Mining Music for a Multilevel Class

TESOL 2017

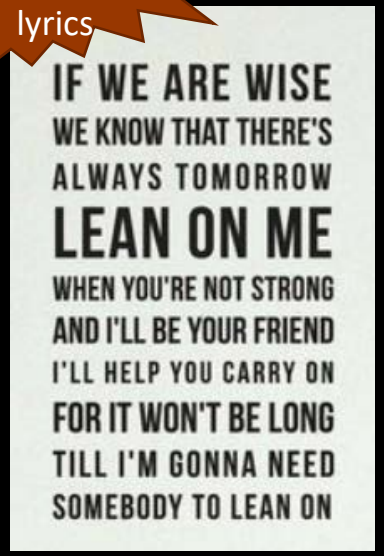
Sean Sebastian Gomez

Peninsula College ESL

sgomez@pencol.edu

Today's presentation

Take song lyrics



And make 3 leveled cloze activities

PLUS:

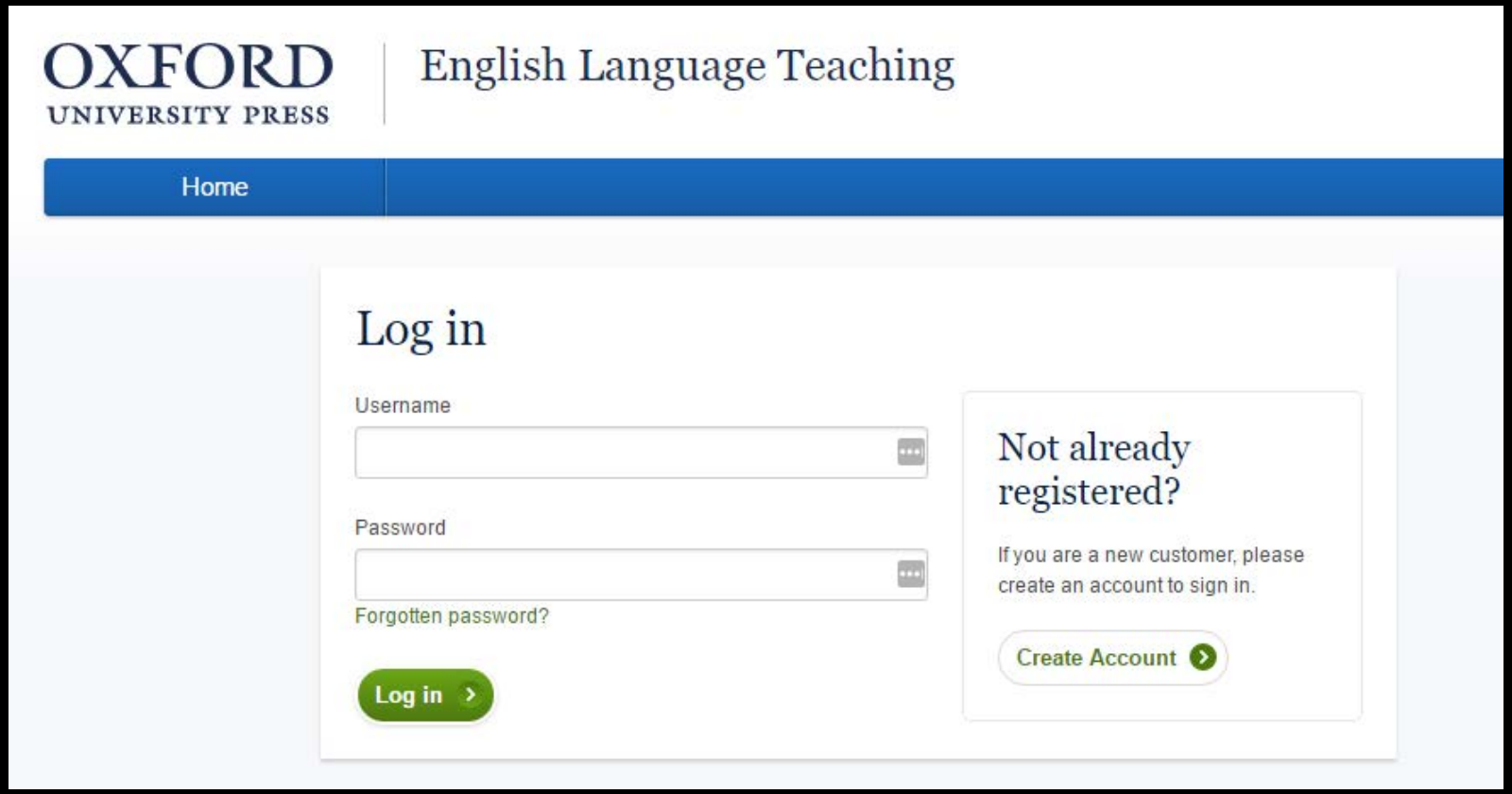
- Tips for using these activities in the classroom
- Tips for finding songs
- Link to my website with prepared activities

Get the lyrics ready

- Find the lyrics on the internet
- Run them through Notepad to get rid of all formatting
  - Copy and paste them into Notepad
  - Copy and paste from Notepad into Word (or your word processor)
- Edit the lyrics while listening to the song, using the version you will play in class
  - Format stanzas
  - Correct spelling, address words like *rollin'* and hyphenated words
- Save the Word doc – this is where you will put your multilevel cloze activities

