

# LISTENING COMPREHENSION

## Under the Bridge

By Red Hot Chili Peppers

### TASK 1 – VOCABULARY: CONNECT THE WORDS TO THEIR DEFINITIONS.

- 1 a good deed    \_\_\_ **to cause blood to flow from a person's body**
- 2 companion    \_\_\_ **short for *want to***
- 3 wanna        \_\_\_ **the main or central part of a city or town**
- 4 downtown    \_\_\_ **short for *because***
- 5 draw blood    \_\_\_ **something good and helpful that someone does**
- 6 'cause        \_\_\_ **a person or animal with whom one spends a lot of time or with whom one travels**
- 7 all the way    \_\_\_ **without limit or reservation**

### TASK 2 – FILL IN THE SENTENCES WITH SOME OF THE EXPRESSIONS FROM TASK 1.

- I'm with you \_\_\_\_\_ .
- No \_\_\_\_\_ goes unpunished.
- There is no better \_\_\_\_\_ than a good book.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is very crowded during rush hour.
- We need to \_\_\_\_\_ some \_\_\_\_\_ to test you for the virus.

### TASK 3 – PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITY

Read the text and answer the question: **Which city is known as the City of Angels?**

\_\_\_\_\_ is a city in Southern California, in the United States. There are 3,847,400 people living in the city, and over 18 million people in the L.A. region. The city has an area of 1,200 square kilometres (460 sq mi). It is the city with the second biggest population in the United States after New York. It is also the biggest city of



California. It is known for its Mediterranean climate, ethnic and cultural diversity, Hollywood entertainment industry and sprawling metropolitan area.

The city's name comes from the Spanish language, and it means "The Angels". The name is an abbreviation from the original name of the place. The original name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río Porciúncula" (in English, "town of our lady the Queen of Angels of the River Porciúncula").

The city was founded on September 4, 1781, under Spanish governor Felipe de Neve. It became a part of Mexico in 1821 following the Mexican War of Independence. In 1848, at the end of the Mexican–American War, this city and the rest of California were purchased and thus became part of the United States. In 1850 California achieved statehood. The discovery of oil in the 1890s brought rapid growth to the city.

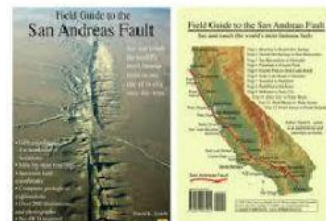
This city has Spanish and Mexican influences due to being a former colony of Mexico and Spain. It has the second largest Hispanic and Latino population in the United States, only behind New York City. It is a diverse city with many ethnic groups such as Mexican, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Salvadoran, Iranian and Armenian. Mexican and Spanish architecture can be seen in this city.

Many celebrities live there because it is known to be the entertainment capital of the world. Many movies, television shows and fashion shows are set in this city. It has a diverse and robust economy, and hosts businesses in a broad range of professional and cultural fields. It also has the busiest container port in the Americas. This city is one of the most expensive cities to live in.



The city and its metropolitan area are the home of eleven top-level professional sports teams, several of which play in neighboring communities. It has twice hosted the Summer Olympic Games: in 1932 and in 1984, and will host the games for a third time in 2028.

This city is subject to earthquakes because of its location on the Pacific Ring of Fire. The geologic instability has produced numerous faults, which cause approximately 10,000 earthquakes annually in Southern California, though most of them are too small to be felt. The strike-slip San Andreas Fault system, which sits at the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate, passes through the metropolitan area.



The city is divided into many different districts and neighborhoods, such as:

Downtown, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Venice Beach, South Central, San Pedro, etc.

Answer the question:

**Which city is known as the City of Angels?**

**New York   Chicago   Houston   Philadelphia   San Francisco   New Orleans   Los Angeles**

#### TASK 4– PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITY- READING COMPREHENSION

MATCH THE PARAGRAPHS TO THEIR HEADINGS:

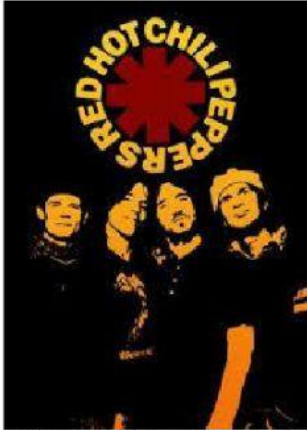
- About the song
- About the band
- The band's history

\_\_\_\_\_ The **Red Hot Chili Peppers** are an American rock band formed in Los Angeles in 1983. Their music incorporates elements of alternative rock, funk, punk rock and psychedelic rock. The band consists of vocalist Anthony Kiedis, bassist Flea, drummer Chad Smith, and guitarist John Frusciante. With over 100 million records sold worldwide, the



Red Hot Chili Peppers are one of the best-selling bands of all time. They have released eleven studio albums so far and have won six Grammy Awards. In 2012 they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers were formed in Los Angeles by Kiedis, Flea, guitarist [Hillel Slovak](#) and drummer [Jack Irons](#). The band released their debut album, [The Red Hot Chili Peppers](#), in August 1984. Airplay on college radio and MTV helped build a fan base, and the album sold 300,000 copies. By 1988 they released two more albums. During this period, however, Kiedis and Slovak had both developed serious drug addictions. Slovak died from a heroin overdose on June 25, 1988 and Irons left the band. John Frusciante and Chad Smith replaced them.



