

# Welcome to Wordplay featuring

# Black Alley

Featured Video:



Enclosed are activities to use incorporate lyrics in the English language classroom.

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More information is available through:

<https://americanenglish.state.gov/>

or by scanning this code:



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## VIDEO ACTIVITIES

#	Screenshot	Video	View/Download
1		<b>Inspiration for the Song</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574311629/2484818e39">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574311629/2484818e39</a>
2		<b>About My Instrument</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574311201/5cfd3a87c3">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574311201/5cfd3a87c3</a>
3		<b>Spoken Vs. Written</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574312580/bdbde6691b">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574312580/bdbde6691b</a>
4		<b>Song Writing Process</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574314527/4f7bc6ab">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574314527/4f7bc6ab</a>
5		<b>Cultural Historical Reference</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574316465/38dae9fad9">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574316465/38dae9fad9</a>
6		<b>Style &amp; History of the Genre</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574317673/f9fc4a1941">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574317673/f9fc4a1941</a>
7		<b>Discovering New Music</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574317883/b01e6e32a2">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574317883/b01e6e32a2</a>
8		<b>Musical Skill Exercise</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574321218/6a25eb9d5c">https://vimeo.com/kesten/review/574321218/6a25eb9d5c</a>

# SNAPSHOT ACTIVITIES

Snapshots! Video	Activity Name	Activity Summary	Comments
My favorite (food, city, holiday, animal, exercise) is ....	Snowball Fight (a.k.a. Writer's Block)	Students use try to match answers to with the students who wrote them.	Good for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginnings</li> <li>• Students with limited vocabulary</li> <li>• Stress release</li> <li>• Practice forming and asking questions</li> <li>• Practice listening and answering questions</li> </ul>
If I could have a superpower, it would be ....	Stand Where You Stand (a.k.a. Four-corners)	Students move to a specific spot in the room and stand together to show answers to a prompt	Good for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refocusing</li> <li>• Checking for understanding</li> <li>• Beginnings</li> <li>• Shy students</li> </ul>
Any questions or sentences from videos	Quiz, Quiz, Trade	Students ask and answer a series of set questions in pairs.	Good for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Beginnings</li> <li>• Endings</li> <li>• Building community</li> </ul>
If I were stranded on a desert island and could only have 3 things with me, they would be: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____	Elephant, Palm Tree, Jello	Students compete to remember gestures and sounds created for common vocabulary.	Good for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening</li> <li>• Focus</li> <li>• Fun</li> <li>• Competitive Students</li> <li>• Onomatopoeia</li> </ul>
Featured Song audio	Count Me In	Students compete to make small groups as quickly as possible.	Good for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening</li> <li>• Building Energy</li> <li>• Competitive Students</li> </ul>

