



Learning English with Songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwaxNPY5nIY>

1. Listen to “The Thanksgiving Song” from Ben Rector's 2020 Christmas album and match the following phrases from the song with their meanings:

“Familiar highways”

Celebrating abundance and togetherness

“The kind of love a thousand miles can’t wash away”

Roads or routes that bring back memories

“Life is short and bittersweet”

Long-standing emotional bonds that remain strong

“Fill your plate and fill your drink”

The idea that life is both joyful and challenging

2. Listen again to the lyrics and decide if the following statements are True or False:

1. The songwriter describes his return journey to his hometown as familiar but different, expressing nostalgia for the past while acknowledging that some things remain the same.
2. The line “*The old kid’s table all have kids of their own*” paints a picture of how the holiday season changes for the new generations.
3. The main feelings associated with family gatherings in the song are love, nostalgia, gratitude, and a bittersweet reflection on the passage of time and loss.
4. The line “*life never stops changing but some things never change*” means that life always remains the same.
5. The line “*Mom still can’t talk about him and not almost cry*” reflects nostalgia and grief for a loved one who has passed away.
6. The line “*the longest year in history*” probably refers to challenges of the C-19 pandemic, which caused isolation, loss, and difficulty, but also highlighted the importance of family and resilience.

3. What is, in your opinion, the overall tone of the song?

- ❖ joyful
- ❖ nostalgic
- ❖ bittersweet
- ❖ reflective