

Brandon's ESL Song School

A Friend Like You

ESL Song Lesson Pack

Complete Teacher Resource

A warm friendship song for teaching senses, time of day, kind greetings, promises, and sharing.

For ESL teachers and classrooms
Ages 4–9 / adaptable for beginner to high-beginner ESL
Printable lesson pack with lyric sheet, complete worksheets, and complete flashcards

A Friend Like You

ESL Song Lesson Plan

Lesson Overview

Focus	Classroom Use
Best for	Ages 5–9; beginner to high-beginner ESL learners.
Adaptable for	Younger learners through gestures, pictures, and chorus repetition; stronger learners through promise language and “I wish I could...” sentence work.
Core theme	Senses, time of day, friendship, kind greetings, promises, and sharing meaningful moments.
Main language	I can hear... / I can smell... / I can see... / The sun is... / A friend like you.
Lesson shape	Picture warm-up → senses gestures → vocabulary → first listen → chorus → verse meaning → movement → friendship sharing task.

Core Teacher Promise

A Friend Like You turns a simple friendship wish into a full-day classroom journey: children notice the world around them, remember kind social rules, and learn to express the need for a meaningful friend.

Educational Core

Use the song to teach concrete sensory language and social-emotional meaning. Students move through one full day — morning, midday, and evening — while noticing what they can hear, smell, and see. The deeper classroom value is friendship: greeting kindly, keeping promises, and wanting to share beautiful moments with someone special.

Teaching Layer	What Students Learn
Concrete meaning	Sun, birds, bells, bread, streets, stars, colors, and window.
Useful sentence frames	“I can hear...” / “I can smell...” / “I can see...” / “The sun is...” / “A friend like you.”
Social-emotional meaning	A beautiful moment feels more meaningful when we can share it with a friend.
Classroom behavior link	Students can greet kindly, shake hands, make a simple promise, and share something they notice.

Main Language Goals

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to use sensory sentence frames, identify time-of-day scenes, join the chorus with gestures, and connect friendship language with greeting, promise, and sharing behavior.

- Use “I can hear / smell / see...” with picture support and classroom gestures.
- Identify morning, afternoon, and evening scenes from the song.
- Recognize and repeat “A friend like you” as the stable chorus phrase.
- Act out “shake hands when you meet,” understand “promise,” and express a simple sharing idea.

Vocabulary Groups

Vocabulary Group	Teaching Notes
Time / sky	sun, rising, overhead, setting, stars, morning, afternoon, evening. Teach with sky pictures and hand movements.
Nature / town	birds, fly, church bells, streets, life, fresh-baked bread, colors, window. Use clear picture cards.
Senses / observation	hear, smell, see, wonder, remember. Teach with simple gestures before printed words.
Friendship / emotion	friend, a friend like you, special, share, moment, wish. Connect to chorus repetition and sharing tasks.
Social behavior	father, mother, shake hands, meet, promise, keep a promise. Keep explanations concrete and classroom-safe.

Grammar Targets and Sentence Frames

Pattern	Classroom Frame
Present continuous	“The sun is rising.” / “The sun is setting.”
Sensory modal frame	“I can hear ____.” / “I can smell ____.” / “I can see ____.”
Simple present	“Birds begin to fly.”
Advice / promise language	“Shake hands when you meet.” / “I promise to ____.”
Wish structure	“I wish I could share ____.”

Common Learner Challenge

Some learners may understand the morning, afternoon, and evening images separately, but miss the emotional thread. Keep returning to one question: “Who do I want to share this with?”

A Friend Like You

VERSE 1

The sun is rising
Birds begin to fly
I can hear the church bells ringing
The streets are full of life
I can smell the fresh-baked bread that makes the people rise
But I'm in need of something special that wakes me up inside

CHORUS

A Friend Like You
A Friend Like You
A Friend Like You
Oooooohhh

VERSE 2

The sun is overhead, the ground beneath my feet
I remember what my father said: shake hands when you meet
I remember what my mother said: you make a promise to keep
I remember how I thought about a friend I'd like to see

CHORUS

VERSE 3

The sun is setting now, the stars begin to show
I can see the beautiful colors right outside my window
I wonder what you're doing now, if you can see it too
I wish that I could share this moment with a friend like you

CHORUS

Note:

The chorus gives students a stable friendship phrase. The verses move through the day and build from sensory noticing to social connection, promises, and sharing.

