

Noli timere, iam gaude!

Don't worry, be happy... in LATIN

By NeQuidem (and Bobby McFerrin)

Text and translation

Scribo tibi canticum, cupi cantare integrum. Noli timere. Iam gaude.

Curas omnis vita habet. Si times, curas auges. Noli timere. Iam gaude.

Oh oh oh oh oh oooooh Noli timere. Oooooh iam gaude. Oooooh noli timere, iam gaude. x 2

Si domum non possides, si cubile et mensam non tenes, noli timere. Iam gaude.

Dominus dicit: 'Non tenes pensionem. Iam vade!' Noli timere. Iam gaude.

Oh oh oh oh oh oooooh Noli timere. Oooooh iam gaude. Oooooh noli timere, iam gaude. x 2

Si pecuniam non habes, characterem non tenes, noli timere. Iam gaude.

Si times, miser appares, et miseros facis omnes. Noli timere. Iam gaude.

Oh oh oh oh oh oooooh Noli timere. Oooooh iam gaude. Oooooh noli timere, iam gaude. x 2

I am writing a song for you. Desire to sing it entirely. Don't worry. Be happy.

Every life has worries. If you are afraid, you increase the worries. Don't worry. Be happy.

Oh oh oh oh oh ooh Don't worry. Ooh be happy. Oooooh don't worry, be happy now. x 2

If you don't own a house, if you don't have a bed and table, don't worry. Be happy.

The master/landlord says: 'You don't have rent, so get out!' Don't worry. Be happy.

Oh oh oh oh oh ooh Don't worry. Ooh be happy. Oooooh don't worry, be happy now. x 2

If you don't have money, if you don't have style, don't worry. Be happy.

If you're afraid, you appear miserable, and you make everyone miserable. Don't worry. Be happy.

Oh oh oh oh oh ooh Don't worry. Ooh be happy. Oooooh don't worry, be happy now. x 2

Activities

This song requires the following grammar: present indicative active, nominative and accusative of the first three declensions.

New grammar: imperative, noli + infinitive for prohibitions.

Words you might gloss: *cubile, omnis, gaude*.

1. Listening and recognition

Suggested exercises:

- a. Cut out the text (see handout 1) so the sentences are separated from each other too. Divide the pupils into small groups and give each group a full set of the text. Divide the sentences among the pupils and let them listen to the song and raise their hand when they hear their sentence.
- b. Let them listen to the song again, but now putting the sentences in the correct order.
- c. In group, once the text has been assembled, let them highlight nouns in yellow, and verbs in red. If they can spot imperatives, they can circle them.

2. Derivation and categorisation exercises

See handout 2

3. Kinaesthetic learning

The list of these is endless. These are but the simplest suggestions, but depending on the resources you have available, you can come up with much more:

- a. Play *Simon dicit* with the imperatives.
- b. Put the pupils in a circle and let them throw a ball at each other: they can ask each other to translate Latin words into English (or vice versa).

4. Translate and sing the song with the pupils! 😊

5. Follow-up exercises

- a. Let the pupils write their own lines for the song.
- b. Ask the pupils to do exercise 8 from handout 2.
- c. Discuss what people need to be happy. What is happiness? You can tie this in with ancient philosophy too (Epicureans and Stoics, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* book 10)... For some basic points of discussion, see questions 9 and 10 on the handout.