

MUSICMAIL 5

Eighties special 1: Goth and Indie Music

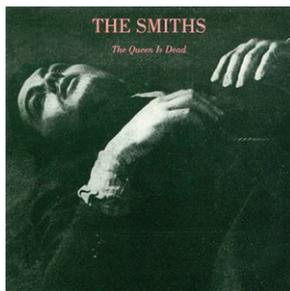
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Play track...

Hello, my name's Rokeby Lynch and I'm from the school of revolution, Vocatic. Today, I'd like to warn (avisar) you of the dangers of optorexia.

All of us know about the distorted self image that anorexics have; they look in the mirror and see themselves as fat. Well, I'd like to tell you about the opposite phenomena... optorexia. This condition usually affects men who've been thin (Delgado) their whole (entera) life but who gradually start to put on weight (ganar peso). Their optimistic nature, however, and their lack (falta) of familiarity with being fat, means that when they look in the mirror they breathe (respirar) in and think optimistically; "hey, I'm not fat... just a couple of extra kilos... that's nothing." This optorexia makes them see themselves as they have always been... despite the reality of the situation – they're getting fat. Several years ago, I myself was a sufferer until a good friend, after seeing a photo of me on facebook, told me frankly... 'dude... you are fat.' Well, I lost the weight but I've always been amazed how I never realised that I was getting fat.

Anyway, why am I talking about this? Well, mostly to give you some listening practice, but the main (principal) reason is because our first song is about being 'big'; the fact that ... 'some girls are bigger than others' ...and... 'some girl's mothers are bigger than other girl's mothers.' 'Algunas chicas son mas grandes que otras.'



1. The Smiths: Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others

This lyric – esta letra – nos da una oportunidad para hablar de la comparativa en inglés. *Some girls are bigger than others... algunas chicas son mas grandes que otras.* En mi idioma en vez de decir *mas grande... more big...* decimos 'bigger'. We add an e-r... al final de la palabra.

Esto es en el caso de palabras pequeñas. Con palabras mas largas hacemos lo que se hace en español... ponemos 'mas' antes del adjetivo: 'more'.

Finally, existen tres casos irregulares... *good* se convierte en *mejor*, *bad* en *worse* y *far* se convierte en '*further*'.

And before we listen to the song again I'd like to teach a bit of vocab to our advanced students... 'dole'... and 'concern...'. Morrissey, the singer of the Smiths sings "*From the ice-age to the dole-age, there is but one concern.. I have just discovered.*" *Desde la edad de hielo hasta la edad del paro no hay más que una preocupación... The dole* is a slang word for 'el paro' and a 'concern' is una preocupación.

Okay my friends let's enter once more the melodic world of the Smiths..

Lyrics

*From the ice-age to the dole-age, there is but
one concern
I have just discovered:*

*Some girls are bigger than others
Some girls are bigger than others
Some girls' mothers are bigger than other
girls' mothers (x2)*

*As Antony said to Cleopatra as he opened
the crate of ale
Oh, I say:*

*Some girls are bigger than others
Some girls are bigger than others
Some girls' mothers are bigger than other
girls' mothers (x2)*

*It's under your pillow, the one that you dream
of
It's under your pillow, the one that you dream
of*

And I said you're mine

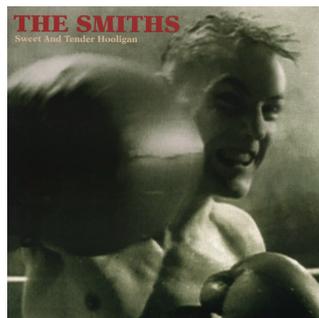
*Desde el hielo-edad hasta la edad del paro
no hay más que una preocupación
Acabo de descubrir:*

*Algunas chicas son más grandes que otros
Algunas chicas son más grandes que otros
Algunas de las madres de las chicas son más
grandes que las chicas de otras madres*

*Como dijo Antonio a Cleopatra mientras abría
el cajón de cerveza
Oh, yo digo:*

*Algunas chicas son más grandes que otros
Algunas chicas son más grandes que otros
Algunas de las madres de las chicas son más
grandes que las chicas de otras madres*

*Es debajo de la almohada, la que usted
sueña
Es debajo de la almohada, la que usted
sueña*



2. The Smiths: Sweet and Tender Hooligan

Okay, let's use the next track to learn some vocabulary. 'Sweet' and 'tender...'