Cloze Maker

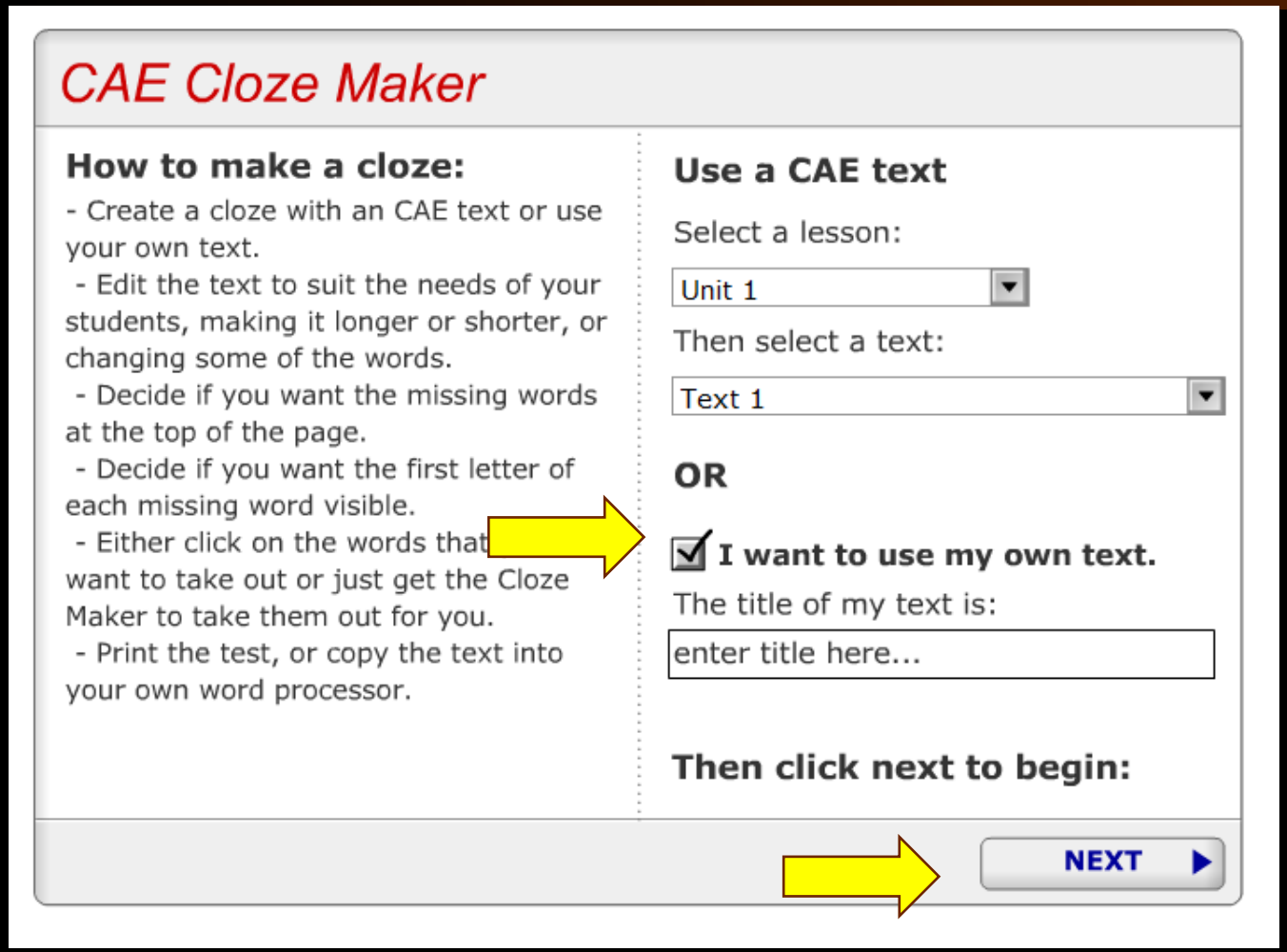
It's free to register!



