New English File Teacher's Book Pre-intermediate
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a Read the song lyrics and guess the missing verbs. Don't write them in yet.

b Listen to the song and fill the gaps with a verb.

White flag

I know you [1] t*hink* that I shouldn't still love you,
or [2] t_____ you that
But if I didn't say it, well I'd still have felt it
where's the sense in that?
I [3] p_____ I'm not trying to make your life harder
or [4] r_____ to where we were

I will [5] g_____ down with this ship
And I won't [6] p_____ my hands up and surrender
There will be no white flag above my door
I'm in love and always will [7] b_____

I [8] k_____ I left too much mess and
destruction to [9] c_____ back again.
And I caused nothing but trouble
I [10] u_____ if you can't talk to me again.
And if you [11] l_____ by the rules of 'it's over'
then I'm sure that that makes sense

I will, etc.

And when we [12] m_____, which I'm sure we will,
all that was there, will be there still.
I'll let it [13] p_____ and hold my tongue
and you will [14] t_____ that I've moved on ... .

Well I will, etc.



c Read your song with the glossary. In pairs, answer the questions.

1 What has happened to the singer?
2 Does she still love her ex-partner?
3 Who usually 'goes down with their ship'?
4 Who usually 'puts their hands up to surrender'?
5 When does somebody hold up a white flag?
6 Do you think the singer left her partner, or her partner left the singer?
7 What does she think will happen when they meet again?

Glossary

I shouldn't still love you = It's bad for me to continue to love you.
surrender = stop fighting and say you have lost
mess = a lot of problems
destruction (noun from *destroy*) = when everything is broken
trouble = problems
that makes sense = It's the right thing to do.
I'll let it pass and hold my tongue = I won't say anything
I've moved on = I am not in love with you now

Song facts

White flag was originally recorded by the British singer Dido in 2003. It became her biggest UK hit. The song was written about breaking up from her boyfriend in 2002 when they were engaged to be married.

LIVEWORKSHEETS