

Song 12: Hey, Little Minivan



ACTIVITY MENU

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Hey, Little Minivan: Lyrics

by Austin Lounge Lizards

(3:44)

- 1 On Deadman's Curve I used to shut 'em down.
I had the hottest muscle car in my hometown.
I could burn rubber in all four gears.
But I haven't done that in a million years.
- 5 Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the grocery store.
- 6 She's got an automatic tranny with overdrive,
And the radio's tuned to Magic 95.
She gets 30 miles on a gallon of gas,
And I can schlep all the girls to gymnastics class.
Her headlights on both night and day,
The most practical value in the USA.
She's got cruise control, ABS, and EFI,
I keep her Michelins at 32 PSI.
- 14 Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the children's museum.
- 15 On icy mornings when I'm feeling my age,
I'm protected and warm in my steel cage.
Her climate control really pumps out the heat,
And her dual air bags just can't be beat.
She's rated real high by Consumer Reports,
And her two front seats have got lumbar support.
I've got the good driver rate and comprehensive insurance,
And she's loaded with electronic theft deterrents.
Step away from the car, step away from the car.
Step away from the car.
- 25 We're a wild and rowdy bunch when you pass us by,
Bobby's buggin' baby sister and makin' her cry.
If I have to pull over someone's gonna pay,



28 And it was fun, fun, fun, till Bobby took her teether away.
(Fun, fun, fun, fun)

30 Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the pediatrician.

31 Now the wife and I hardly ever date,
'Cause the babysitter has to be home by 8.
We hurry through dinner and go out and park
With the fold-down seats we can nap till dark.
I dream of Barracudas and souped-up 'Vettes,
Crazy games of chicken, and drag race bets.
Then she wakes me up and says, "Honey, don't be sad.
Our van's the classic Woody you never had!"

39 Now if I ever get tired of my minivan,
A red sports car will make me young again.

41 Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the grocery store.
We'll get there when we get there.
Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the grocery store.
(Why didn't you think of that before we left?)
Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the grocery store.

46 (I don't care who hit who first – just stop it!)
Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the grocery store.
(Don't make me come back there.)
(If Larry jumped off a cliff, would you do that, too?)
(What did you do with the last one I gave you?)
(Three kids! What were we thinking?)



Pre-listening Activities: Choose one or two of the activities below.

Swat

Purpose: To introduce vocabulary from the song, and make print and sound connections

Level: All

Time: 15 – 20 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Prepare a flyswatter or rolled-up newspaper for each team. Hang the pictures ([pages 734-738](#)) for the following words on the board in random order:

*steering wheel cruise control headlights seat belts tire mirror
speedometer seats climate control automatic tranny (transmission)*

Instructions: See [page 319](#), Modification B.

Brainstorming and Mind-Mapping Vocabulary

Purpose: To generate interest and introduce vocabulary for the song, and activate background knowledge about the topic

Level: All

Time: 10 – 15 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Hang the picture of a minivan ([page 739](#)) on the board as the starting point for brainstorming.

Instructions: See [page 324](#), Modification D.

Four Corners

Purpose: To generate interest in the song, express opinions, and make choices about controversial ideas/statements

Level: All

Time: 10 – 15 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Hang the pictures of four types of vehicles ([pages 739-743](#)) in four corners or areas of the classroom and label them A, B, C, and D.

Instructions: See [page 317](#), Modification C. Write the following questions on the board one at a time, and tell students to select their answers by standing beside one of the vehicle pictures:

1. *Which type of car is best for a family of five?*
2. *Which type of car is best for the environment?*
3. *Which type of car is the most fun to drive?*
4. *Which type of car is the most practical?*
5. *Which type of car is the most reliable?*



Hey, Little Minivan: Swat











Hey, Little Minivan: Brainstorming and Mind-Mapping Vocabulary



minivan



Hey, Little Minivan: Four Corners



pick-up truck





minivan





hybrid car





sports car



Listening Activities: Choose one of the listening activities below.

Relax and Enjoy!

Purpose: To enjoy listening to the song

Level: All

Time: 10 – 15 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Write the following three discussion questions on the board, or create your own:

*What does the person singing the song tell us about himself?
Is this person happy or sad? Why?
Does it seem to be a serious or a humorous song?*

Instructions: See [page 334](#).

Listening for Rhyming Words

Purpose: To listen for details, and recognize and discriminate between similar sounds

Level: 2 and above

Time: 15 – 20 minutes (to play the song two times)

Preparation and Materials: Make a copy of the lyrics ([pages 731-732](#)) for each student or pair of students. (Answer key: [page 753](#).)

Instructions: See [page 336](#), Modification C. Tell students to find all the rhyming words at the end of each line.

Mixed-Up Pictures

Purpose: To listen for specific words or ideas

Level: All

Time: 15 – 20 minutes (to play the song two or three times)

Preparation and Materials: Make a copy of the pictures of car parts ([page 745](#)) for each group of students, and cut the pictures apart. (Answer key: [page 753](#).)

Instructions: See [page 335](#), Modification A.