Most of you will think of the word 'sweet' as related with food... *dulce*... but 'sweet' also means *cute*... like... *mono*... en español. Imagine that you see un gatito y dices 'que mono'... en inglés se dice que es 'sweet'...

Generally 'sweet' is a positive word for many different occasions... if you buy a present for someone they might say... 'how sweet of you'... 'que detalle...'

And that takes us to our next word... *tender*. Do you remember the Elvis song, *Love me tender, love me do*...?

Tender means 'tierno' and just as with Spanish it can be used to talk about feelings and people, as well as food. A nice, juicy piece of meat could be called *tender*... or you could describe two lovers holding each other as *tender*.

But none of this explains why, in the next song, Morrissey, is singing about a *sweet and tender hooligan* (un gambero dulce y tierno)... Bueno, pues, esta hablando con ironía... as he tells the story of a sweet and tender hooligan who attacked an old man and a sweet and tender hooligan who will never never do it again... well, not until the next time anyway.



This brings us nicely to our cultural section of the show... what is a hooligan?

A hooligan is a young, Anglo Saxon male who lives an intentionally violent lifestyle. The hooligan's motives for this violence differ from those of a criminal or gangster..., quite simply, he enjoys it. A classic example is the phenomena of the football hooligan which you can read about in John King's novel, *The football Factory*. Basically, groups of males (these days there are female hooligans too) organise themselves into gangs and deliberately (intencionalmente) cause trouble with fans from other teams.

The question is... why does British society breed hooligans?

What the exact cause is, I don't know, but it is certainly fuelled by the incredible amount of alcohol drunk by young men in Britain, but the interesting question is... *why do hooligans drink so much in the first place?* And why do we not have the same problem in Spain?

This is a weak theory, but I'll go with it anyway, You see, I think that one of the great strengths of Latin culture is just how much love and affection (cariño) parents give their children. Of course, Anglo Saxon parents love their children but the devotion so many Latin parents have seems to make their children much more secure... it's like... they're not as fucked up as us Anglo Saxons. In the north of Europe there are many angry young men... in the south... they seem happier.. and don't feel the need to drink themselves to oblivion. And maybe that's because they receive a lot more parental love.

Anyway, enough of my nonsense...let's listen to the song

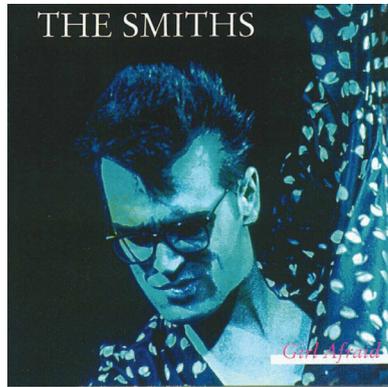
Lyrics

*He was a sweet and tender hooligan,
hooligan
And he said that he'd never, never do it again
And of course he won't (oh, not until the next
time)*

*Poor old man
He had an 'accident' with a three-bar fire
But that's OK
Because he wasn't very happy anyway
Poor woman
Strangled in her very own bed as she read
But that's OK
Because she was old and she would have
died anyway*

*Era un dulce y tierno gamberro, gamberro
Y dijo que nunca lo volveré a hacer
Y por supuesto que no (oh, no hasta la
próxima vez)*

*Pobre viejo
Había un "accidente" con un fuego de tres
barras
Pero eso está bien
no estaba muy feliz de todos modos
Pobre mujer
Estrangulada en su propia cama mientras
leía
Pero eso está bien
Porque ella era viejo y que habría muerto de
todos modos*



3. The Smiths: Girl Afraid

Girl afraid (chica asustada) se trata de una chica y un chico que no podían empezar su relación. Probably, like many of the Smith's songs it's about the singer's strange childhood and his own failures to build relationships.

Because the lyrics repeat the line 'she stared at me'... 'me miro fijamente' various times, I'd like to use this opportunity to teach you some vocabulary related to *looking*. Looking... is complicated in English, we have...

