



# Walk On – U2 – Notes (1)



- **Activity types:** Discussion; rhyming words; gap fill; Internet search
- **Level:** Intermediate/Upper-Intermediate (Song only: Elementary/Pre-Intermediate)
- **Language:** Talking about human rights; reading and discussing the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; speaking about human rights activists; summarising; reporting; comparing
- **Note:** This is from U2's 2000 album *All That You Can't Leave Behind*. Released as a single in 2001, it won a 2002 Grammy Award for Record of the Year. The song is about Aung San Suu Kyi, the Myanmar (ex-Burma) leader of the National League for Democracy, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 "for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights". Under house arrest since 1989, she was offered freedom if she left her country, but she refused.

- Write the word **RIGHTS** on the board and ask students to give examples of the rights they enjoy everyday. Write their answers on the board.

**Possible answers:** life – freedom of opinion/expression/movement – education

- Elicit different kinds of rights (civil, political, economic, social, cultural) and invite students to discuss which in their opinion are the most basic.
- Focus on "human rights". Explain that these are universal inalienable moral rights, applying to all people at all times whatever their nationality and country. Introduce the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948. You can download the text and background information from several websites, including [www.amnesty.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights-anniversary/declaration-text](http://www.amnesty.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights-anniversary/declaration-text)
- Divide students into small groups. Each group can read some articles from the UDHR (30 articles). After, they can report to open class and discuss which rights are ensured in their own national Constitution; if they know of countries where some rights are not ensured or violated; if they know of associations or activists promoting and defending human rights.
- Introduce one of the world's best-known human rights activists, Aung San Suu Kyi. You can find her biography at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aung\\_Suu\\_Kyi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aung_Suu_Kyi)
- Explain they are going to listen to a song about her by the Irish rock band U2, which they will have to complete.

Write the following words on the board and ask students to match the rhyming words:

**aches  
back  
been  
break**

**breaks  
bring  
buy  
crack**

**deny  
feel  
seen  
steal**

**thing  
make**

**Key:** (note: the numbers refer to the next activity)

**1. thing  
2. bring  
3. crack  
4. back**

**5. steal  
6. feel  
7. been  
8. seen**

**9. deny  
10. buy  
11. aches  
12. breaks**

**13. make  
14. break**

- Students listen for the words above and number them in the order they hear them (if they appear more than once, refer to the first time). Play the song. (See **Key** above)
- Give each student a copy of the worksheet and ask them to fill in the gaps with the missing words according to their answers to the previous activity and context.
- Play the song again. Students check in pairs. Correct in open class, then sing together.



## Walk On – U2 – Notes (2)



**FURTHER ACTIVITIES:** History/Cinema (Aung San Suu Kyi)  
Geography/History (Burma/Myanmar)  
English Literature (George Orwell)  
Peace and Human Rights (Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

- Students can search for further information about **Aung San Suu Kyi** on the web and report their findings. They can also report information about other popular Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. Find more at [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates)
- Students can watch the 1995 film **Beyond Rangoon**, directed by John Boorman, about Laura Bowman, an American tourist in Burma, who joins university students protesting for democracy, against the brutality of the military dictators of the State Law and Order Restoration Council. She hears about Aung San Suu Kyi, the embodiment of hope for a peaceful future in Burma.
- Students can search for information about **Burma/Myanmar** on the web, summarise and report their findings.

After the Third Burmese War all of Burma came directly or indirectly under British India in 1886 and was administered as a province of British India until 1937 when it became a separate, self-governing colony. The country became independent from the United Kingdom on 4 January 1948, as the "Union of Burma". It became the "Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma" on 4 January 1974, before reverting to the "Union of Burma" on 23 September 1988. On 18 June 1989, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) adopted the name "Union of Myanmar". This controversial name change, while accepted in the UN and in many countries, is not recognised by opposition groups and by nations such as the United Kingdom and the United States. (based on [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org))

- The British writer **George Orwell** (1903 – 1950) is connected to Burma. He was born in India, where his father was an official in the Indian Civil Service, and educated in England. In 1922 he joined the Imperial Police in Burma, serving for five years. He resigned because of his dislike of imperialism. He returned to a series of ill-paid jobs in Paris, then London, living in a state of "fairly severe poverty", before becoming a regular contributor to *The Adelphi* from 1930. His first book, *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933), described these early experiences and was followed by ***Burmese Days*** (1934), a novel expressing his indignation over political injustice. (based on *The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English*, CUP 1988)

