« What If… »

Activity One – Read the Lyrics paying attention to your intonation and pronunciation. Try to be expressive.

What If Lyrics
Artist(Band):**Cold play**

What if there was no light.
Nothing wrong, nothing right.
What if there was no time?
And no reason or rhyme?
What if you should decide
That you don't want me there by your side.
That you don't want me there in your life.

What if I got it wrong?
And no poem or song..
Could put right what I got wrong,
Or make you feel I belong
What if you should decide
That you don't want me there by your side
That you don't want me there in your life.

Oooooh, that's right
Let's take a breath, jump over the side.
Oooooh, that's right
How can you know it if you don't even try?
Oooooh, that's right

Every step that you take
Could be your biggest mistake
It could bend or it could break
But that's the risk that you take
What if you should decide
That you don't want me there in your life.
That you don't want me there by your side.

Oooooh, that's right
Let's take a breath jump over the side.
Oooooh, that's right
How can you know it when you don't even try?
Oooooh, that's right

Oooooh, that's right
Let's take a breath jump over the side
Oooooh, that's right
You know that darkness always turns into light
Oooooh, that's right..

Activity Two – Now watch the video clip and then answer the questions

1. Is the action going backwards or forwards?
2. What happens in the video?
3. What do you think the song is about?
4. What examples of things going wrong are shown?
5. What's the mood of the song?
6. Do you like the song?
7. Do you like the video?
8. « Every step that you take could be your biggest mistake » what do you think of this statement?
9. What do you think the message of this song is?
10. Do you know any idiomatic expressions about either regrets or making the most of life or time going quickly

Activity Three - If I should…

Let's look at this particular structure which is often used in literary English and which you have seen in the cold play song. Should is a model verb and you can use it in a conditional sentence if you want to draw attention to the fact that the possibility of something happening is small or something which would be very bad if it happened.

- If you should happen to see him before I do, can you tell him that I want to speak to him urgently?
- If there should be a problem, just give me a call and I'll sort it out.
- If anyone should ask where I am, say I'm in a meeting.
- If I she should decide to forget me forever.
- If I should die…

Activity Four – Poem.

Once again trying to put some expression into your voice and using intonation and stress to this effect read the following poem.

Life Goes On

If I should go before the rest of you
Break not a flower
Nor inscribe a stone
Nor when I am gone
Speak in a Sunday voice
But be the usual selves
That I have known

Weep if you must
Parting is hell
But life goes on
So .... sing as well
Joyce Grenfell
1910-1979

Activity Five – Questions

1. When She says « If I should go » what does she mean?
2. What does she mean about flowers and stones?
3. How does she want people to react if this thing happens?
4. What is the poet's main message?
5. Do you like this poem?

Activity Six – Read the Information about the Conditional Tenses in English.

Activity Seven – What if…. Survey.

Ask the questions to other people in the class or to your teachers. Then talk about what they or you would do if…. Use the conditional.

Question	**Answer**
What would you do if you won the lottery?	
What would you do if your favourite film star asked you to marry them?	
What would you do if you were offered an amazing new job in China?	
What would you change if you were given the chance to live your life again?	
If you could time travel which era would you chose to travel to?	
If you could swap lives with any person on this earth who would you chose?	
If you could be famous for something what would you want to be remembered for?	
If you were chosen to appear on a reality TV show would you agree to participate?	
If you could change one thing about your body or face what would it be?	