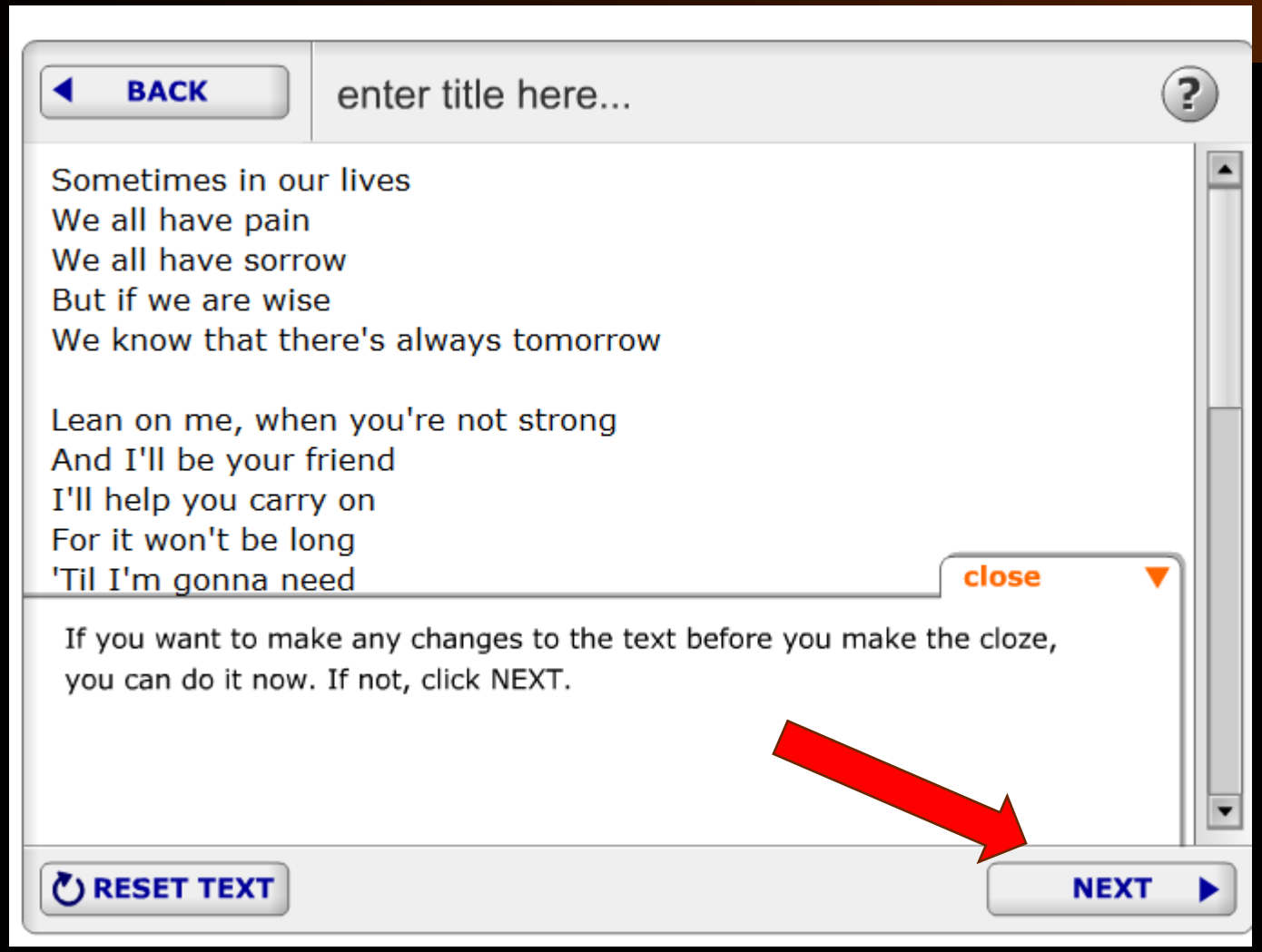
Go here

https://elt.oup.com/teachers/caeresult/cloze?cc=us&selLanguage=en&mode=hub

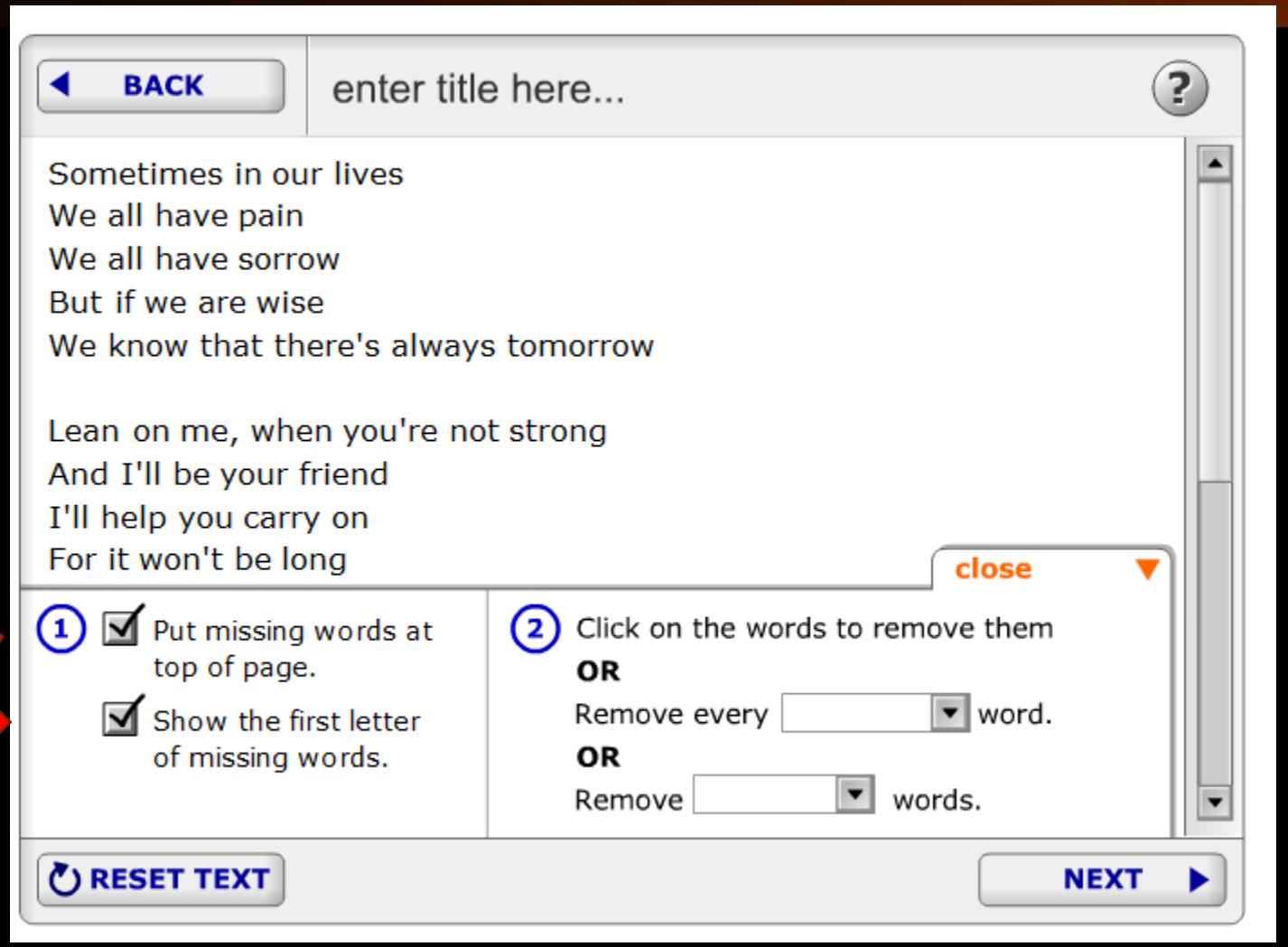
Select *I want to use my own text*, then *NEXT.*