Orwell's best-known works are ***Animal Farm*** (1945) and ***1984*** (1949), two pessimistic satires about the threat of totalitarian power. *Animal Farm* is a satirical allegory of Stalin's Russia. The animals on Mr Jones's farm, led by the pigs, revolt against their human masters. They decide to run the farm themselves on egalitarian principles. The Seventh Commandment says, "*All animals are equal*". However, in time the pigs become corrupted by power and a new tyranny is established. The corruption of power is summed up in a single (the Seventh) commandment, "*All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others*".

- Students can compare *Animal Farm's* Seventh Commandment to the Articles 1 and 3 from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.
- Students can compare George Orwell to other writers related to British Imperialism, such as Rudyard Kipling (India) and Doris Lessing (Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe).



## Walk On – U2



(Spoken:)  
And love is not the easy \_\_\_\_\_  
The only baggage that you can \_\_\_\_\_  
Not the easy \_\_\_\_\_  
The only baggage you can \_\_\_\_\_  
Is all that you can't leave behind



And if the darkness is to keep us apart  
And if the daylight feels like it's a long way  
off  
And if your glass heart should \_\_\_\_\_  
And for a second you turn \_\_\_\_\_  
Oh no, be strong

Oh, Walk on, Walk on  
What you got, they can't \_\_\_\_\_ it  
No, they can't even \_\_\_\_\_ it  
Walk on, Walk on  
Stay safe tonight

You're packing a suitcase for a place  
None of us has \_\_\_\_\_  
A place that has to be believed  
To be \_\_\_\_\_

You could have flown away  
A singing bird  
In an open cage  
Who will only fly  
Only fly for freedom

Oh, Walk on, Walk on  
What you got  
You can't \_\_\_\_\_ it  
Can't sell it or \_\_\_\_\_ it  
Walk on, Walk on  
You stay safe tonight

And I know it \_\_\_\_\_  
How your heart it \_\_\_\_\_  
You can only take so much

Walk on,  
Walk on

Home  
Hard to know what it is  
If you never had one  
Home  
I can't say where it is  
But I know I'm going  
Home  
That's where the hurt is

And I know it \_\_\_\_\_  
And your heart it \_\_\_\_\_  
You can only take so much  
Walk on

Leave it behind  
You've got to leave it behind

All that you fashion  
All that you \_\_\_\_\_  
All that you build  
All that you \_\_\_\_\_

All that you measure  
All that you feel  
All this you can leave behind

All that you reason  
All that you care  
(It's only time  
And I'll never fill up all my mind)  
All that you sense  
All that you scheme  
All you dress up  
And all that you see



## Walk On – U2 - Complete



*(Spoken:)*  
*And love is not the easy **thing***  
*The only baggage that you can **bring***  
*Not the easy **thing***  
*The only baggage you can **bring***  
*Is all that you can't leave behind*

And if the darkness is to keep us apart  
And if the daylight feels like it's a long way off  
And if your glass heart should **crack**  
And for a second you turn **back**  
Oh no, be strong

Oh, Walk on, Walk on  
What you got, they can't **steal** it  
No, they can't even **feel** it

Walk on, Walk on  
Stay safe tonight

You're packing a suitcase for a place  
None of us has **been**  
A place that has to be believed  
To be **seen**

You could have flown away  
A singing bird  
In an open cage  
Who will only fly  
Only fly for freedom

Oh, Walk on, Walk on  
What you got  
You can't **deny** it  
Can't sell it or **buy** it

Walk on, walk on  
You stay safe tonight

And I know it **aches**  
How your heart it **breaks**  
You can only take so much

Walk on,  
Walk on

Home  
Hard to know what it is  
If you never had one  
Home  
I can't say where it is  
But I know I'm going  
Home  
That's where the hurt is

And I know it **aches**  
And your heart it **breaks**  
You can only take so much  
Walk on

Leave it behind  
You've got to leave it behind

All that you fashion  
All that you **make**  
All that you build  
All that you **break**

All that you measure  
All that you feel  
All this you can leave behind

All that you reason  
(It's only time  
And I'll never fill up all my mind)  
All that you sense  
All that you scheme  
All you dress up  
And all that you see