



Y.M.C.A. – Village People – Notes



- **Activity types:** Phonetics, listening for specific words, gap fill, dancing.
- **Level:** Pre-intermediate/Intermediate
- **Notes:** In 1977 producers Jacques Morali and Henri Belolo assembled a group parodying gay stereotypes. The song Y.M.C.A. (the acronym for Young Men’s Christian Association) quickly became a popular party song, with a dance where people form the letters with their arms. You can see Village People performing this on www.tuneintoenglish.com. In 2008 the dance was performed by 40,148 fans in El Paso, entering the Guinness Book of Records as the largest YMCA dance ever – there is also a video of this online. This worksheet was published to commemorate ten years of the Tune Into English Roadshow – the song closed the shows in the years from 2005 to 2013.

Pre-listening activities

Give each student a folded copy of the worksheet and ask them to do **Activity 1**. They list the words according to their final vowel sounds.

Key:

/e/	/i:/		/eɪ/	/u:/	/ɔɪ/	/aɪ/	/əʊ/	/aʊ/
himself	me	meal	A	shoes	enjoy	find	go	down
shelf	be	feel	today	blues	boys	time	dough	ground
	dreams	street	way			alive		town
	clean					jive		

Note: There is a Phonetic Chart on the Teacher’s Area of www.tuneintoenglish.com

Listening activities

1. Ask students to listen for the words in Activity 1, numbering them in the order they hear them.

2. Play the song.

Key:

1.down	6.find	11.clean	16.dreams	21.shoes	25.street
2.ground	7.time	12.meal	17.thing	22.blues	26.way
3.town	8.A.	13.feel	18.himself	23.alive	
4.go	9.enjoy	14.me	19.shelf	24.jive	
5.dough	10.boys	15.be	20.today		

3. Ask them to unfold the page and complete the lyrics (**Activity 2**) with the words from Activity 1, according their answers to the previous activity and context.

4. Explain any difficult vocabulary:

short on your dough:

hang out with:

down and out with the blues:

jive:

to have no money

spend time with

sad

worthless (informal American adjective)

5. Play the song again. Students check their answers in pairs or in small groups.

6. Correct in open class, play the song again and sing and dance together!



Y.M.C.A. – Village People



Activity 1. List the words below in the correct column according to their final sounds:

A. - alive - be - blues - boys - clean - dough - down - dreams - enjoy - feel - find - go - ground himself - jive - me - meal - shelf - shoes - street - time - today - town - way

/e/	/i:/	/eɪ/	/u:/	/ɔɪ/	/aɪ/	/əʊ/	/aʊ/

FOLD

Activity 2. Complete the song with the words from Activity 1.

Young man, there's no need to feel _____
 I said young man, pick yourself off the _____
 I said young man, 'cause you're in a new _____
 There's no need to be unhappy

Young man, there's a place you can _____
 I said young man, when you're short on your _____
 You can stay there, and I'm sure you will _____
 Many ways to have a good _____

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C. _____
 It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C. _____
 They have everything for young men to _____
 You can hang out with all the _____

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 You can get yourself _____, you can have a good _____
 You can do whatever you _____

Young man, are you listening to _____?
 I said young man, what do you wanna _____?
 I said young man, you can make real your _____
 But you've got to know this one thing

No man, does it all by _____
 I said young man, put your pride on the _____
 And just go there, to the Y.M.C. _____
 I'm sure they can help you _____

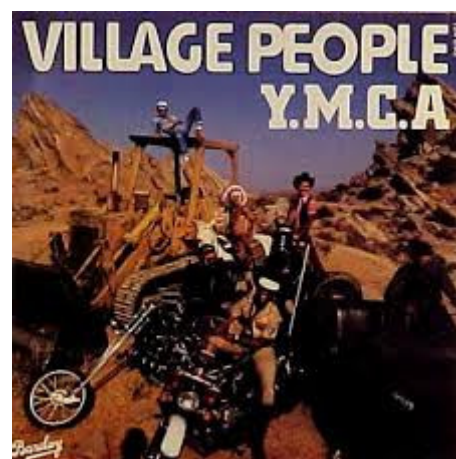
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 They have everything for young men to _____
 You can hang out with all the _____

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 You can get yourself _____, you can have a
 good _____
 You can do whatever you _____

Young Man, I was once in your _____
 I said I was, down and out with the _____
 I felt no man, cared if I were _____
 I felt the whole world was so _____

That's when someone, came up to _____
 And said young man, take a walk up the _____
 There's a place there, called the Y.M.C. _____
 They can start you back on your _____

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
 Young man, young man there's no need to feel _____
 Young man, young man pick yourself off the _____
 Y.M.C.A. and just go to the Y.M.C.A.





Y.M.C.A. – Village People – Complete



Young man, there's no need to feel down
I said young man, pick yourself off the ground
I said young man, 'cause you're in a new town
There's no need to be unhappy

Young man, there's a place you can go
I said young man, when you're short on your dough
You can stay there, and I'm sure you will find
Many ways to have a good time

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
They have everything for young men to enjoy
You can hang out with all the boys

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
You can get yourself clean, you can have a good meal
You can do whatever you feel

Young man, are you listening to me?
I said young man, what do you wanna be?
I said young man, you can make real your dreams
But you've got to know this one thing

No man, does it all by himself
I said young man, put your pride on the shelf
And just go there, to the Y.M.C.A.
I'm sure they can help you today

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
They have everything for young men to enjoy
You can hang out with all the boys

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
You can get yourself clean you can have a good meal
You can do whatever you feel

Young Man, I was once in your shoes
I said I was, down and out with the blues
I felt no man, cared if I were alive
I felt the whole world was so jive

That's when someone, came up to me
And said young man, take a walk up the street
There's a place there, called the Y.M.C.A.
They can start you back on your way

It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
It's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A.
Young man, young man there's no need to feel down
Young man, young man pick yourself off the ground

Y.M.C.A. and just go to the Y.M.C.A.