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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## My Song, My Home

### Grace in Liverpool



*This is a transcript of a spoken conversation and is not a word-for-word script*

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#### **Grace**

It's, it's got such a musical history, the city. Obviously you've got The Beatles, but there are so many other amazing bands that have come from here. There's so much music coming out of Liverpool.

#### **Pippa**

We're in an old library with wooden shelves full of old books and huge bright windows in the centre of Liverpool, a city in the northwest of England.

#### **Grace**

My name is Grace Chloe. I'm a singer and pianist and songwriter.

#### **Pippa**

Like Grace says, Liverpool is probably most famous for being the home of the rock band The Beatles, who became famous in the 1960s. But there's a lot more to see.

Welcome to My Song, My Home. In this podcast, we visit a different place in each episode and meet a musician that lives there. Today, Grace will explain why she decided to become a musician and tell us about living in Liverpool. We'll also learn some vocabulary from her music later in the programme.

Find a transcript of this episode to read along on our website [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com).

Grace has always had an interest in music.

#### **Grace**

I knew like every word to every song that was on the radio, all the sort of old songs and the new songs I'd always be singing along. If we went to a restaurant, I'd sit there with my headphones in, singing out loud, annoying people at other tables.

#### **Clip from song**

Don't understand what's going on  
Can't help feeling that something is wrong

I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep saying we're great  
It's time we did some  
Straight up talking

**Pippa**

Grace has been singing as long as she can remember. And she began playing the piano as a child.

**Grace**

I lost my eyesight when I was four, and so I had to learn to read Braille and stuff like that. And it was the mobility teacher, so the person that sort of taught me how to use a long cane and stuff, they suggested that, learning the piano could improve my sense of touch and my strength in my hands and my wrists and stuff.

**Pippa**

Grace is blind and had to learn to read Braille. This is a system for reading for people without eyesight, where small bumps can be read by running your fingers across the page. Because Grace had to learn to use touch for reading Braille, a teacher suggested learning the piano might help.

**Grace**

I started playing it for those reasons, but then just as soon as I started, absolutely, like, realised how much I absolutely loved it.

**Clip from song**

And I can't get no answers from you  
No, you know it's true

**Pippa**

Music quickly became a huge part of Grace's life. And she began to love performing when she got a chance to sing on stage at a festival.

**Grace**

There was a group there called Rockeoke and they're basically a live band, karaoke band.

**Pippa**

Rockeoke is a play on the word karaoke, which is where just the music, but not the voice, of a popular song is played so that you can sing along yourself. This version was with a live band and Grace got picked to sing.

**Grace**

And I just remember sort of the second I opened my mouth, the tent of people just went absolutely crazy. By the end of the song, everyone was singing. There were people sort of running in from outside. And when, when I finished the, the crowd started chanting, saying "one more song".

**Pippa**

When Grace performed, the crowd started chanting, repeating the same words, one more song. From that moment, Grace wanted to be a musician.

**Grace**

Yeah, I, it nearly makes me cry talking about it. It was just such an incredible feeling. And it was sort of that was the first time I really knew deep down that I would never want to do anything other than music.

**Pippa**

So Grace moved to Liverpool to study music at the university and it has quickly become home.

**Grace**

It is the friendliest, scariest, most off the wall, lovely, absolutely bananas place in the world. The people here are the loveliest people you will meet anywhere.

**Pippa**

Grace describes Liverpool as 'off the wall', or unusual, and 'bananas', very silly. It's also been a great place for Grace to write and perform. Grace is going to perform her song, Perplexed. Have a listen and visit our website to read the lyrics.

**Clip from song**

Walking around with my head in the clouds  
Got my feet on the ground  
And no doubts about  
Me and you and what we've been through  
We can make it through anything  
'Cause I love you  
But you say it back  
And I can't quite believe  
I'm seeing lies in your eyes  
Hidden behind the green  
I don't understand what's going on  
Can't help feeling that something is wrong

I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep saying we're great  
It's time we did some straight up talking  
I need some understanding  
Don't know where we're standing  
Don't know where we're at  
And I can't get no answers from you  
No, you know it's true  
And though I adore you  
And you say it too  
I'm reading between the subtext  
Got me perplexed

I can't believe I had anxiety  
That I couldn't love you as much as you love me  
But three months on didn't seem so long  
And yet our positions have completely swapped  
I worship the ground you walk on  
You worship the ground behind me  
Begging for you at your feet  
But you just like the sight of me down on my knees

I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep saying we're great  
It's time we did some straight up talking  
I need some understanding  
Don't know where we're standing  
Don't know where we're at  
And I can't get no answers from you  
No, you know it's true  
And though I adore you  
And you say it too  
I'm reading between the subtext  
Got me perplexed

### **Pippa**

The song is called perplexed because Grace wanted to include this strange word in a song. Perplexed means confused because something is too difficult to understand. You might be perplexed by a maths problem, for example. But in the song, Grace is perplexed by a relationship with somebody.

In the song, Grace uses the phrase 'worship the ground you walk on'.

**Clip from song**

I worship the ground you walk on  
You worship the ground behind me

**Pippa**

It's a common expression in English. It means to love or admire someone a lot. So much so that the things they've touched, like the ground they've walked on, become special.

In the song, Grace uses the phrase 'straight up talking'.

**Clip from song**

I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep saying we're great  
It's time we did some straight up talking

**Pippa**

Straight in this context means honest or truthful. Straight up talking means an honest conversation. You can also be a straight talker, which is someone who tells the truth, even if it's difficult. One of the lyrics in the song is 'reading between the subtext'.

**Clip from song**

I'm reading between the subtext  
Got me perplexed

**Pippa**

Now, this is a playful take on a common English expression 'reading between the lines'. If you read between the lines, you try to understand meanings or emotions that are not literally in the words on a page, or that someone has said. This hidden meaning can also be called a subtext.

So if you were reading between the subtext, like Grace does in the song, you would be looking for an even more hidden meaning, maybe one that isn't even there. In the song, it's about being confused about a relationship and looking for answers.

Listen to the rest of Grace's song and read along using the lyrics on our website. Are there any other phrases she uses about being confused or perplexed?

**Clip from song**

You keep talking about them

While I'm right there and I can't help but  
Know I'm not good enough for you  
You keep saying I'm worrying about nothing, nothing at all  
Why is it that when I'm with you  
I used to feel safe, now I feel small

I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep saying that we're great  
I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep nodding, smiling  
"Uh-huh, yeah, we're okay"

I'm lost with you, babe  
Can't keep saying we're great  
It's time we did some straight up talking  
I need some understanding  
Don't know where we're standing  
Don't know where we're at  
And I can't get no answers from you  
No, you know it's true  
And though, I adore you  
And you say it too  
I'm reading between the subtext  
Got me perplexed

### **Pippa**

Thanks for listening to My Song, My Home. You can watch Grace's performance of her song, Perplexed on our website. Visit [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com).

Next time, we'll visit Leeds in the north of England to meet another musician and hear another live performance.

See you then.