Hey, Little Minivan: Mixed-Up Pictures



A. sports car



B. radio



C. airbags



D. automatic tranny



E. seats



F. minivan



G. headlights



H. climate control



I. gas



J. burn rubber



Singing Activities: Choose one of the singing activities below.

Sing Along With Me

Purpose: To practice pronunciation and intonation

Level: All

Time: 15 – 20 minutes (to sing the song two or three times)

Preparation and Materials: Write the lyrics ([pages 731-732](#)) on the board or on a large poster.

Instructions: See [page 345](#), Modification C. Play the song and point to the lyrics as you hear them. Ask students to sing along only to the line below each time it occurs in the song:

Hey, little minivan, we're goin' to the _____ (in Lines 5, 14, 30, 41, 43, 45)

Show Me the Word

Purpose: To make print and sound connections, and learn vocabulary from the song

Level: 2 and above

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Prepare pieces of paper or cards for students to write on. Put the following words on the board in random order:

*car minivan radio gas headlights air bags seats driver
pull over pediatrician wife grocery store hometown cruise control rubber
gears overdrive night day mornings*

Instructions: See [page 348](#).

Crazy Lyrics

Purpose: To explore the rhythm of words, use different parts of speech, and think about why words are appropriate or inappropriate in particular contexts

Level: 2 and above

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Make a copy of the Crazy Lyrics handout ([page 747](#)) for each group of students.

Instructions: See [page 353](#).



Hey, Little Minivan: Crazy Lyrics

Directions to Group Recorder: Do not show this handout to the rest of your group. You are going to ask your group members to give you a word that fits the description in parentheses underneath each line. Write down the word that your group members suggest. For example, if you say, "Give me an adjective," and your group members say, "heavy," then write "heavy" in the first blank. When you have filled in all the blanks, read or sing the new song to your group.

On Deadman's Curve I used to _____ 'em down.
(action verb)

I had the hottest _____ in my hometown.
(noun - thing)

I could _____ in all four _____,
(action verb) (noun - thing) (plural noun - thing)

But I haven't done that in a million years.

Hey, _____ minivan, we're going to the _____.
(adjective) (noun - place)

She's got an automatic _____ with overdrive,
(noun - thing)

And the radio's tuned to Magic 95.

She gets 30 miles on a _____ of gas,
(noun - quantity)

And I can _____ all the girls to _____.
(verb - transportation) (noun - place)

Her _____ on both night and day,
(plural noun - part of car)

The most _____ value in the USA.
(adjective)

She's got cruise control, ABS, and EFI. I keep her Michelins at 32 PSI.

Hey, _____ minivan, we're goin' to the _____.
(adjective) (noun - place)



Post-listening Activities: Choose one or two of the activities below.

Speaking: What Do YOU Think?

Purpose: To ask and answer questions, and summarize and present information

Level: 3 and above

Time: 40 – 50 minutes

Preparation and Materials: Pre-teach the concept of surveys and their results: the purpose of a survey, types of questions, how to calculate and present results.

Instructions: See [page 358](#). Possible survey topics include:

1. *Types of transportation typically used for getting to and from school each day*
2. *Types of vehicles typically owned by students' families*
3. *The benefits of different types of transportation*

Reading: Jigsaw Reading

Purpose: To summarize information presented in texts, speak and listen in order to present information, practice note-taking, and collaborating as part of a team

Level: 2 and above

Time: 50 – 60 minutes

Preparation and Materials: See [page 276](#). Make a copy of the note-taking form ([page 752](#)) for each student. Divide the number of students by six and make that many copies of the paragraphs ([pages 749-751](#)).

Instructions: See [page 368](#), Modification A. Divide students into six groups. Tell the students that a family of four needs to buy a car. Get each group to suggest which car the family should buy and why.

Writing: Story Extensions

Purpose: To write creative narratives

Level: 2 and above

Time: 45 – 50 minutes (may be extended over several class sessions)

Preparation and Materials: Make a copy of the lyrics ([pages 731-732](#)) for each group of students, or write them on the board.

Instructions: See [page 379](#).



Hey, Little Minivan: Jigsaw Reading

Sports Cars

Label: _____

These flashy cars are built for speed! They typically have powerful engines, sit close to the ground, and often have firm **suspension**¹ and **rear-wheel drive**.² These characteristics result in a car that's great for short, casual trips with one of your favorite companions – but probably no one else. The backseat (if there is one) is small and accessible only through the two front doors; the trunk is typically small as well. Their **aerodynamic**³ design increases the car's speed capabilities. Their powerful engines often get fewer **miles to the gallon**⁴ than many other types of cars. Be prepared to spend a little more money to get that perfect sports car and drive it around! Sports cars are typically expensive to buy, cost more to **insure**,⁵ and require more gas.



