

“QualityTime-ESL” presents...



5-Minute TOPs Training with Oral Practice

TOP 22-I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For U2 (with music)

Hi! I'm Marianne. My goal is to help you to improve your listening and speaking skills with oral exercises based on song lyrics. On our website (www.QualityTime-ESL.com) you will find links to videos on *YouTube* with the lyrics we practice in our different episodes. And at our store you will find the transcripts of our podcasts. Let's get started. First just listen to the beginning of a song I love by the well-known Irish band U2.

I'm sure you recognized "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For". The music and Bono's voice are so beautiful, the lyrics reflect a spiritual quest, and the song is a whole English lesson in itself. In the first verse, you probably know all the words except "scale" which here means "to climb". So now listen and repeat the first verse.

“I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For” (U2)

I have climbed (the) highest mountain
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you
Only to be with you

I have run, I have crawled
I have scaled these city walls
These city walls
Only to be with you

Now let us sing.

The chorus line is an excellent example of the use of “still” and the present perfect.

Repeat: But I still haven't found what I'm looking for

Let's do an exercise based on this line. Listen to the examples.

I say: find

You say: I still haven't found

I say: hear

You say: I still haven't heard

I say: see

You say: I still haven't seen

I say: meet

You say: I still haven't met

Now you do it. Speak before I give the answer. (Same exercise as above.)

Here comes the chorus line once again: “But I still haven't found what I'm looking for”.

Now let's work on the second verse. You may have to go to an online dictionary to get the exact meaning of certain words in your own native language. Notice the use of “I have spoke” instead of the usual “I have spoken”, which is the correct form today. “I have spoke” makes the song sound more biblical and reflects the influence of gospel music.

TOP 22-I Still Haven't Found (Cont.)

Listen and repeat.

I have kissed honey lips
Felt the healing in her fingertips
It burned like fire
This burning desire

I have spoke(n) with the tongue of angels
I have held the hand of a devil
It was warm in the night
I was cold as a stone

Now listen and sing.

Next we will do an exercise with the present perfect and some vocabulary from the song. Listen to the examples.

I say: climb

You say: I have climbed

I say: run

You say: I have run

I say: scale

You say: I have scaled

I say: kiss

You say: I have kissed

I say: speak

You say: I have spoken

I say: hold

You say: I have held

Now you do it. Speak before I give the answer. (Same exercise as above.)

Finally, a vocabulary exercise. I will say the first few words of a line and you will give the complete line. Listen to the examples.

I say: I have climbed

You say: I have climbed the highest mountain

I say: I have run

You say: I have run through the fields

I say: I have scaled

You say: I have scaled these city walls

I say: I have kissed

You say: I have kissed honey lips

I say: I have spoken

You say: I have spoken with the tongue of angels

I say: I have held

You say: I have held the hand the hand of a devil

Now you do it. Speak before I give the answer. (Same exercise as above.)

In the last verse the verb "loose" with two o's means "to release". Listen, repeat and sing.

I believe in kingdom come
Then all the colors
Will bleed into one
Bleed into one
Well, yes, I'm still running

You broke the bonds
And you loosed the chains
Carried the cross
Of my shame, of my shame
You know I believed it

Now you will never forget the chorus line: "But I still haven't found what I'm looking for". I strongly recommend you get the album "The Joshua Tree" by U2. To find different interpretations of this song, type the title followed by the word "meaning" into your browser.

That's the end of this episode. For more practice with oral English go to "QualityTime-ESL" for grammar exercises and "Your English" for a variety of different activities. And visit our website if your interested in seeing free samples from our book "QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book", which will help teachers become more effective in their teaching and learners more proficient in their English skills. Bye for now, take care and keep singing.