



If I Were A Boy – Beyoncé - Notes



- **Activity types:** Discussion, gap fill, vocabulary.
 - **Grammar:** Contracted form, phrasal verbs, second conditional
 - **Note:** This was the first single taken from *I Am... Sasha Fierce*, Beyoncé's third solo album, released in 2008.
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1. Discussion: Ask students what they would do if they could change sex for one day.
2. Give students a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to complete Exercises 1 and 2.

- Key:**
1. a. I'd; b. it's; c. you're; d. don't
 2. a. chase **after**
b. chase **away**
c. stick **up**
d. stick **up for**
e. throw **off**
f. throw **on**
g. turn **on**
h. turn **off**

3. Ask them to look at Exercise 3, and if necessary revise the Second conditional, used for hypothetical situations (tell boys to imagine they were girls!). You may need to explain that normally, the past tense of the verb "to be" is: I was, he was. But the *if I were you* structure does not use the past simple tense of the verb "to be". It uses the **past subjunctive** of the verb "to be". *If I was* is acceptable in spoken English. See <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verbs-subjunctive.htm> for a more detailed explanation.

- Key:**
- a. If I **were** a boy I'd **roll out** of bed in the morning.
 - b. If I **were** a boy I **could** understand how it feels to love a girl.
 - c. If I **were** a boy I'd **turn off** my phone.

4. Students can now complete the numbered gaps.
5. Play the song, students check and complete the missing gaps.
6. Check with a partner, then in open class.
7. Discuss any vocabulary problems. (Note: *kick it* is American slang for *to hang out* (also slang), or spend time with friends)
8. Sing the song together.
9. **Follow up:** Ask students to write five more things they would do if they were of the opposite sex. If they want they can sing them as part of the song!



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1. **Contractions** - Write the contracted form of the following sentences

a. I would forgive you like that. _____ ⁽¹⁾ forgive you like that.	c. But you are just a boy. But _____ ⁽³⁾ just a boy.
b. Say it is just a mistake. Say _____ ⁽²⁾ just a mistake.	d. You do not listen to her. You _____ ⁽⁴⁾ listen to her.

2. **Phrasal Verbs** - Choose the correct preposition(s) to form the phrasal verb

after	away	off (2)	on (2)	up	up for
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- a. chase _____ ⁽⁵⁾ to pursue with the intent of catching
 b. chase _____ to force to go away
 c. stick _____ to rob at gunpoint
 d. stick _____ ⁽⁶⁾ to support and defend by words or actions
 e. throw _____ to free oneself from (something bad)
 f. throw _____ ⁽⁷⁾ to put on (something)
 g. turn _____ to cause to operate by using a switch
 h. turn _____ ⁽⁸⁾ to cause to stop operating by disengaging a switch



3. **Second conditional** - Write the verbs in brackets in the correct tense

- a. If I _____ ⁽⁹⁾ (be) a boy I _____ ⁽¹⁰⁾ (roll out) of bed in the morning.
 b. If I _____ ⁽⁹⁾ (be) a boy I _____ ⁽¹¹⁾ (can) understand how it feels to love a girl.
 c. If I _____ ⁽⁹⁾ (be) a boy I _____ (turn off) my phone.

4. **Song** - Complete the numbered gaps with the answers from above, then listen to complete the remaining gaps.

If I _____ ⁽⁹⁾ a boy
 Even just for a day
 _____ ⁽¹⁰⁾ roll out of bed in the morning
 And _____ ⁽⁷⁾ what I wanted and go
 Drink beer with the guys
 And _____ ⁽⁵⁾ girls
 I'd kick it with who I wanted
 And I'd never get confronted for it
 Cause they stick _____ ⁽⁶⁾ for me

Chorus:

If I _____ ⁽⁹⁾ a boy
 I think I _____ ⁽¹¹⁾ understand
 How it feels to love a _____
 I swear I'd be a better man
 I'd listen to her
 'Cause I know how it hurts
 When you lose the one you _____
 'Cause he's taking you for granted
 And everything you had got _____

If I _____ ⁽⁹⁾ a boy
 I would _____ ⁽⁸⁾ my phone
 Tell everyone it's broken
 So they'd think that I was sleeping alone

I'd put myself first
 And make the rules as I go
 'Cause I know that she'd be faithful,
 Waiting for me to come home, to come home.

Repeat Chorus

It's a little too late for you to come back
 Say _____ ⁽²⁾ just a mistake,
 Think _____ ⁽¹⁾ forgive you like that
 If you thought I would wait for you
 You thought wrong
 But you're just a boy
 You don't understand
 Yeah you don't understand, ooh
 How it feels to love a girl
 Someday you wish you were a better man
 You _____ ⁽⁴⁾ listen to her
 You _____ ⁽⁴⁾ care how it hurts
 Until you lose the one you wanted
 'Cause _____ ⁽³⁾ taking her for granted
 And everything you had got destroyed
 But _____ ⁽³⁾ just a boy



If I Were A Boy – Beyoncé - Complete



If I were a boy even just for a day
I'd roll out of bed in the morning
And throw on what I wanted and go
Drink beer with the guys

And chase after girls
I'd kick it with who I wanted
And I'd never get confronted for it
'Cause they stick up for me

Chorus:

If I were a boy
I think I could understand
How it feels to love a girl
I swear I'd be a better man
I'd listen to her
'Cause I know how it hurts
When you lose the one you wanted
'Cause he's taking you for granted
And everything you had got destroyed

If I were a boy
I would turn off my phone
Tell everyone it's broken
So they'd think that I was sleeping alone

I'd put myself first
And make the rules as I go
'Cause I know that she'd be faithful
Waiting for me to come home, come home

Repeat Chorus

It's a little too late for you to come back
Say it's just a mistake
Think I'd forgive you like that
If you thought I would wait for you
You thought wrong

But you're just a boy
You don't understand
Yeah you don't understand, oooh
How it feels to love a girl
Someday you wish you were a better man

You don't listen to her
You don't care how it hurts
Until you lose the one you wanted
'Cause you're taking her for granted
And everything you had got destroyed

But you're just a boy

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