**Song Lesson: “I Wanna Be Like You”** by Robert B. Sherman and Richard M. Sherman

You are going to hear a swing song, “I Wanna Be like You.” **Swing music** was originally popular in the U.S. in the 1930s and 1940s, but it had a **revival** in the 1990s with bands like Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. This song is from the 1967 Walt Disney movie *The Jungle Book*, which was based on short stories by Rudyard Kipling. In the movie, a young boy named Mowgli grows up in the jungle by himself. He comes across the king of the apes, King Louie. King Louie tries to convince Mowgli to give him the secret of fire so that he can become powerful. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy gave the song a swinging feel.

**A. Listening Exercise:**

Listen to the song once. Now listen again.

1. Focus on the lines that say, “I wanna.” Write down these lines, but change the “wanna” to “want to.”

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2. Now listen again and focus on the grammar. Listen for infinitives or gerunds. Write down the ones that you hear. Share your list with another student. If your partner’s list includes words that you didn’t hear, listen again. Try to hear the infinitives or gerunds that your partner heard.

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**B. Grammar Review**: Work with a partner. Look at the lyrics. See how many of these you can find:

1. a verb in the present perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. three noun clauses with question words \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. one noun clause where *that* is omitted! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. a negative command \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. a gerund following a preposition \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. two examples of *want* + infinitive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. the modal *have to* in the past tense \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Speaking & Writing**

In pairs, think of someone that you admire. Talk about this person. Explain why you admire him or her.

In your journal: Write a paragraph about this person. Explain why you want to be like him or her.

**Lyrics: “I Wanna Be Like You”**

Now I'm the king of the swingers  
Oh, the jungle **VIP**  
I've reached the top and had to stop  
And that's what **botherin'** me  
I wanna be a man, mancub  
And **stroll** right into town  
And be just like the other men  
I'm tired of **monkeyin' around**!  
  
Oh, oobee doo  
I wanna be like you  
I wanna walk like you  
Talk like you, too  
You'll see it's true  
An **ape** like me  
Can learn to be human too

( Gee, cousin Louie  
You're doin' real good  
Now here's your part of the deal, **cuz**  
Lay the secret on me of man's red fire  
But I don't know how to make fire )

Now don't try to kid me, mancub  
I made a deal with you  
What I desire is man's red fire  
To make my dream come true  
Give me the secret, mancub  
**Clue me** what to do  
Give me the power of man's red flower  
So I can be like you

You!  
I wanna be like you  
I wanna talk like you  
Walk like you, too  
You'll see it's true   
Someone like me  
Can learn to be  
Like someone like me  
Can learn to be  
Like someone like you  
Can learn to be  
Like someone like me!