Paste the lyrics into Cloze Maker, then click Next



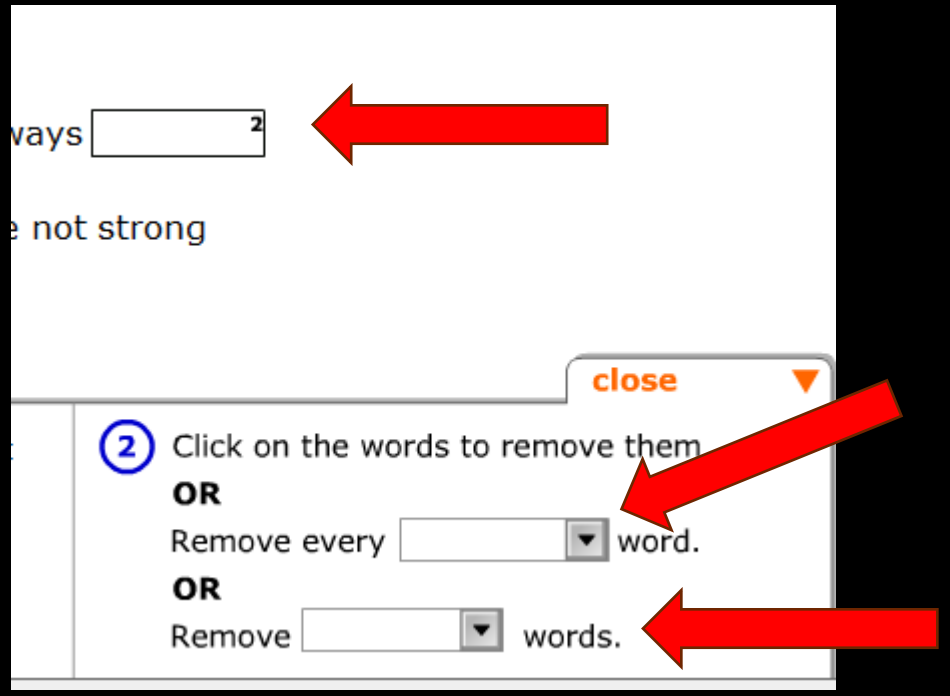
Start with the lowest level cloze



Select these

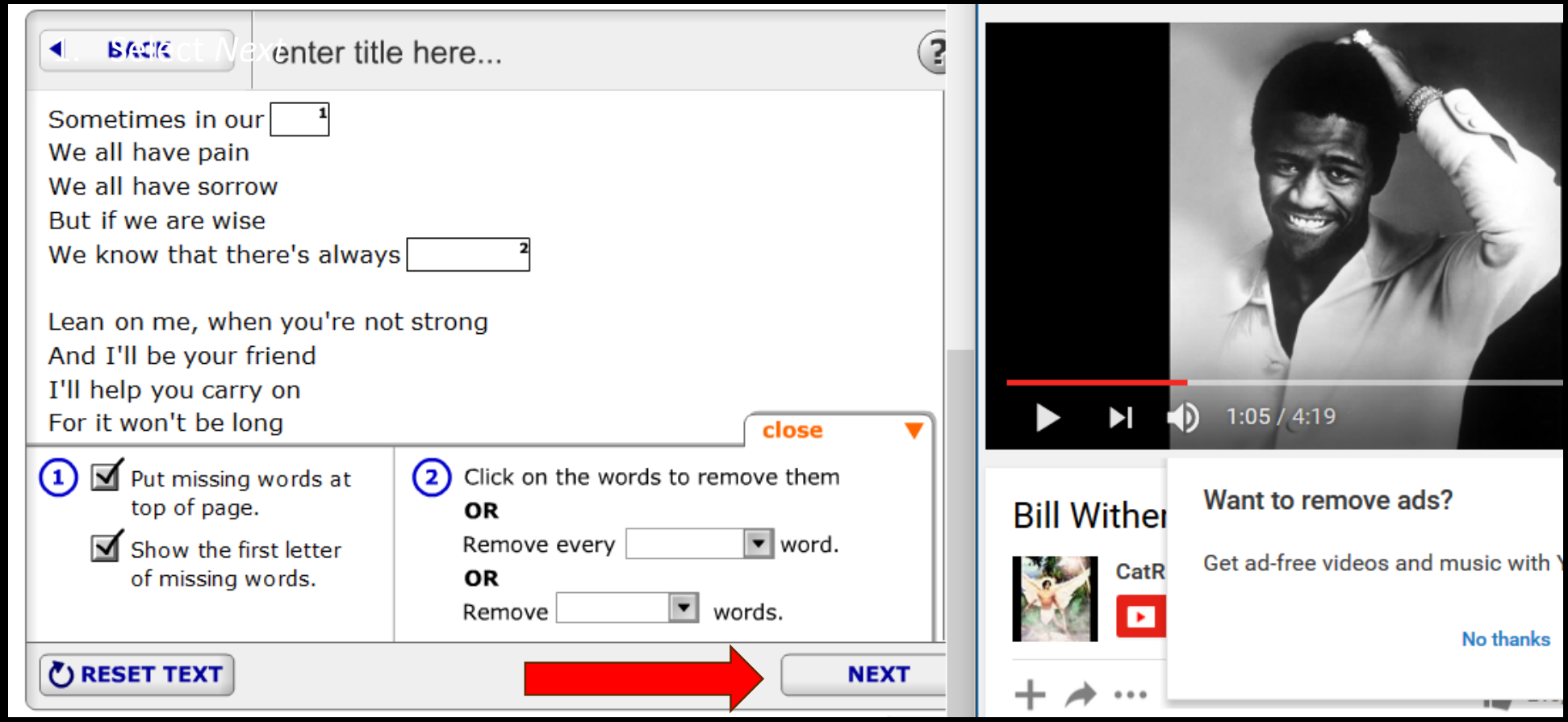
Keep it simple – for beginners

- You have several options here:
  1. You can choose your own words by clicking on them
  2. You can choose to remove every nth word
  3. You can remove X number of words



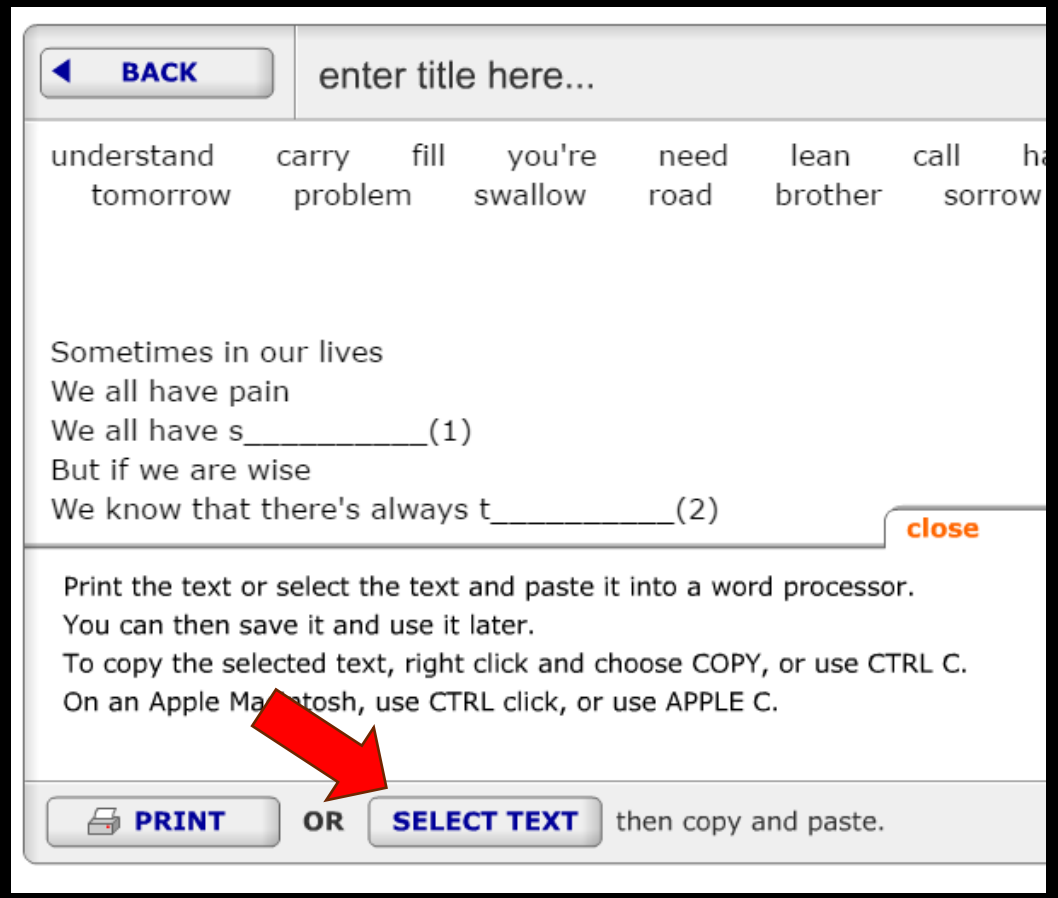
Remove words to make the cloze

- I choose my own words (by clicking on them)
- I listen to the song, choosing the stressed words
- 1 or 2 words per stanza is plenty
- Just remove words from the first half of the song
- Click Next



