Language functions: **listening comprehension**
Grammar focus: **second conditional sentences**
Lesson based on: **song by Katie Melua – If You Were a Sailboat**

IF YOU WERE A SAILBOAT

Guess the Question

ACTIVITY 1

How much do you know about Katie Melua? Look at the answers below and try to guess the questions.

- .....

- In Kutaisi, Georgia, which was part of the Soviet Union.

- .....

- In Paddington, London.

- .....

- He is a heart specialist.

- .....

- Three: Georgian, Russian and English.

- .....

- Roller coasters, fun fairs, paragliding and hang gliding.

- .....

- English literature, history and physics.

focus on grammar

ACTIVITY 2
Put together the beginnings and ends of the sentences.

1. If you were a cowboy	A. I would swim you.
2. If you were a piece of wood	B. I know you'd spring me.
3. If you were a sailboat	C. You would lead me to the light.
4. If you were a river	D. You'd sing me soothing songs.
5. If you were a house	E. You'd read me every night.
6. If you were a preacher	F. I would sail you to the shore.
7. If I was in jail	G. I would live in you all my days.
8. If I was a telephone	H. I would trail you.
9. If I was in pain	I. You'd feed me.
10. If I was hungry	J. You'd ring me all day long.
11. If I was a book	K. I'd nail you to the floor.

focus on listening

ACTIVITY 3
Listen do Katie Melua's song – *If You Were a Sailboat* to see if your sentences in ACTIVITY 2 are the same as the ones in the lyrics of the song.

In second conditional sentences (would … if … past tense) we talk about situations which are unlikely, impossible or imaginary.

If I were a TV star, I would be rich.
(I'm not a TV star and it is highly unlikely that I will ever be one, so what I am saying is an imaginary situation)

NOTE: In this kind of sentences, we often use WERE instead of WAS. In the song Katie Melua sings: *If I was in jail ….*, but in a more formal style it is considered more correct to say: *If I were in jail …*

focus on vocabulary

ACTIVITY 4

Look at the complete lyrics of Katie Melua's song and match the words and expressions with their meanings.

.....	• follow a person or animal, usually by using marks, signs or scent left behind
.....	• the land along the edge of a sea or lake
.....	• a person, usually a priest, who gives a religious talk in a public place, especially in a church during a service
.....	• the power that is believed to control everything that happens and that cannot be stopped or change
.....	• to give the impression of being sincere, true
.....	• to decide to do something, knowing that it might be a wrong choice
.....	• a prison
.....	• (informal) to help the prisoner escape
.....	• making somebody who is nervous feel calmer

Katie Melua: If You Were a Sailboat

If you were a cowboy I would trail you,
If you were a piece of wood I'd nail you to the floor.
If you were a sailboat I would sail you to the shore.
If you were a river I would swim you,
If you were a house I would live in you all my days.
If you were a preacher I'd begin to change my ways.

Sometimes I believe in fate,
But the chances we create,
Always seem to ring more true.
You took a chance on loving me,
I took a chance on loving you.

If I was in jail I know you'd spring me,
If I was a telephone you'd ring me all day long.
If I was in pain I know you'd sing me soothing songs.

Sometimes I believe in fate,
But the chances we create,
Always seem to ring more true.
You took a chance on loving me,
I took a chance on loving you.
If I was hungry you would feed me,

If I was in darkness you would lead me to the light.
If I was a book I know you'd read me every night.
If you were a cowboy I would trail you,
If you were a piece of wood I'd nail you to the floor.

If you were sailboat I would sail you to the shore …

focus on writing

ACTIVITY 5

Can you come up with additional lines for this love song? Write as many as you can.
e.g. *If you were a tree, I would sit in your shade all day.*