

Introduction to the *Mister Monday* songs

We recorded *Mister Monday* in 1971. Looking back, there are some lyrics that I probably should have had second thoughts about. If we were to try to record something like this in the modern era, editors would definitely have more to say about the content.

As it was, Longman gave us *carte blanche* regarding content. There was not a single editorial request for change. When we went to the studio, the publisher sent someone whose job title was Audio-Visual Production Controller (AVPC) to oversee proceedings. His studio experience was entirely with spoken word recordings — he'd never been in a music studio before.

To give him credit, he was delighted with the opportunity, and spent a lot of time digging information out of the taciturn studio engineer. In fact, we were all pretty excited to find ourselves in the same studio that Traffic and other big 1960s bands had recorded chart-topping singles.

Coincidence!

Now, more than fifty years later, the equivalent job to AVPC at Pearson Education, as Longman ELT is now known, is Media Manager. And the current holder of this important role is Wendy Parkin, who was an actor/musician with the English Teaching Theatre.

Present Continuous Baby

Grammar point: Present continuous tense

I'm walking down the street, I'm waiting for a bus
I'm watching an old lady who's holding a small dog
I'm looking through the windows of the shops along the way
I'm thinking of my true love who's the angel of the day

I can't see her in the city of light
I can't hear her in the dark lonely night

I'm sitting in a train, I'm looking for my love
I'm watching an old lady who's holding a small dog
I'm looking through the windows at the trees along the way
I'm thinking of my true love who's the angel of the day

I can't see her in the city of light
I can't hear her in the dark lonely night

I'm walking down the street, I'm waiting for a bus
I'm watching an old lady who's holding a small dog
I'm looking through the windows of the shops along the way
I'm thinking of my true love who's the angel of the day

I can't see her in the city of light
I can't hear her in the dark lonely night

Note

I have no idea why I wrote *the angel of the day*

Mister Monday

Grammar point: Present simple tense

He gets up at eight o'clock

On cold clear winter days

He eats his food at half past eight and clears the pots away

He drives his car in the city streets

And he meets along the way

A lot of tall dark people who stand there all the day

He's Mister Monday, he works all day from nine to five

He's Mister Monday, he lives alone in the city

I see him in the evening

I pass him at the door

I say hello, how are you?

And I know he's very poor

He looks at the street through his window

He watches the people pass by

He loves little dogs and children

And he never tells a lie

He's Mister Monday, he works all day from nine to five

He's Mister Monday, he lives alone in the city

Note:

The title track of the album and without question, the one that most people who used the songs remember. Particular Dede's distinctive vocals on the chorus.

Going To

Grammar point: *going to* future of intention

I'm going to sell my car and my welcome mat
I'm going to hide my briefcase and my bowler hat
I'm going to buy a ticket and catch a plane
I'm going to sit in the sun and laugh at the rain

I'm going to go where they say the life is sweet
I'm going to let the grass grow under my feet
I'm going to count the waves beside the sea
I'm going to be happy, I'm going to be free

I'm going to throw my shoes away
I don't care what the people say
I'm going to spend my money too
And then I don't know what I'll do

But I don't want to be alone
I'm going to miss my telephone
Am I going to live without a friend?
I'm going to sit and think again

I'm not going to leave this beautiful town
I'm not going to watch the sun go down
Tomorrow at the station you're going to see
Two hundred city gents all exactly like me

Tomorrow at the station you're going to see
Two hundred city gents all exactly like me
I'm going to buy a ticket and catch a train
I'm going to read a book and look at the rain

If You Go to Rome

Grammar point: first conditional

If you go to Rome, you'll see the Colosseum

If you go to London, maybe you'll see the Queen

If you stay with me, you won't see anything

But you'll be very happy, that's for sure

If you climb that mountain, you'll be above the noisy crowds

If you catch a jet plane, you'll be above the clouds

If you stay with me, you won't see anything

But you'll be very happy, that's for sure

If you leave me now, I'll be sad and lonely

If you walk away, I'll search around for you

If it takes a year, I'll find you, my darling

And you'll be very happy, that's for sure

If I make some money, will you come and live with me?

If I make some money, will you change your mind?

If I ask you nicely, will you make a cup of tea?

Then I'll be very happy, that's for sure

If you leave me now, I'll be sad and lonely

If you walk away, I'll search around for you

If it takes a year, I'll find you my darling

And you'll be very happy, that's for sure

And you'll be very happy, that's for sure

And you'll be very happy, that's for sure

When You Wake

Grammar point: future continuous

When you wake tomorrow, I'll be walking down the road
I'll be thinking of the times we had together
I'll be wishing we'd done better, I'll be writing you a letter
Telling you I won't be coming home again

When you draw the curtains, I'll be standing at the station
I'll be lighting my first cigarette of the day
I'll be wishing we'd done better, I'll be writing you a letter
Telling you I won't be coming home again

I'll be sitting on the train telling all those who'll be listening
About the loneliness of my poor life
I'll be wishing we'd done better, I'll be writing you a letter
Telling you I won't be coming home again

The train'll be arriving at the station in the morning
Picking up the passengers one by one
I'll be playing a game of cards with the driver and the guard
And I know I won't be coming home again

When I get to London, you'll be looking in my room
You'll be wondering what the bed's already made
You'll be wishing we'd done better, You'll be looking at my letter
You'll be reading that I won't be coming home

I'll be sitting on the train telling all those who'll be listening
About the loneliness of my poor life
I'll be wishing we'd done better, I'll be writing you a letter
Telling you I won't be coming home again
And I know I won't be coming home again

Tomorrow Will Be Wonderful

Grammar point: the *will* future

Tomorrow will be wonderful, I'll drive my little car
I'll walk along the river bank, I'll watch the ships sail by
The next day will be better, I'll take you to the zoo
I'll show you bears and monkeys and a great gorilla, too

Will you come to the party on Friday?
Will you meet me under the tree?
Will you marry me in September?
Will you come and live and by the sea?

We'll have a house with windows that looks out to the sea
We'll entertain our neighbours with chocolate cake and tea
They'll see us in our little house as happy as can be
They'll wish they were just like us, so happy, bright and free

Will you come to the party on Friday?
Will you meet me under the tree?
Will you marry me in September?
Will you come and live and by the sea?

We won't have to work all day, we'll just pass the time away
We won't catch those busy trains that whistle down the line
We won't live in basement flats with single beds and tabby cats
We won't have to worry, the sun will always shine
The sun will always shine, the sun will always shine

Will you come to the party on Friday?
Will you meet me under the tree?
Will you marry me in September?
Will you come and live and by the sea?

Notes on the song

Future tenses in English are a bit of a nightmare, and one thing is for certain, the *will* future is NOT as straightforward as it seems in this song.

When do we ACTUALLY use the *will* future? Apart from its use in *if* clauses, as illustrated in the *If You Go To Rome* song in this collection, the most common use is after expressions like *I hope* or *I think*

I hope we'll be able to get a ticket.

I think I'll buy a new pair of shoes.

Compare this with

I'm going to buy a new pair of shoes tomorrow.

It's also used after *I promise*

I promise I'll be there on time.

I promise I won't tell anyone.

It's also used in instant decisions.

I'm hungry.

OK, I'll make you a sandwich.

Then we come to question forms. The four question in the chorus are NOT indications of future behaviour, they're requests.

Will you come to the party on Friday?

Even so, people seemed to like this song, with all its grammatical faults!