Paste the cloze activity into your Word file

- Click on Select Text, then copy the text
- Paste it into your Word file on a new page (You have the lyrics on one page)

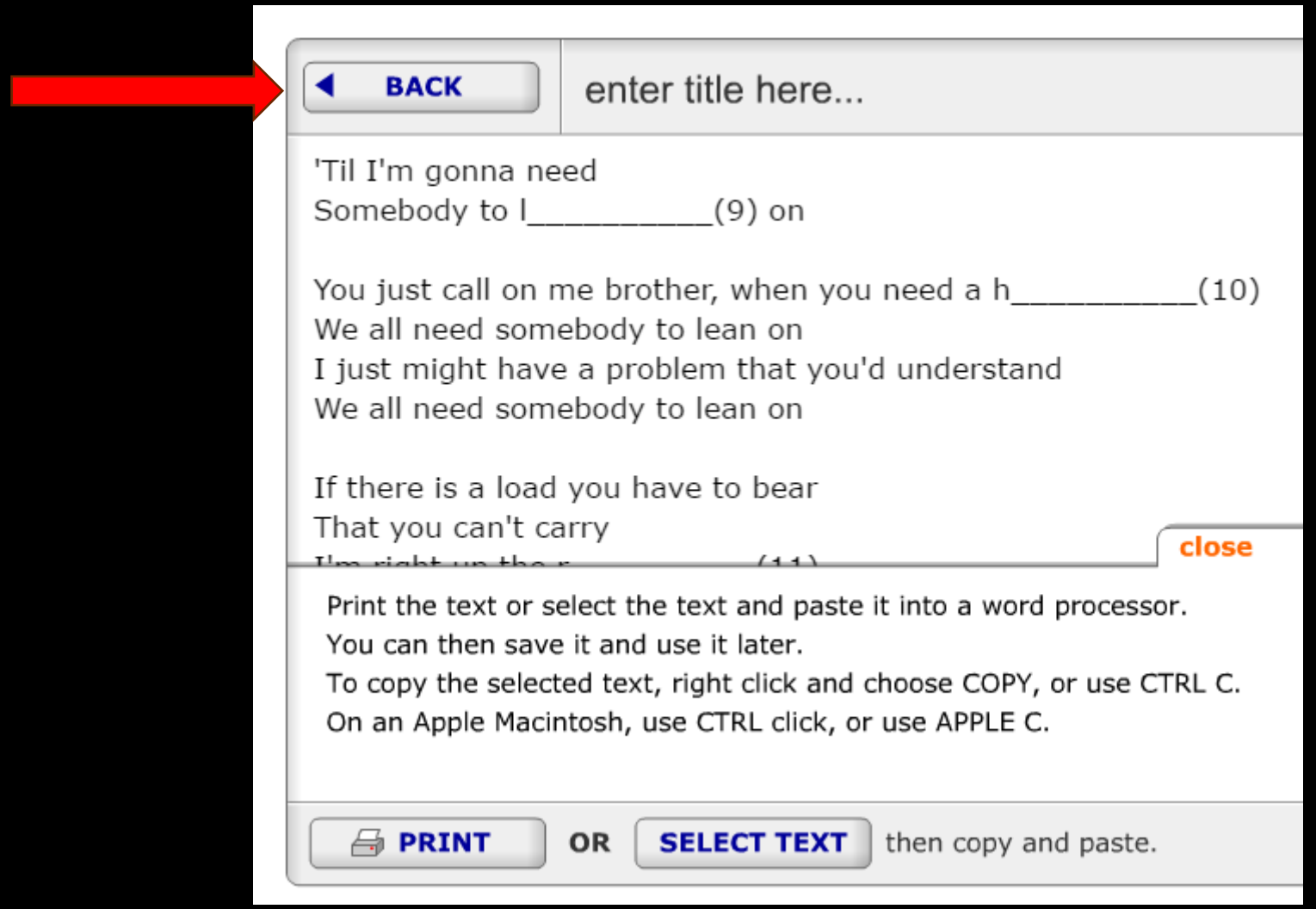


road sorrow brother carry need l
call

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s_____(1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t_____(2)

Lean on me, when y_____(3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna n_____(4)
Somebody to lean on