¹**suspension** a system connecting the vehicle's body to the wheels that reduces the effects of traveling over an uneven surface

²**rear wheel drive** type of car in which the engine powers the back wheels to make the car move

³**aerodynamic** a quality that allows air to flow easily along the surface

⁴**miles to the gallon** (miles per gallon) how many miles a car can run using one gallon (close to one liter) of gasoline/petrol

⁵**insure** to protect your automobile against damage or loss by making regular payments to a company that will pay for the damage or loss if it happens

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Sedans

Label: _____

Sedans may be the most popular type of car in the world. They are also called “passenger cars” because they are designed with two rows of seats large enough for several adults to sit comfortably. In a wide range of sizes from **compact**¹ to full-sized models, sedans typically have four doors. The backseat is easily accessible through the two rear doors. Sedans are equipped with **enclosed**² trunks that can hold medium-sized cargo such as suitcases and groceries. Both the front and back seats typically hold two or three people. Sedans are known for their smooth ride and comfortable interiors. They come in luxury and economy models, and everything in between, and are a great choice for people with either high incomes or low budgets!



¹**compact** smaller than other cars of the same kind

²**enclosed** covered so the space can be closed off



Classic Cars

Label: _____

Older cars are a piece of history driving down the road! Classic cars often have **elegant**¹ designs but lack many basic safety features like seatbelts, automatic lights, airbags, and modern brakes. Many classic cars have been 'fixed-up', or restored to their original condition. While some restored cars can be expensive, you can also find less expensive classic cars that need some work. But beware because finding parts and **renovating**² that unique, classic car might be more difficult than you think!



¹ **elegant** graceful, sophisticated

² **renovate** to make changes and repairs so that it is back in good condition



Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV)

Label: _____

This large vehicle has similarities to both a station wagon and a truck, and has become a popular choice in recent years. Like station wagons, Sport Utility Vehicles (or SUVs) have large interiors and plentiful seating – sometimes even three rows of seats! Like trucks, however, they are much higher than many other vehicles and can pull a trailer, boat, or other heavy cargo. Some SUVs are good for “off-road” driving, or driving on rough, unpaved surfaces. As a heavy, four-wheel drive vehicle, many SUVs are easy to maneuver in bad weather, such as snowy conditions when a vehicle might get stuck. But these cars can be expensive, and they typically get very low **gas mileage**.¹ Originally Sport Utility Vehicles were designed for practical purposes and had very basic interiors. But today, their growing popularity has led to the development of **luxury**² SUVs with **plush**,³ roomy interiors.



¹ **gas mileage** (miles per gallon), how many miles a car can run using one gallon of gasoline/petrol

² **luxury** expensive and high-quality

³ **plush** comfortable, soft, high-quality



Minivans

Label: _____

Really, there's nothing "mini" about most minivans! These long, four-door vehicles are spacious on the inside with lots of head room. With three rows of seating, seven or eight adults can ride comfortably. It's no surprise that minivans are also called "people-movers" and are popular choices for big families and taxi drivers! Large, sliding doors on the sides of the vehicle make getting in and out of minivans easier, and the seats can often be **re-**

arranged¹ or even taken out so that oversized cargo can also be **transported**² in minivans. These vehicles have come a long way from their early beginnings, and now driving and riding in a minivan is a smooth, enjoyable experience.



¹**re-arranged** placed in different areas or spots than the original

²**transported** moved or taken to another location



Pick-Up Trucks

Label: _____

Do you need to carry lots of large, heavy cargo? Do you want to pull a boat or a trailer behind your vehicle? Pick-up trucks, or just trucks, are great for these purposes.

Trucks come in lots of different sizes, but they all have an **enclosed**¹ cabin for carrying people, and an open area

for carrying cargo – the 'bed'. Traditionally trucks have had just one row of seating and two doors. This meant the only two or perhaps three people could ride safely in a truck at one time. Nowadays, however, trucks come in 'extended cab' versions, where an additional row of seating is included in the enclosed cabin area. (Sometimes there is even a second set of doors.) While you may spend a lot of money on gas, **insurance**² rates for trucks are often low.



¹**enclosed** covered, space can be closed off

²**insurance** the agreement in which you pay a company money, and the company pays the cost if you have an accident, injury, or loss



Note-taking Form

Paragraph 1: Sports Cars	Paragraph 2: Sedans
Paragraph 3: Classic Cars	Paragraph 4: Sport Utility Vehicles
Paragraph 5: Minivans	Paragraph 6: Pick-Up Trucks



Hey, Little Minivan: Answer Keys

Mixed-Up Pictures: Answer Key

1. J. burn rubber
2. F. minivan
3. D. automatic tranny (transmission)
4. B. radio
5. I. gas
6. G. headlights
7. H. climate control
8. C. air bags
9. E. seats
10. A. sports car

Listening for Rhyming Words: Answer Key

<i>line</i>	<i>*starred pairs are near rhymes</i>
1 – 2	down, hometown
3 – 4	gears, years
6 – 7	overdrive, 95 (ninety-five)
8 – 9	gas, class
10 – 11	day, USA
12 – 13	EFI, PSI (electronic fuel injection, pounds per square inch)
15 – 16	age, cage
17 – 18	heat, beat
19 – 20	*Reports, support
21 – 22	*insurance, deterrents
25 – 26	by, cry
27 – 28	pay, away
31 – 32	date, eight
33 – 34	park, dark
35 – 36	'Vettes (short for 'corvettes', a type of car), bets
37 – 38	sad, had
39 – 40	*minivan, again

