

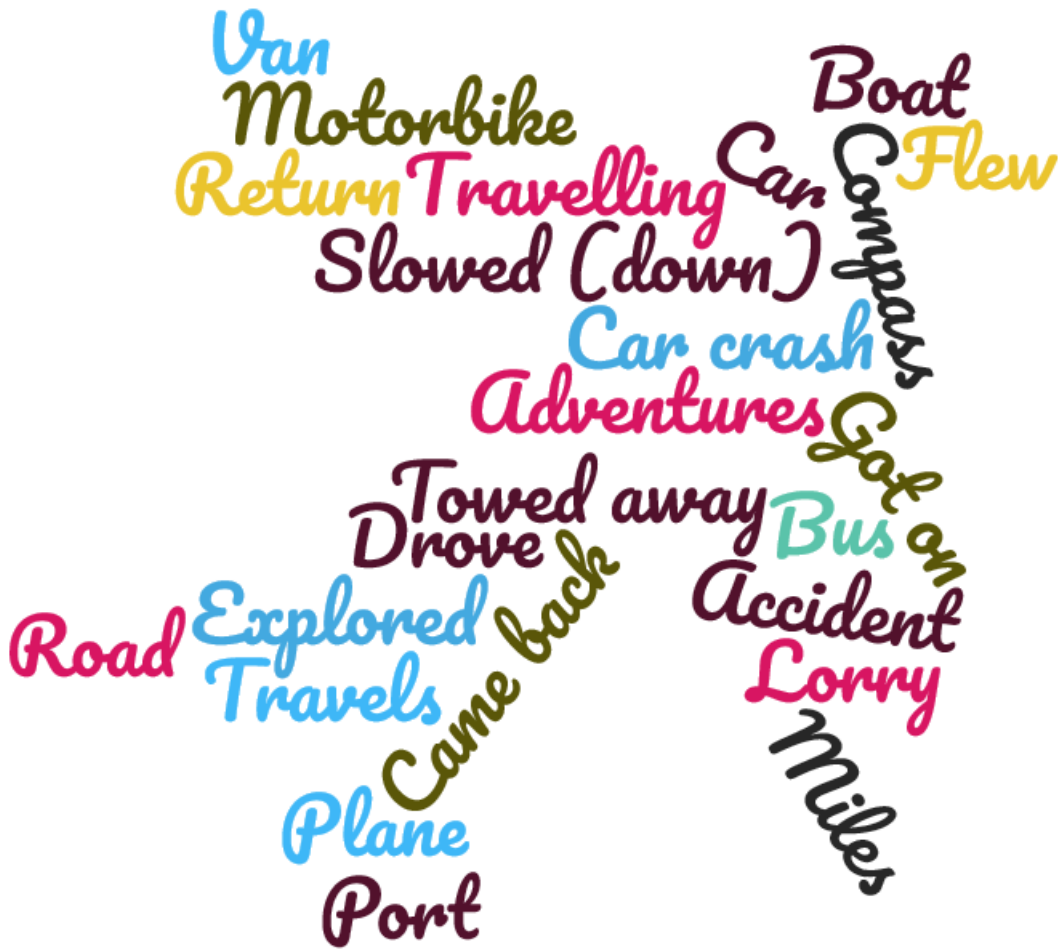
Where Boats Belong

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

<https://youtu.be/JjzsKT2KPq8>

Pre-listening activities

Put the “travel and transport” vocabulary into the correct category. Do you know their meaning?



Forms of transport	Concrete nouns	Abstract nouns	Verbs

You are going to listen to a song called “Where boats belong”. Where do you think boats belong?

Listen to the song and fill in the gaps with the vocabulary from the previous exercise.

VERSE 1: Lucy took her van, _____ the world
Lucy always knew she'd not _____
When she was asked why she never _____
She said _____ was just what she preferred

CHORUS: She said a _____ safe in _____ is never sunk or distraught,
But that's not where boats belong.