Stare... mirar fijamente *The beautiful woman stared at me from across the bar.*

Watch... tiene dos significados... si es una película es 'ver' *I'm watching a film* o 'vigilar'. *The police were watching the criminal 24 hours a day.*

Gaze – mirar (pero en inglés es mirar soñando y pensando en algo agradable) *He gazed at the woman and dreamed of marriage.*

Glance – echar un vistazo (rápido - sin prestar mucha atención). *I glanced at the page but didn't really read the words.*

Peep – espiar (connotación de algo prohibido) *The teenager peeped though the window of his neighbour and watched her dressing.*

But remember, the phrase you're going to hear here is 'she stared across the room'. The first phrase is super difficult, by the way – *girl afraid, where do his intentions lie?* to ask where someone's intentions lie es una manera complicada de decir '¿Cual son sus intenciones?' Okay, let's go...

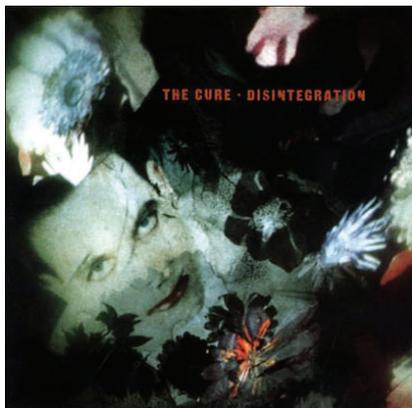
Lyrics

Girl afraid
where does his intentions lay?
Or does he even have any?

She says:
"He never really looks at me
I give him every opportunity
in the room downstairs
he sat and stared
in the room downstairs
he sat and stared
I'll never make that mistake again!"

Boy afraid
prudence never pays
and everything she wants costs
money

"But she doesn't even LIKE me!
and I know because she said so
in the room downstairs
she sat and stared
in the room downstairs
she sat and stared
I'll never make that mistake again!"



4. The Cure – Pictures of you.

Sometimes I find a song that gives such a perfect example of what I want to teach I start to suspect that that's why the artist wrote it. Then I realize that's a crazy idea and forget it. Anyway, this next song starts off with two great examples of the present perfect continuous.

This tense is of particular interest of us who live in that frontier between Spanish and English known as Spanglish... Why? Because it's one of those tenses that you can't always translate literally... *llevar...* for example... *llevo seis horas esperandote*. En inglés nunca se puede utilizar esta construcción, siempre hay que decir "he estado esperando seis horas." "I've been waiting for 6 hours". And anytime you say something like 'I'm working here for six years' you've just made an error... It's...

'I've been working here for six years, you've been working here for six years, he's been working here for six years.....'

And remember... try and use the contraction. No English people say 'I have been working...' they say... 'I've been working.'

Anyway, let's listen to the sublime sound of the 80s and the lyrics of Robert Smith, talking about a lost love. My favourite line is when he sings "You were bigger and brighter and wider than snow" *Tú eras más grande y brillante y amplia que la nieve...* Anyway, thank-you for listening... and remember... when you stop learning you stop living... bye.

I've been looking so long at these pictures of you
That I almost believe that they're real
I've been living so long with my pictures of you
That I almost believe that the pictures are
All I can feel

He estado mirando tanto tiempo tus fotos
Que casi creo que eran reales
He estado viviendo tanto tiempo con mis fotos de ti
Que casi creo que esas fotos son
Todo lo que puedo sentir

Remembering you standing quiet in the rain
As I ran to your heart to be near
And we kissed as the sky fell in
Holding you close
How I always held close in your fear

Recordándote quieta en la lluvia
Mientras yo corría hacia tu corazón para estar cerca
Y nos besábamos mientras el cielo se caía
Abrazándote cerca
Como siempre te abracé en tus temores

Remembering you running soft through the night
You were bigger and brighter and wider than
snow
And screamed at the make -believe
Screamed at the sky
And you finally found all your courage
To let it all go

Recordándote correr suavemente por la noche
Tú eras más grande y brillante y amplia que la nieve
Y gritabas al hacer creer
Gritabas al cielo
Y finalmente encontraste todo tu valor
Para dejarlo ir

Remembering you fallen into my arms
Crying for the death of your heart
You were stone white
So delicate
Lost in the cold
You were always so lost in the dark

Recordándote caer en mis brazos
Llorando por la muerte de tu corazón
Tú eras piedra blanca
Tan delicada
Perdida en el frío
Tú siempre estabas tan perdida en la oscuridad