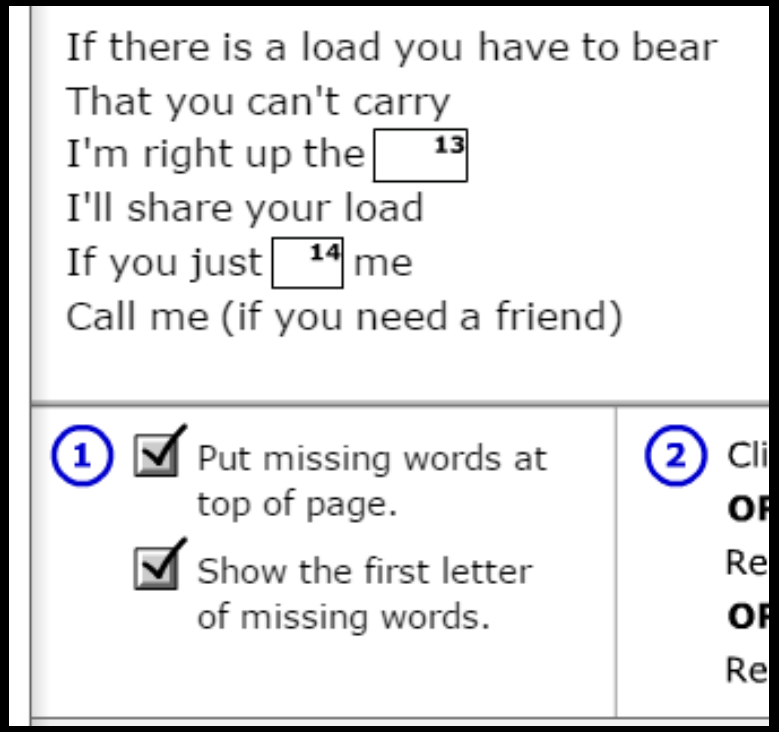
In Cloze Maker, click on *Back*



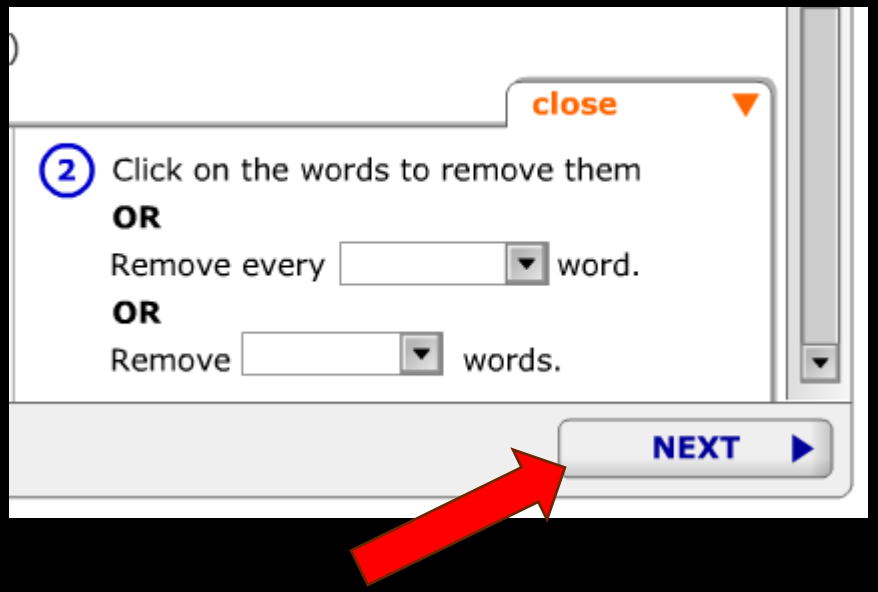
Make the mid-level cloze

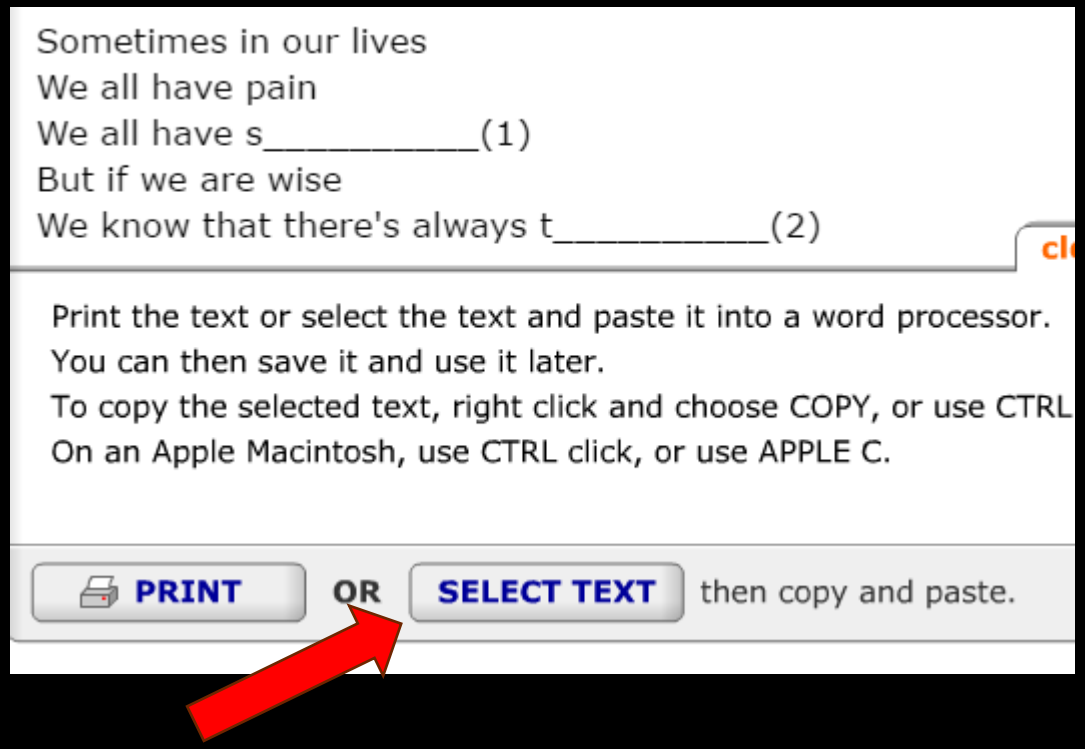
Delete more words

- Here I deleted words from the second half of the song.
- This double the missing word count.
- I kept the missing words and show the first letter.



