

Using Songs for Teaching EFL or ESL to Children



“White Coral Bells” (A Round)

Experience and Rationale

Listening to songs in the target language is a great way to get children familiar with the sounds of the language, with words and phrases, and with grammar structures.

This slideshow gives some ideas for using songs with children for listening but also for singing.

Experience and Rationale

Songs add variety to lessons and can be used as warm-up or closing activities.

Songs provide situated practice for vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.



Experience and Rationale

Songs may appeal to varied learning styles and multiple intelligences.

Songs involve “tonal memory” for learning.

Children can sing while doing other things, like drawing or coloring.



Experience and Rationale

A **round** is a song where more than one person or more than one group sings the same words with the same tune, but at different times.

When rounds are sung well, they create beautiful harmony. As a result, singing rounds can be very rewarding for young singers who have no vocal training.

White Coral Bells

“White Coral Bells” is the name of this song. It is about a flower shaped like a bell.



White Coral Bells

It has a very simple lyric with only 4 lines:

White coral bells upon a slender stalk

Lilies of the valley deck my garden walk.

Oh, don't you wish that you could hear them
ring?

That will happen only when the fairies sing.

White Coral Bells

White coral bells
upon a slender stalk

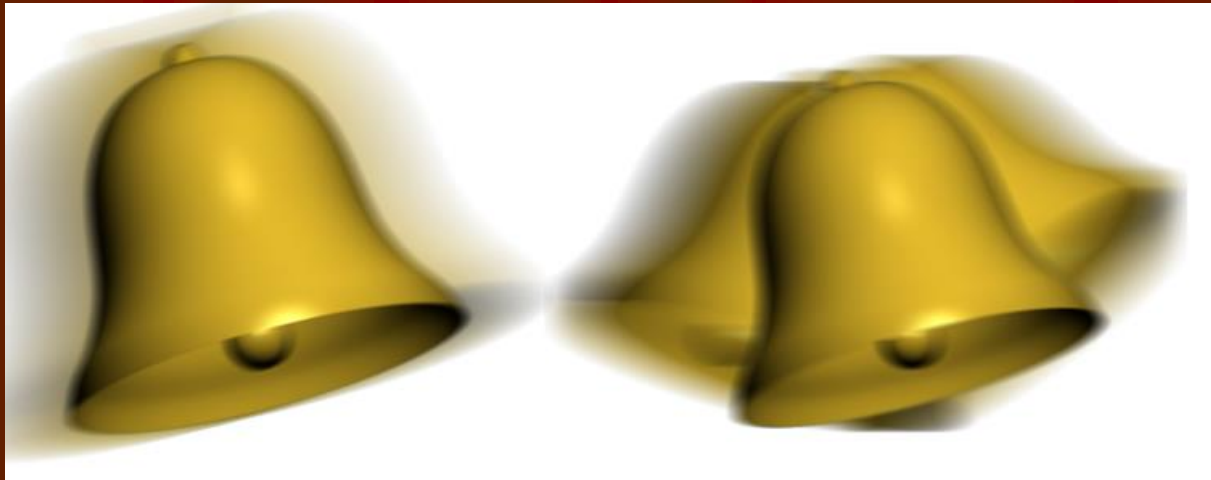


Lilies of the valley
deck my garden walk.



White Coral Bells

Oh, don't you wish that
you could hear them ring?



White Coral Bells

That will happen only
when the fairies sing.



(Some people sing "when the angels sing.")

White Coral Bells

White coral bells
upon a slender_____

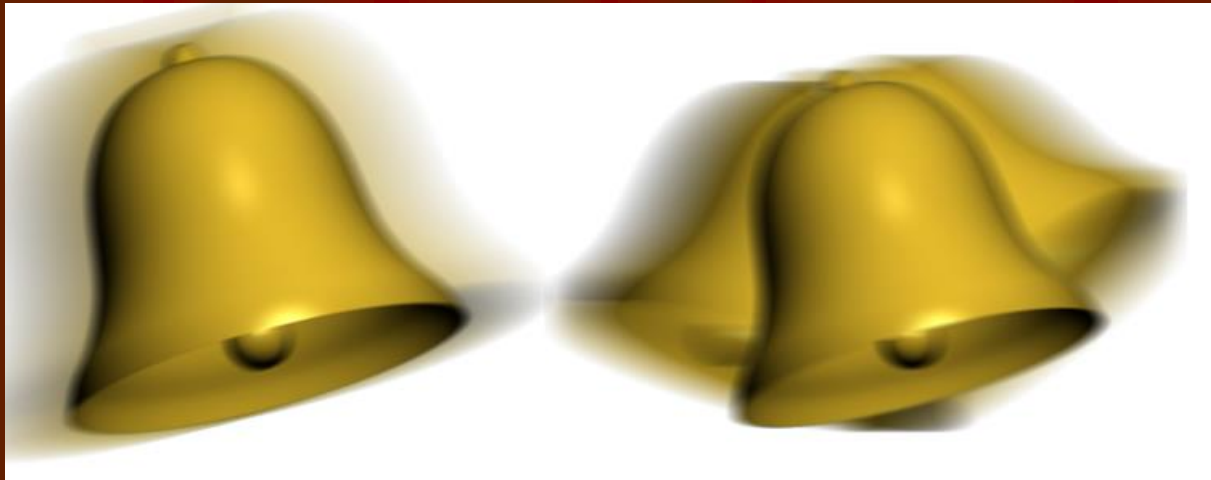


Lilies of the valley
deck my garden_____.



White Coral Bells

Oh, don't you wish that
you could hear them_____?



White Coral Bells

That will happen only
when the fairies _____.



White Coral Bells

Language note: This song provides L and R practice and practice with vowel sounds.

Connected speech: "coral_bells_upon" & "Oh_donchoo_wish"

Consonant clusters: "slender stalk"

Older students can talk about metaphors.

(Even the flower's name is a metaphor.)

White Coral Bells

For slow versions of this song that are easy to understand, please visit this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JE5QrWks1e8>

In these versions you can easily hear where to start the new lines for the round.

White Coral Bells

To hear a young persons' choir singing this song as a round, please visit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8oCqpmoL_w



White Coral Bells

I hope you find this slideshow to be useful in designing listening (and singing) activities for your students. Please feel free to adapt it in any way that would be helpful.

