards

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:06

found a love: countable meaning

Love is often uncountable, but a love can mean a person or relationship that embodies love.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:24

follow my lead

Lead is a noun here meaning example or direction. Follow my lead asks another person to copy or trust your action.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 0:36

I never knew you were

Past knew reports an earlier lack of awareness. The following clause backshifts naturally into were.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:09

hold me: imperative

The bare verb creates a direct intimate request. Context and tone make it tender rather than commanding.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:27

listening to: required preposition

Listen normally requires to before its object: listen to music. Hear takes an object directly.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 1:57

a woman stronger than

Comparatives use adjective + -er + than for many short adjectives: stronger than.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 2:42

I hope that someday

Hope can take a that-clause about a possible future. Someday means at an unspecified future time.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 3:27

I do not deserve this

Deserve takes a direct object or to-infinitive: deserve this, deserve to be happy.

GRAMMAR / VIDEO 3:48

faith in what I see

What I see is a fused relative meaning the thing that I see. It needs no noun before it.

Idioms / 2 cards

IDIOM / VIDEO 0:15

dive right in

Dive right in means begin enthusiastically without hesitation. Right intensifies the immediacy.

IDIOM / VIDEO 2:12

carry more than secrets

Carry is metaphorical: experiences or responsibilities can be carried emotionally, not only physically.

Culture / 2 cards

CULTURE / VIDEO 2:27

against all odds

Against the odds means despite a very low probability of success. It frames the relationship as improbable but resilient.

CULTURE / VIDEO 4:06

final vow and wedding association

The final repetition has become strongly associated with weddings, showing how audiences can give a pop song a social function beyond its lyrics.

Pronunciation / 3 cards

PHONETICS / VIDEO 1:00

darling: non-rhotic British /r/

In a typical southern British pronunciation, the written r in darling is not pronounced unless a vowel follows.

PHONETICS / VIDEO 1:18

barefoot: compound stress

Barefoot is a compound adjective/adverb with strong first-syllable stress. It means without shoes.

PHONETICS / VIDEO 3:12

kiss me slow: song register

Slow is an adjective used adverbially in informal or lyrical English. Standard prose often prefers slowly.

Keep learning

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