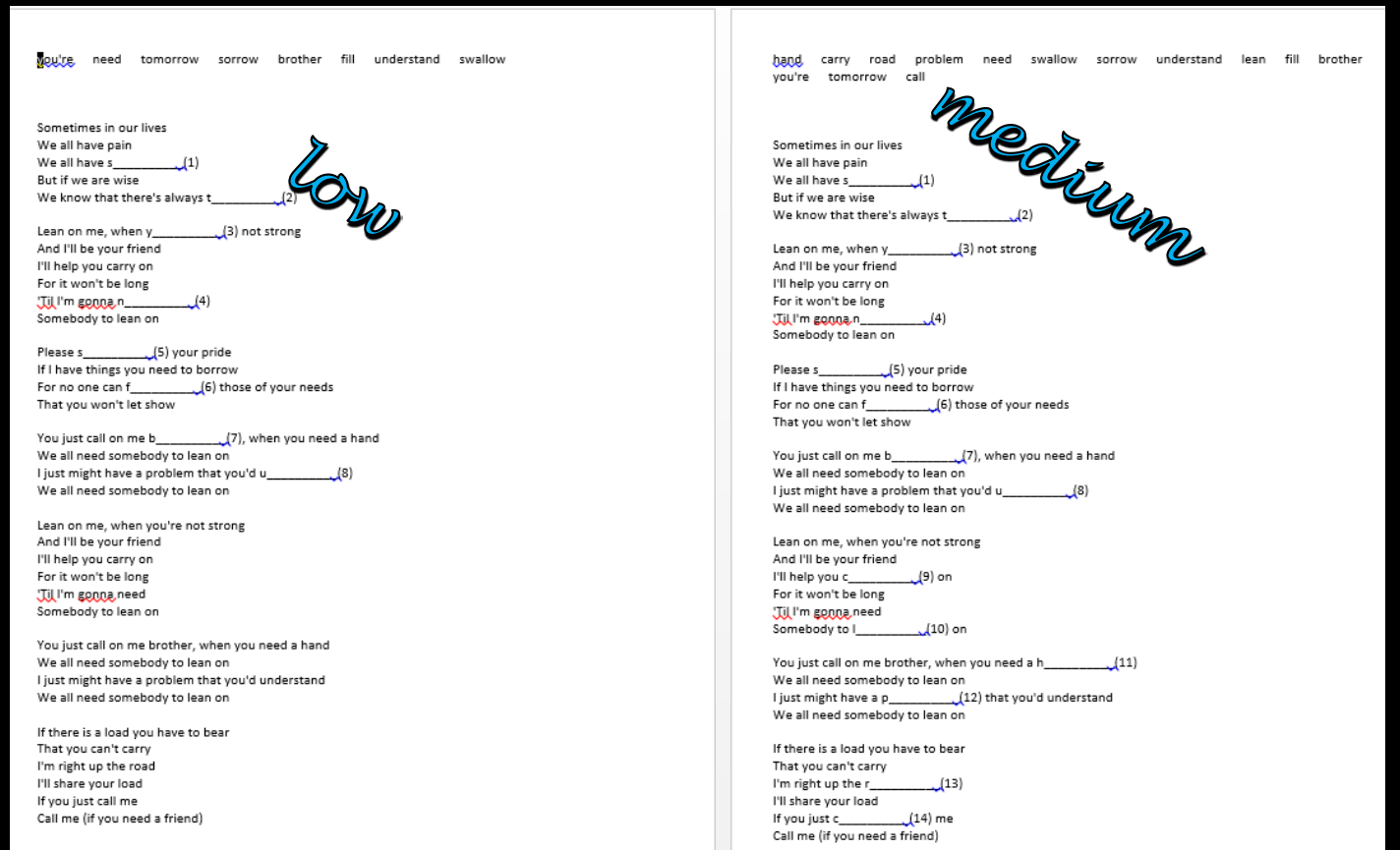
Click *Next* and then *Select Text, copy and paste..*





Paste into your Word file

- Format the document so each activity fits on one page (change margins and font size)
- Now you have two pages of activities – one easy and one medium – plus one page of lyrics
- The low level has 8 missing words, while the medium level has 14



You're need tomorrow sorrow brother fill understand swallow

low

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s_____(1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t_____(2)

Lean on me, when y_____(3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna n_____(4)
Somebody to lean on

Please s_____(5) your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can f_____(6) those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me b_____(7), when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd u_____(8)
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
Call me (if you need a friend)

hand carry road problem need swallow sorrow understand lean fill brother
you're tomorrow call

medium

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s_____(1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t_____(2)

Lean on me, when y_____(3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
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'Til I'm gonna n_____(4)
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We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd u_____(8)
We all need somebody to lean on

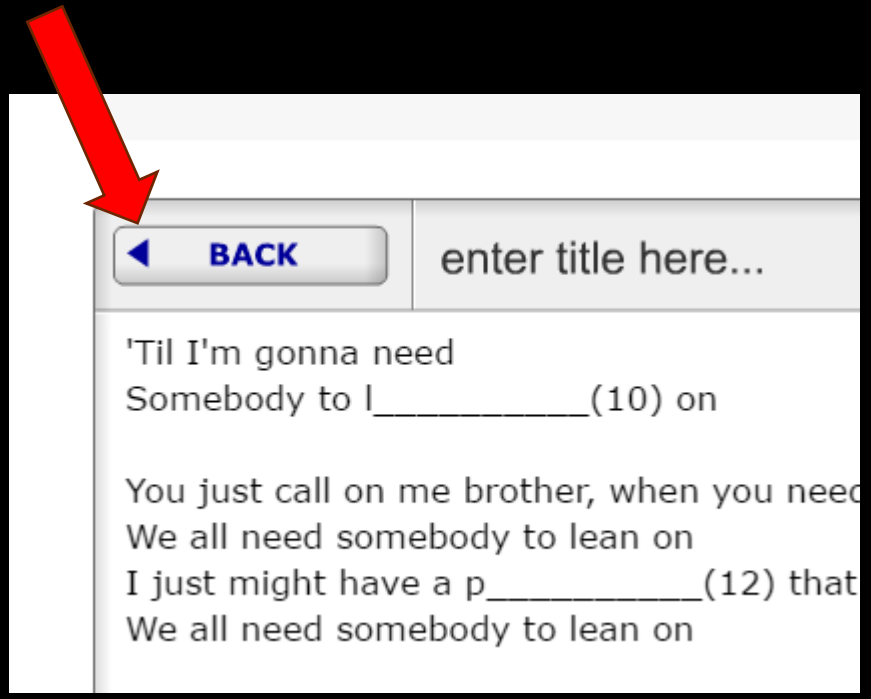
Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you c_____(9) on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to l_____(10) on