Teaching Flow

Simple Lesson Sequence

Stage	Teacher Action	Student Response
1. Picture warm-up	Show sunrise, overhead sun, and sunset/stars. Ask what students can see.	Students identify morning, afternoon, evening, and copy the sun movement.
2. Senses setup	Teach hear, smell, and see with gestures and picture cards.	Students point, repeat, and do the gestures.
3. Vocabulary + first listen	Introduce key cards, then play the song once with no singing yet.	Students listen and show meaning with gestures only.
4. Chorus	Teach and repeat "A Friend Like You." Add hand-to-heart and kind pointing gestures.	Students chant or sing the chorus with gestures.
5. Verse 1	Teach the morning world: sun, birds, bells, bread, and streets.	Students match pictures and act out the sensory words.
6. Verse 2	Teach handshake, meeting, family advice, and promise.	Students shake hands/mime greeting and put a hand on heart for promise.
7. Verse 3 + exit	Teach evening colors, stars, window, and sharing. Ask for one sensory frame or sharing idea.	Students draw, mime, or say one beautiful thing to share with a friend.

Detailed Teaching Notes

Opening move

Begin with a simple classroom question: "What do you notice in the morning?" Use sound, smell, and movement before asking students to understand the whole song.

Meaning bridge

After Verse 2, pause on the father/mother advice lines. Show that friendship is not only a feeling; it also includes social actions such as shaking hands, keeping promises, and wanting to see someone.

Final emotional target

The lesson should end with students naming, drawing, acting, or choosing one person they would like to share a beautiful moment with.

Call-and-Response Script Bank

Teacher Says	Students Say / Do
I can hear...	Bells.
I can smell...	Bread.
I can see...	Stars.
When you meet...	Shake hands.
A promise is...	To keep.
A friend like...	You.

Movement and Gesture Map

Lyric / Word	Gesture	Purpose
sun rising / sun setting	Hands rise slowly; hands lower slowly.	Shows the day moving from morning to evening.
birds fly	Soft arm flaps.	Makes the morning scene active and playful.
hear / smell / see	Hand to ear; smell gesture; point to eyes.	Links the three senses to physical memory.
shake hands / promise	Handshake gesture; hand on heart.	Connects social behavior to simple actions.
stars / window	Sparkle fingers; make a window frame.	Makes the evening scene easy to visualize.
share this moment / friend like you	Hands move from heart outward; hand to heart, then point kindly.	Shows the emotional resolution of sharing with a friend.

Classroom Games and Practice Activities

Game 1 — Hear / Smell / See Sort

Sort picture cards by sense: hear, smell, or see. Students answer one frame: "I can ____ ____."

Game 2 — Day Sequence Race

Students order morning, afternoon, and evening cards, then place song vocabulary under the correct time of day.

Game 3 — Gesture Freeze

Say or play lyric cues. Students freeze in the matching gesture: sun, hear, smell, see, handshake, promise, stars, or share.

Game 4 — Promise Circle / Share This Moment

Students say one simple promise, then draw or mime one beautiful thing they would share with a friend.

Recommended Activity Order

Use a concrete order: morning sensory warm-up → social manners gestures → time-of-day sequence → lyric listening → worksheet connection → friendship reflection.