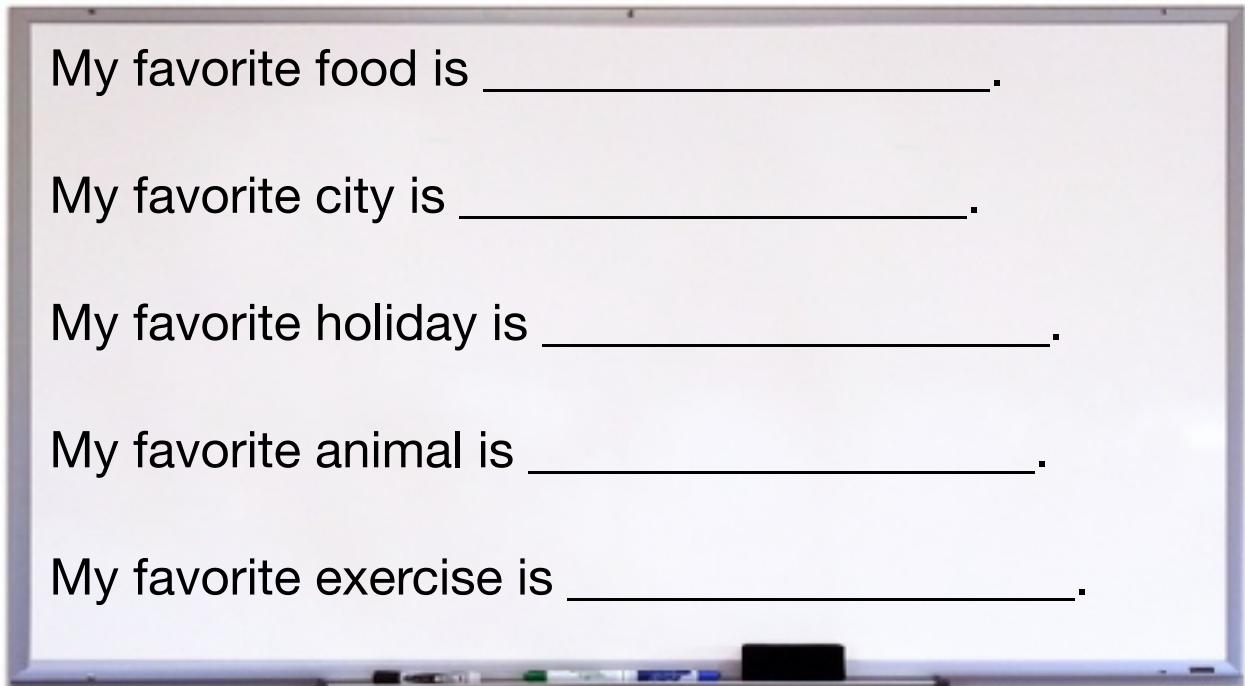
## **COUNT ME IN**

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- small piece of paper (1 per student)

### **Step 1**

The teacher writes 3-5 of the prompts from Snapshots! videos on the board.



### **Step 2**

On a blank piece of paper, students write their answers, but not their names.

### **Step 3**

The teacher gathers the students into a circle and asks the students to crumple their papers into a ball before tossing them into the middle of the circle.

### **Step 4**

Students choose a ball of paper, open it, and read the answers. Students try to find the owner by wandering through the group and asking questions.

### **Optional**

Once a student finds the owner, they can ask them to explain their answers. Steps 3-4 can be repeated several times.

## **STAND WHERE YOU STAND**

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- paper and tape for possible answers (optional)

### **Step 1**

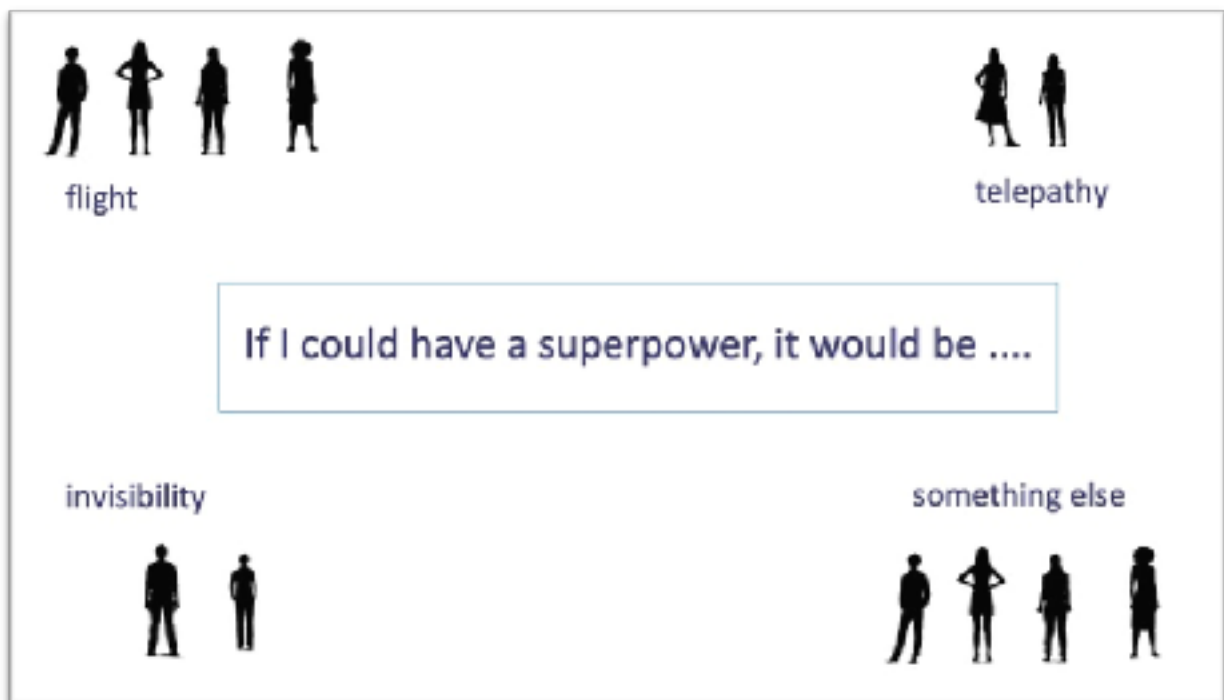
The teacher shares a *Snapshots!* video sentence starter on the board and/or reads it out loud.