VERSE 2: Lucy drove a hundred thousand _____
With buses, _____, cars and _____
In an _____ one day her van was towed away
So she _____ a plane and flew the skies

CHORUS: Because a...

VERSE 3: Thirty years went by, still on the _____
And Lucy, on her _____, never slowed
She lived life by a _____, not by a clock
and carried on come rain or shine or snow

CHORUS: Because a...

BRIDGE: Then, one day, she was _____ too fast
and in a _____ she died
with all her _____ left untold

CHORUS: She said a...

Post-listening activities

1. What do you think the chorus means? *...a boat safe in port is never sunk or distraught,
but that's not where boats belong.*

(clue: "distraught" means "in distress")

2. What do you think the line "she lived life by a compass, not by a clock" means?

3. The phrase "come rain or shine" is an idiomatic expression, as in the example:

"I will be there tomorrow come rain or shine"

What do you think it means?

4. What do you think of the "van life" concept, living in a motorhome or a campervan and travelling from place to place? Could you live in a camper?

Where Boats Belong

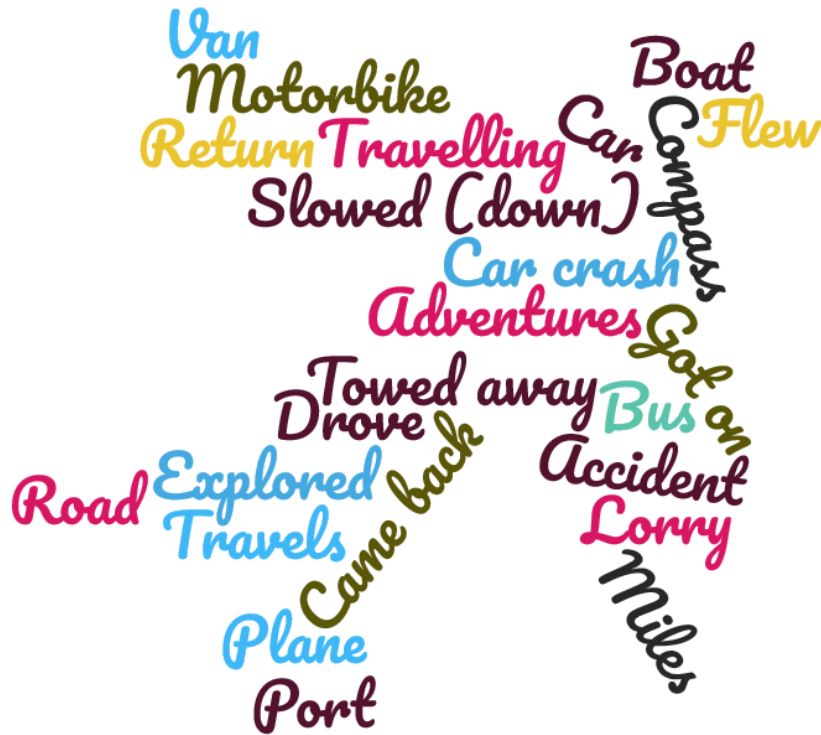
a song by Alan Smith Robertson, designed to practice “travel & transport”

<https://youtu.be/JjzsKT2KPq8>

Teacher’s answer sheet. Length: approximately 30 - 40 minutes

Pre-listening activities

Put the “travel and transport” vocabulary into the correct category. Do you know their meaning?



Forms of transport	Concrete nouns	Abstract nouns	Verbs
Van Boat Bus Lorry Car Motorbike Plane	Port Road Compass	Travelling Miles Accident Travels* Car Crash Adventures	Explored Return Came back Drove Towed away Got on Flew Slowed (down)

* “Travel” is normally a verb, but in this song it is a noun.
 As a noun, it is always used in the plural to talk of a person’s travels in general.
 We never use “travel” in the singular; instead we say “a trip” or “a journey”.

