

Suitable for
3-5 years

- ✓ Solo
- ✓ Pairs
- ✓ Groups

Antonio's song

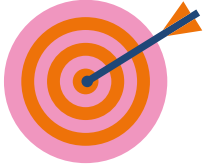
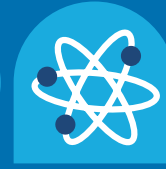
I Can't Hear!

How to guide

Created and written by Frances Lynch
in collaboration with Acoustic Engineer,
Dr Antonio J Torija Martinez



Antonio's song I Can't Hear!



Aim and background info

This song is about how our surrounding sonic environment is composed of a myriad of sounds. Some of these sounds are positive and interesting for us (e.g. birds, songs), and therefore we enjoy hearing them. But also, there are other sounds we aren't interested in, we don't want them and are better off without them (e.g. grown-ups talking). This is really helpful to understand the difference between sound and noise (as unwanted sounds).

The key thing here is that everyone has their own unwanted sounds. For instance, some children might enjoy the sound of a motorcycle, but others could dislike that and consider it just noise!

The key message is that we need to appreciate our sonic environment, protecting and preserving the positive sounds, and also we need to act to reduce the negative sounds (noise!). We need to be compassionate with others trying not to produce those unwanted sounds.



Materials

1. **Word Sheet** – I Can't Hear! – Song Words only
2. **Music Score** of the tune with chords
3. **MP3 Sound recordings** x4
 - a. I Can't Hear! – The [complete song](#) performed by Frances M Lynch, produced by Herbie Clarke at Birnam Studios, London.
 - b. I Can't Hear! – [Listen and repeat](#), A learning track to help the children work on the music of the song

- c. I Can't Hear! – [Accompaniment only \(with sounds\)](#)
– sing along once you all know it
 - d. I Can't Hear! – [Accompaniment only \(without sounds\)](#)
– make up your own version!
4. [BSL Video](#) – I Can't Hear! – The complete song – Frances sings the song with Lauren Lister who is a British Sign Language Interpreter. This is a zoom recorded video.

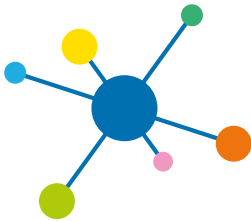


Instructions

You will have your own ideas about how best to use the materials but this suggestion may help:

1. Talk about everyone's favourite sounds – good ones first and then if they can think of ones which are just nasty noise!
2. Play the **complete song** sound file
3. Learn to sing the song really well – either use the **listen and repeat** sound file or if you are able to do it yourself you can use the Score sheet with guitar chords.
4. Show the **song words only** sheet with the pictures of the sounds, talk about if they are good or nasty and where you might hear them and so on.
5. Sing along with **the complete song** track – ask if they can hear all the sounds at the end of the song, and when it stops what sounds can they hear in the room.
6. Once you are familiar with the song they may like to try it without me! So use the **accompaniment only (with sounds)** or play it on guitar or keyboard and see how you get on
7. Watch the **BSL Video** and join in with the actions – you can follow Frances if you are not used to doing this – or Lauren if you are!
8. GO FURTHER! - Talk about sound and what it means in terms of the protection of our environment, climate change, etc. Link positive sounds (e.g. nature) vs. negative sounds (traffic) sounds for example.

Choose from everyone's favourite sounds (you will need 5) and then 1 sound they don't like and make up your own version of the song, and signs to go with it – play it on guitar or keyboard yourself or use the **accompaniment only (without sounds)** track!



Engineering career links

Antonio who developed this activity is an acoustical engineer. He works on reducing sound from different types of transport from traffic noise to drones. He knows that such noise can be really annoying and be very bad for you, for example being exposed to too much loud noise can damage your hearing or noise can disturb your sleep and has even been linked with increased stress and heart disease. Other acoustical engineers might design large things like better-sounding concert halls, or small versions of loudspeakers or microphones, e.g. for mobile phones; they might also improve medical imaging, e.g. clearer ultrasounds or design quieter aircraft and cars or improve the design of homes to reduce noise impacts.



Extension ideas

Why not try Antonio's Build a Noisemaker activity or if you want to learn more engineering songs try Sarah's songs about famous 1930s engineer and pilot, Amy Johnson.