### **Step 2**

The teacher assigns a specific spot or corner in the room for each answer. (This can be indicated orally or by posting a piece of paper with the answer in the assigned location.)

### **Step 3**

Students move to a specific spot in the room, or in a corner, and stand together to show which answer best matches their answer.



### **Step 4**

Students choose a ball of paper, open it, and read the answers. Students try to find the owner by wandering through the group and asking questions.

### **Optional**

The teacher can ask students to discuss why they chose this answer and select 1 person from each group to share with the whole class.

## **QUIZ, QUIZ, TRADE**

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- cards with individual prompts/questions from Snapshots videos

### **Step 1**

Teacher hands out cards with prepared questions matching answers from Snapshots! videos.

What are three words you would use to describe yourself?

How can someone win a gold star with you?

### **Step 2**

Each student finds a partner and asks/answers the questions.

### **Step 3**

Students trade cards, and repeat Step 2 with a new partner. (This can be repeated several times.)

### **Optional**

For shy students or a large class, students can participate as small groups. Advanced students can ask follow-up questions before moving from Step 2 to Step 3.

## **ELEPHANT, PALM TREE, JELLO**

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- None

#### **Step 1**

Teacher gives students time to share answers to the Snapshots! video prompt “If I were stranded on a desert island and could only have three things with me, they would be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

#### **Step 2**

Students gather in a circle and create/learn gestures and sounds for each of 3 popular items. Each gesture should include 3 people. (Note: sounds and gestures can be silly.) Everyone practices the gestures and sound for each item several times.



#### **Step 3**

The instructor calls out an item and points to a student to start the team gesture and sound. Surrounding students complete the gesture and join in making the sound. If someone makes a mistake or takes too long, they are out.

#### **Step 4**

Repeat until only 3 winning students remain.

**WORD PLAY**

AMA, ECA/A/L, American Voices

**Featured Artist:**

Black Alley

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**COUNT ME IN****MATERIALS NEEDED**

- artist's song and audio player

**Step 1**

Students walk or dance around the room in a circle while music plays.

**Step 2**

Teacher pauses the song and calls out a number.

**Step 3**

Students must get into corresponding groups as quickly as possible. Left over students are out.

**Step 4**

Repeat until there are only 2 students left as winners.



## ABOUT THE BAND



### BLACK ALLEY

- Genre: **go-go**, **hip hop**, **Hood Rock**, **rock**
- Group Size: 5 members
- Location: Washington, DC, USA
- Artist's Homepage: <https://www.blackalleyband.com/>

Washington, D.C. based BLACK ALLEY has been pushing the art of music to its rhythmic limits for some time now. Determined to create a unique musical elixir, Black Alley has taken the finest ingredients of rock, hip-hop, and go-go to create their own genre-bending sound called "Hood Rock".

With endorsements from national recording artists such as Raheem DeVaughn and Jill Scott; hip-hop standouts Common, Big KRIT, & Wale; producers Tone P and Chucky Thompson; super engineer Young Guru; and legendary musicians Doug E. Fresh and Sheila E, Black Alley is striving to rock harder and put on for the culture.

In September 2017, BLACK ALLEY won Musicology's first-ever Paisley Park Battle of the Bands in Minneapolis, MN. The contest, held at the late great estate of Prince, was judged by some of Prince's former band members who worked closely with the legend. Even before the national recognition that came along with winning the Battle at Paisley Park, Black Alley was, and continues to be, one of the most followed, trend-setting, and sought-after music groups hailing from the nation's capital.

Black Alley was also hand-selected to perform at the inaugural South By South Lawn Festival (SXSL) held at the White House and spearheaded by former President Barack Obama.