You are going to listen to a song called “Where boats belong”. Where do you think boats belong?
 “To belong” normally means “to be the property of” (eg. this boat belongs to me), but here it means “to have a proper place”... The song lyrics indicate that a boat’s proper place is at sea, or rather, that boats belong at sea, not in the port.

Listen to the song and fill in the gaps with the vocabulary from the previous exercise.

VERSE 1: Lucy took her van, explored the world
Lucy always knew she'd not return
When she was asked why she never came back
She said travelling was just what she preferred

CHORUS: She said a boat safe in port is never sunk or distraught,
But that's not where boats belong.

VERSE 2: Lucy drove a hundred thousand miles
With buses, lorries, cars and motorbikes
In an accident one day her van was towed away
So she got on a plane and flew the skies

VERSE 3: Thirty years went by, still on the road
And Lucy, on her travels, never slowed
She lived life by a compass, not by a clock
and carried on come rain or shine or snow

BRIDGE: Then, one day, she was driving too fast
and in a car crash she died
with all her adventures left untold

Post-listening activities

1. What do you think the chorus means? *...a boat safe in port is never sunk or distraught,
but that's not where boats belong.*

(clue: "distraught" means "in distress")

Nothing bad will ever happen to a boat when it is in port, and at sea a boat can sink or have problems, but boats are made to sail the sea. The woman in the song, Lucy, is like a boat. She does not want to be safe at home, she wants to travel even though it might be dangerous.

2. What do you think the line "she lived life by a compass, not by a clock" means?

*She wasn't restricted by a timetable
Each day she decided where to go, not what time to do things*

3. The phrase "come rain or shine" is an idiomatic expression, as in the example:

"I will be there tomorrow come rain or shine"

What do you think it means?

I will be there whatever happens; nothing will stop me

4. What do you think of the "van life" concept, living in a motorhome or a campervan and travelling from place to place? Could you live in a camper?

Students' own answers

Annex: List of photographs in the video (in order of appearance)

Spain (Barcelona), USA (Times Square, NY), Kenya
Scotland (Eilean Donan Castle), Italy (Venice), Denmark (Copenhagen) & USA (Golden Gate, San Francisco)
Vietnam (Halong bay), Cambodia (Angkor), Germany (Berlin), England (London)
Greece (Parthenon, Athens), Egypt (Pyramids), Jordan (Petra), Mexico
Turkey (Hagia Sophia, Istanbul), Easter Island
New York, Myanmar (temples of Bagan), India (Taj Mahal)
Thailand, Zambia & Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls)
Italy (fontana di Trevi, Rome), Russia (St. Basil's Cathedral & Red Square), Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)
Japan (Mount Fuji), Italy (Pisa), China (Great Wall)
Peru (Machu Picchu, Andes), Japan (Himeji castle), Cuba (Havana)
Spain (Alhambra), Saudi Arabia (Al-Masjid an-Nabawi, the Prophet's Mosque)
Netherlands (Amsterdam), Italy (Rome/Vatican), Scandinavia (Aurora Boreal), Australia (Ayers Rock)
Spain (Majorca), Italy (Lake Como)
France (Paris), Greece (Parthenon, Athens), Australia (Sydney), Italy (Colosseum, Rome)
USA (Grand Canyon & Mount Rushmore), Germany (Neuschwanstein castle)
Spain (sculpture: "El Beso de la Muerte", Barcelona)
Netherlands (Kinderdijk), USA (Hollywood, Los Angeles, California), Egypt (Sphynx)
France (Notre Dame, Paris), Iceland (Blue Lagoon), Scotland (Edinburgh), Portugal (Lisbon)
Morocco (Chefchaouen), Colombia (El Castillo, Chichen Itza), Scotland (Eilean Donan Castle)
USA (White House, Washington DC)
Tunisia (Sidi Bou Said), Sahara, USA & Canada (Niagra Falls)
France (Mont Saint-Michel), Spain (La Mezquita, Cordoba), New Zealand (Lake Marian)
England (Stonehenge), Greece (Santorini)