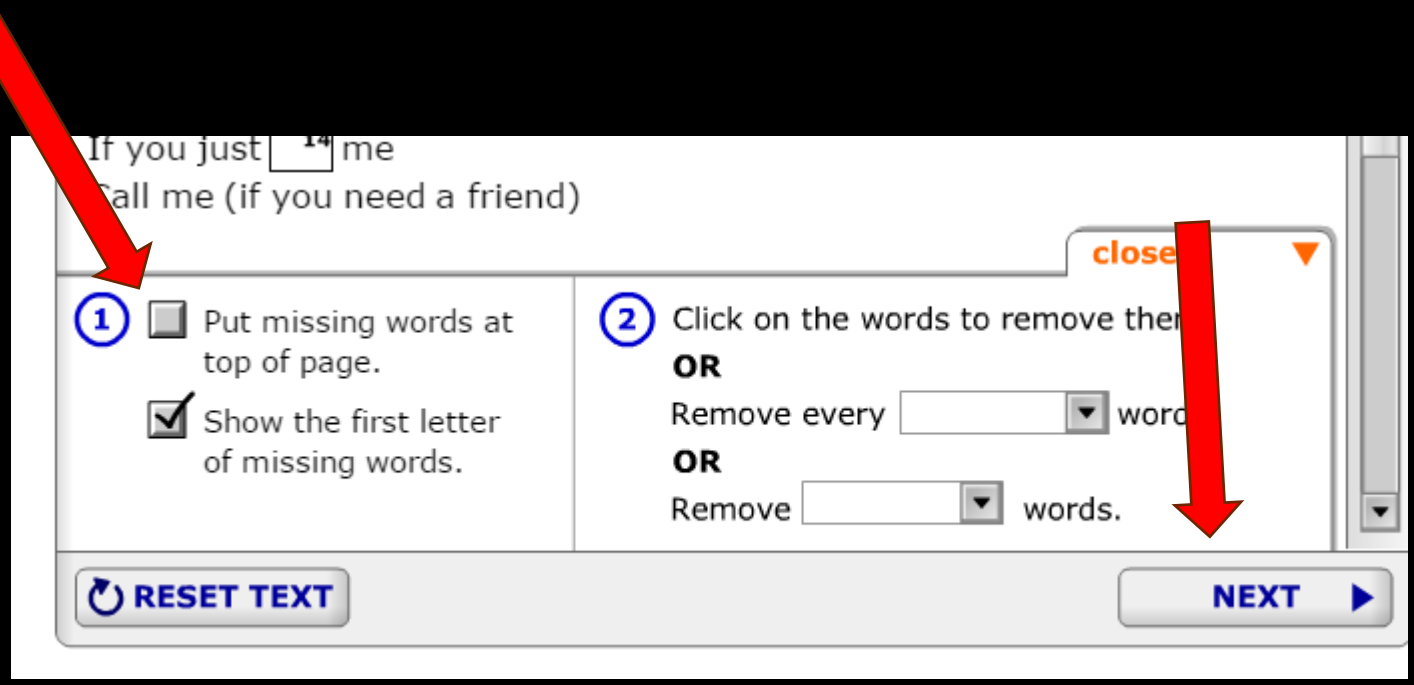
You just call on me brother, when you need a h_____(11)
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a p_____(12) that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the r_____(13)
I'll share your load
If you just c_____(14) me
Call me (if you need a friend)

Make the high-level cloze activity

1. Click on Back
2. Uncheck the Put missing words at top of page box
3. Click NEXT

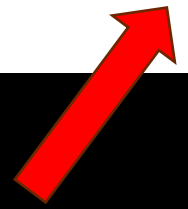




Select the text, then copy and paste into the Word doc

lect the text and paste it into a word processor.
it and use it later.
d text, right click and choose COPY, or use CTRL C.
tosh, use CTRL click, or use APPLE C.

OR **SELECT TEXT** then copy and paste.



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We all have s_____(1)
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And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
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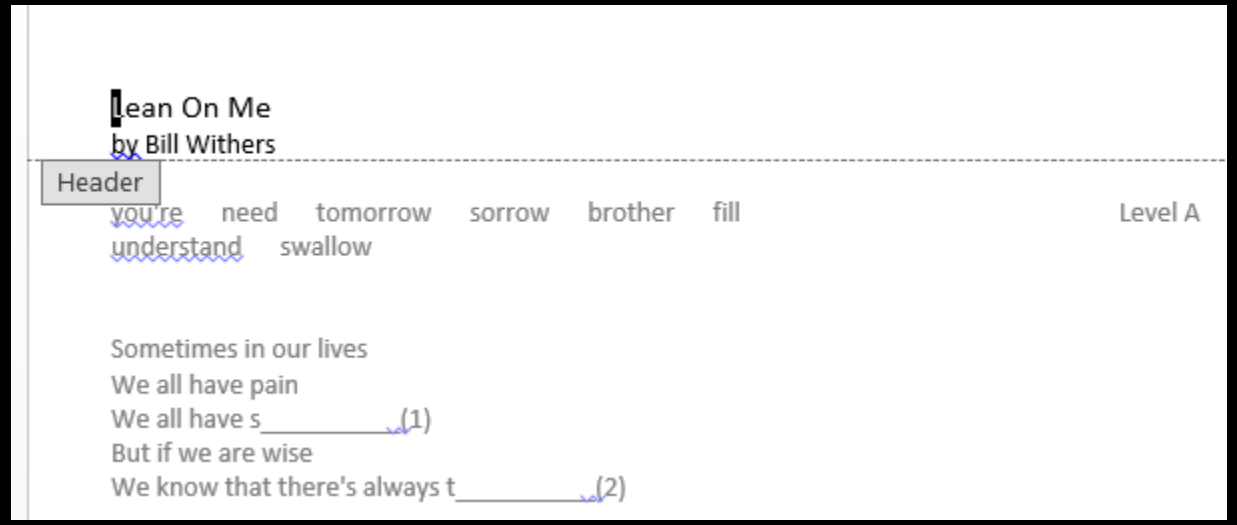
That you can't carry
I'm right up the r_____(13)
I'll share your load
If you just c_____(14) me
Call me (if you need a friend)

Now you have a high-level cloze with

- 14 missing words
- the first letter given
- no word clues at the top of the page

Final formatting of Word document

- You've got 3 different leveled activities on 3 pages, plus a page of lyrics.
- Add the song title and author to the header (so it shows on every page)
- Mark the 3 different leveled activities by difficulty
  - Low, medium, high,
  - A, B, C
  - Beginner, intermediate, advanced



Tips for classroom use

- Print double-sided and put the lyrics on the back so students can self-correct
- Print a couple extra (If I have 5 students at each level, I'll print 7 copies at each level.)
  - This allows students to move up or down in difficulty
  - Students can choose a harder activity to do at home
- Give the students some background on the artist: read a short bio, show some pictures, talk about the era, ask them if they have heard the song.
- Play the song once (if possible, on Youtube on a projector) and students just listen
- Put the activities on a table and let the students choose the level of difficulty
- All-class activity
  - Play the song several times, going around to check on students progress
  - Repeat until most students have finished
  - If certain words are hard for all students, replay that section several times
- Independent activity - have students use PCs or their devices to complete the cloze
- Sing the song together! Especially the easy parts, like the chorus.
- Have the song playing on other days when students are coming into class, or on breaks.
- Add text-dependent and critical thinking questions for the middle and high levels.

Tips for finding songs

- Find song that tells a story
- Not too complex (targeting lower levels)
- Fairly clear lyrics
- Engaging music
- Not offensive to anyone.
- ESL Lounge: A collection of song lyrics and ideas for using them in the classroom
- My website: PDFs of activities + links to Youtube songs