Worksheet Pack Connection

Worksheet	Classroom Purpose	Song Source
Shake Hands and Say Hello	Practice greeting manners, handshake language, and first social contact before the Verse 2 advice lines.	"shake hands when you meet"
Morning Sounds and Smells	Build sensory vocabulary for the opening morning scene using what students can hear and smell.	"birds begin to fly," "church bells ringing," "fresh-baked bread"
I Can Hear, I Can Smell, I Can See	Connect the sensory verbs hear, smell, and see to concrete classroom images from the song.	"I can hear...", "I can smell...", "I can see..."
Morning, Afternoon, Evening	Sequence the song's day structure and reinforce time-of-day vocabulary.	sun rising / sun overhead / sun setting
What Belongs in the Song?	Check lyric comprehension by sorting what belongs in the song world from distractor ideas.	full song review
A Friend Like You	Personalize the chorus and help students connect the repeated phrase to friendship meaning.	"A Friend Like You"
Good Friend / Not Helpful	Sort helpful and unhelpful friendship behaviors and connect the song to classroom social choices.	friendship theme and "promise to keep"

Flashcard Pack Connection

Flashcard set	Teaching use	Suggested cards
Senses / Time Cards	Teach sensory actions and the day sequence.	hear, smell, see, sunrise, overhead sun, sunset, stars.
Song Vocabulary Cards	Support concrete verse meaning.	birds, church bells, street, bread, window, colors, ground, feet.
Friendship Cards	Teach the social-emotional center.	friend, shake hands, promise, share, smile, help, kind.
Sentence-Frame Cards	Support chanting and substitution.	I can hear... / smell... / see... / I wish I could...
Teacher Cue / Blank Cards	Add class-specific examples.	classroom objects, student drawings, local sounds.

Related Resources for This Song

Resource	Best Use	Teacher Note
Worksheet Pack	Use after the main listening/movement sequence for comprehension, sequencing, and friendship reflection.	Complete. Core 7 worksheets are listed above; reserve worksheets can support extension or review.
Flashcard Pack	Use before singing for key vocabulary, during the song for gesture cues, and after the song for sentence-frame practice.	Complete. Keep flashcards visible during early lessons.
Teacher Quick-Start Guide	Use when a teacher wants a shorter scripted path through the song.	Optional separate companion resource.
German / Foreign-Language Support Appendix	Use only when teaching a language-specific support edition.	Separate optional companion; not part of the universal main lesson pack.
Games and Extension Cards	Use for review, centers, substitute lessons, or mixed-level classes.	Planned / optional expansion.

Differentiation and Assessment

Learner Need	Support	Assessment Look-For
Pre-readers	Use picture cards and gestures before printed words.	Can point, mime, and join the chorus.
Early readers	Add labels and repeated frames.	Can read or complete short frames.
Shy singers	Let them answer with gestures first.	Can show meaning without singing solo.
Stronger / mixed-level students	Add "I wish..." and "I promise..." or give helper roles.	Can create one promise or sharing sentence.

Quick Assessment Checklist

- Students can identify morning / afternoon / evening and match hear / smell / see to pictures.
- Students can do the main gestures and repeat "A friend like you."
- Students understand "shake hands" and "promise."
- Students can complete one frame: "I can ____ ____" or show one thing to share with a friend.

Song Pairings

Song Pairing	Best Classroom Use	Teaching Link
This Friendship Belongs to Us	Use after A Friend Like You for friendship ownership, group belonging, and shared class identity.	Moves from wanting a friend to building and protecting friendship together.
Can You Help Me?	Use before or after this song when the class needs more practice with helping language and peer support.	Connects friendship feeling to practical classroom help.
I Get Presents on My Birthday	Use as a contrast lesson for kindness, giving, receiving, and personal celebration.	Connects emotional vocabulary to family, giving, and appreciation.
Future friendship / sharing songs	Use as a review cluster for social-emotional learning and classroom community.	Builds a reusable friendship-themed mini-unit.

Teacher Notes

This song is useful because it lets students connect sensory language with friendship and feeling. The lesson begins with concrete things children can hear, smell, and see, then moves naturally into promises, kindness, and the wish to share a beautiful moment.

Best use cases:

- friendship unit
- senses lesson
- time-of-day vocabulary
- social-emotional learning
- parent advice and promises
- short speaking practice with "I can hear / smell / see"
- classroom kindness lesson

Closing Teaching Note:

Keep the lesson concrete and emotionally clear. The strongest classroom outcome is not a long explanation of friendship; it is repeated, embodied language: "I can hear..." "I can smell..." "I can see..." "A friend like you."