

TOM'S DINER

SUSAN VEGA

Of course, you will need the song for this activity. I'm sure someone will have a copy of the album – downloading the mp3 from a computer would be breaking copyright laws!

Purpose

Primarily, this song can be used through the semester at any level (although level 1 will need plenty of support) as a 15~20 minute activity to **add variety** to the class: three or four stanzas every week or two. It could also be used in the last class after feedback as a 'fun' activity.

- It can be used as a simple **listening activity**. Primarily, ~ing forms, unstressed syllables, prepositions are the focus of the listening.
- It can be used for **pronunciation** practice (the song has a powerful and simple rhythm).
- It can be used for **performance**. The song is full of actions and the people in it (four) can be played by students as the music plays (especially if you have Sobun students!).
- It can be used for **comprehension** practice.
- It can be a source of **vocabulary** (see Damian Fitzpatrick's vocabulary self-assessment sheet) and to encourage out-of-class listening/practice.
- It can be used for **anything!**

Possible topic links/Questions:

- **Free time**. What do you do in your free time? (listen to music / hang out in cafes / read - newspapers),
- **Routines**. What do you usually do in the morning?
- **Prepositions of place**
- **Greetings** (short dialogue + the man kisses his friend)
- **Music**. What kind of music do you like?
- **Emotions**. How does this music make you feel?
- Etc.

Please add your own ideas and let me know how it goes if you use it.

I am □□□□□□□□□□□□

TOM'S DINER

SUSAN VEGA

In the morning
_____ diner
On the corner

I am _____
At the counter
_____ man
To pour the coffee

And he fills it
Only halfway
And before
I even argue

He is _____
Out the window
_____ somebody
Coming in

"It is always
_____ see you"
Says the man
_____ the counter

To the woman
Who has come in
She is _____
Her umbrella

And I _____
The other way
As they are _____
Their hellos

And I'm _____
Not to see them
And Instead
I pour the milk

I _____
Up the paper
There's a story
_____ actor

Who had died
While he was _____
It was no one
I had heard of

And I'm _____
To the horoscope
And _____
For the funnies

When I'm _____
Someone watching me

I raise my head

There's a woman
_____ outside
Looking inside
Does she see me?

No she does not
Really see me
Cause she sees
Her own reflection

And I'm _____
Not to notice
That she's _____
Up her skirt

And while she's
_____ her stockings
Her hair
Has gotten wet

Oh, this rain
It will continue
Through the morning
As I'm _____

To the bells
Of the cathedral
I am _____
Of your voice...

TOM'S DINER

SUSAN VEGA

I am sitting
In the morning
At the diner
On the corner

I am waiting
At the counter
For the man
To pour the coffee

And he fills it
Only halfway
And before
I even argue

He is looking
Out the window
At somebody
Coming in

"It is always
Nice to see you"
Says the man
Behind the counter

To the woman
Who has come in
She is shaking
Her umbrella

And I look
The other way
As they are kissing
Their hellos

And I'm pretending
Not to see them
And Instead
I pour the milk

I open
Up the paper
There's a story
Of an actor

Who had died
While he was drinking
It was no one
I had heard of

And I'm turning
To the horoscope
And looking
For the funnies

When I'm feeling
Someone watching me
And so
I raise my head

There's a woman
On the outside
Looking inside
Does she see me?

No she does not
Really see me
Cause she sees
Her own reflection

And I'm trying
Not to notice
That she's hitching
Up her skirt

And while she's
Straightening her stockings
Her hair
Has gotten wet

Oh, this rain
It will continue
Through the morning
As I'm listening

To the bells
Of the cathedral
I am thinking
Of your voice...