"Under the Bridge" is a song by American rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers. It is the eleventh track on the group's fifth studio album, *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*. Originally a poem by Anthony Kiedis, who wrote the lyrics to express feelings of loneliness and despondency, and to reflect on narcotics and their impact on his life. At the time he used to walk around Los Angeles sad and very alone, finding solace in the streets and hills and the wind.... thinking about his dead friend and Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist Hillel Slovak, and the heroin overdose that claimed him.



The song became a critical and commercial success, peaking at number two on the *Billboard* Hot 100. To date, "Under the Bridge" is the band's highest-charting single on the *Billboard* Hot 100. The single's success was widened with the release of its accompanying video, which was frequently played on music television channels. It won the "Viewer's Choice Award" and "Breakthrough Video" at the [1992 MTV Video Music Awards](#).

"Under the Bridge" helped the Red Hot Chili Peppers enter the mainstream.

After that, they became very successful and eventually released six more albums. Their seventh album *Californication* was the most popular one.

#### TASK 5 – LISTENING: LISTEN TO THE SONG AND DO THE TASKS THAT FOLLOW:

##### a) Choose the correct word

Sometimes I **feel/feels** like I don't have a partner,  
**Sometimes/Often** I feel like my only friend  
Is the city I **live/life** in, the city of angels  
Lonely as I am, **together/forever** we cry.

##### b) Fill in the blanks

I drive on her streets 'cause she's my \_\_\_\_\_  
 I walk \_\_\_\_\_ her hills cause she knows who I am  
 She \_\_\_\_\_ my good deeds and she \_\_\_\_\_ me windy  
 I never worried, now that is a \_\_\_\_\_,



**c) Order the chorus**

\_\_\_\_\_ Take me to the place I love,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I don't ever wanna feel  
 \_\_\_\_\_ take me all the way.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ like I did that day.

**d) Unscramble the words in brackets**

It's hard to believe that there's \_\_\_\_\_ (ynobod) out there  
 It's hard to believe that I'm all \_\_\_\_\_ (enoal)  
 At least I have her \_\_\_\_\_ (evlo), the city she loves me  
 Lonely as I am, together we \_\_\_\_\_ (ycr).

**e) Order the chorus**

\_\_\_\_\_ like I did that day.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I don't ever wanna feel  
 \_\_\_\_\_ take me all the way.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Take me to the place I love.

**f) Complete the phrases**

Under the bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is where I drew some \_\_\_\_\_  
 Under the bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 I could not get \_\_\_\_\_  
 Under the bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forgot about my \_\_\_\_\_  
 Under the bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 I gave my life \_\_\_\_\_.

**TASK 6 – POST-LISTENING ACTIVITY: FIND IN THE TEXT THE SYNONYMS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS.**

Isolated –

Friend-

Peaks-

Actions-

Difficult -

Untruth-

## TASK 7 – FIND OUT MORE! RESEARCH ACTIVITY

- 1) What are the band's most famous and successful albums?
- 2) What are the band's most famous songs? Name some of them.
- 3) Name some other rock bands that were popular in the early 90s.
- 4) Did any of the band members star in movies?

## TASK 8 – EXTRA ACTIVITY

### UNDER THE BRIDGE SHEET MUSIC (GUITAR)

# Under the Bridge

Words and Music by Anthony Kiedis, Flea, John Frusciante and Chad Smith

Intro  
Moderately slow ♩ = 68

## ANSWER KEY (LYRICS)

Sometimes I feel like I don't have a partner  
Sometimes I feel like my only friend  
Is the city I live in, the city of angels  
Lonely as I am, together we cry  
I drive on her streets 'cause she's my companion  
I walk through her hills 'cause she knows who I am  
She sees my good deeds and she kisses me windy  
Well, I never worry, now that is a lie

I don't ever wanna feel  
Like I did that day  
Take me to the place I love  
Take me all the way  
I don't ever wanna feel  
Like I did that day  
Take me to the place I love  
Take me all the way  
Yeah, yeah, yeah

It's hard to believe that there's nobody out there  
It's hard to believe that I'm all alone  
At least I have her love, the city, she loves me  
Lonely as I am, together we cry

I don't ever wanna feel  
Like I did that day  
Take me to the place I love  
Take me all the way  
I don't ever wanna feel  
Like I did that day  
Take me to the place I love  
Take me all the way

Yeah, yeah, yeah  
Oh, no, no-no, yeah, yeah  
Love me, I say, yeah yeah  
One time

Is where I drew some blood  
(Under the bridge downtown)  
I could not get enough  
(Under the bridge downtown)  
Forgot about my love  
(Under the bridge downtown)  
I gave my life away  
Yeah, yeah  
Oh, no, no-no-no, yeah, yeah  
Oh, no, I said, oh, yeah, yeah  
Where I stay