
FEELGOOD SONGS

SONG 1 'FEELING GOOD' A2+ (Nina Simone's version)

FAST FACTS ABOUT NINA SIMONE

Put the verbs in brackets into the preterite to get a quick biography.

PLAYING MUSIC

Nina Simone (be) _____ a legendary performer. She (leave) _____
a lasting mark on the world of music both as a singer and an activist. She (sing) _____
_____ a mix of jazz, blues and folk music.

She (be) _____ born in 1933 in North Carolina. She (take) _____ her
first piano lessons at the age of three and (sing) _____ in her church choir.
After graduating from high school, she (study) _____ classical music at the
prestigious Juilliard school in NYC.

To help pay her school fees, she (turn) _____ to jazz and blues and (start) _____
_____ to play American standards.

NAMING NINA

Put the verbs in brackets in the passive voice.

She (name) _____ Eunice Waymon by her parents.

She (call) _____ 'niña' by her boyfriend.

Her stage name 'Simone' (inspire) _____ by French actress Simone Signoret.

She (give) _____ nicknames such as 'The High Priestess of Soul' or 'jazz
singer', but didn't like those.

In her autobiography she wrote that she should (call) _____ 'a folk singer.'

THE SONGS SHE SANG

Click on the correct verbal form or forms in each pair.

Her first album was released / came out in 1957, and her version of the song “I Loves You Porgy” began / became a hit.

Nina Simone Sings the Blues is said / is told to be the best of the many albums she made / recorded.

She added / aimed her personal touch to popular songs as for example “Here Comes the Sun” by the Beatles.

She sang / sung hit love songs such as “I Put a Spell on You” and “My Baby Just Cares for Me”.

ACTIVISM

Highlight the time markers which account for the use of the preterite in the following sentences.

In the 1960s, Nina Simone took part in the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.A.

After young African-American girls died in the bombing of a church, she wrote “Mississippi Goddam”.

The song “Young, Gifted and Black” became a popular anthem of the Civil Rights Movement.

She sang “Why (The King of Love is Dead)” after Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

She took part in Nelson Mandela’s 80th birthday celebration in 1998.

DOCUMENTARIES

Amazing Nina Simon

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/amazingnina/140745521>

What Happened Miss Simone?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM9EA7XVIk8>

THE SONG'S STORY

Watch the Biobox video. Choose the correct answer or answers to each question.

1. The origins of the song are

- American
- British
- Canadian

2. The song was written for

- an album
- an opera
- a musical

3. The first recording was

- a jazz version
- an instrumental version
- a rap version

4. The song became associated with

- the anti-war movement
- the green movement
- the civil-rights movement

5. It's been on TV in

- the series Modern Family
- the series Six Feet Under
- an advert

6. There have been versions by

- Jay-Z and Kanye West
- Adele and Bruno Mars
- Muse

7. It was the theme tune for a

- Spider-man film
- James Bond film
- Star Wars film

8. The song is called

- "Feeling Great"
- "Feeling Good"
- "New Day"

LISTEN TO 'FEELING GOOD'

First, listen to the song, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNMKGYiJpvg>

then check the right answer.

Birds / planes flyin' high, you know how I feel

Sun / stars in the sky, you know how I feel

Clouds / Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel

It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me

Yeah, it's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me, ooooooooooh

And I'm feelin' good

Keep listening. In each pair, which word do you hear?

fish ships

sailors river

blooms blossom

black flies dragonfly

butterflies magpies

sleep sit

shine shimmer

pine vine

mine fine

JUST A LITTLE BIT OF GRAMMAR

Identify the main verbal form in the song.

Pick out examples of verbs from the song that match the following usages:

- a. understanding of something
- b. repetition of an action
- c. state of mind

YOUR OPINION / YOUR COMMENTS

Use the following phrases describe how you feel when you listen to Nina Simone's song.

When I listen to the song, it makes me feel...

Listening to this song allows me to...

It helps me to...