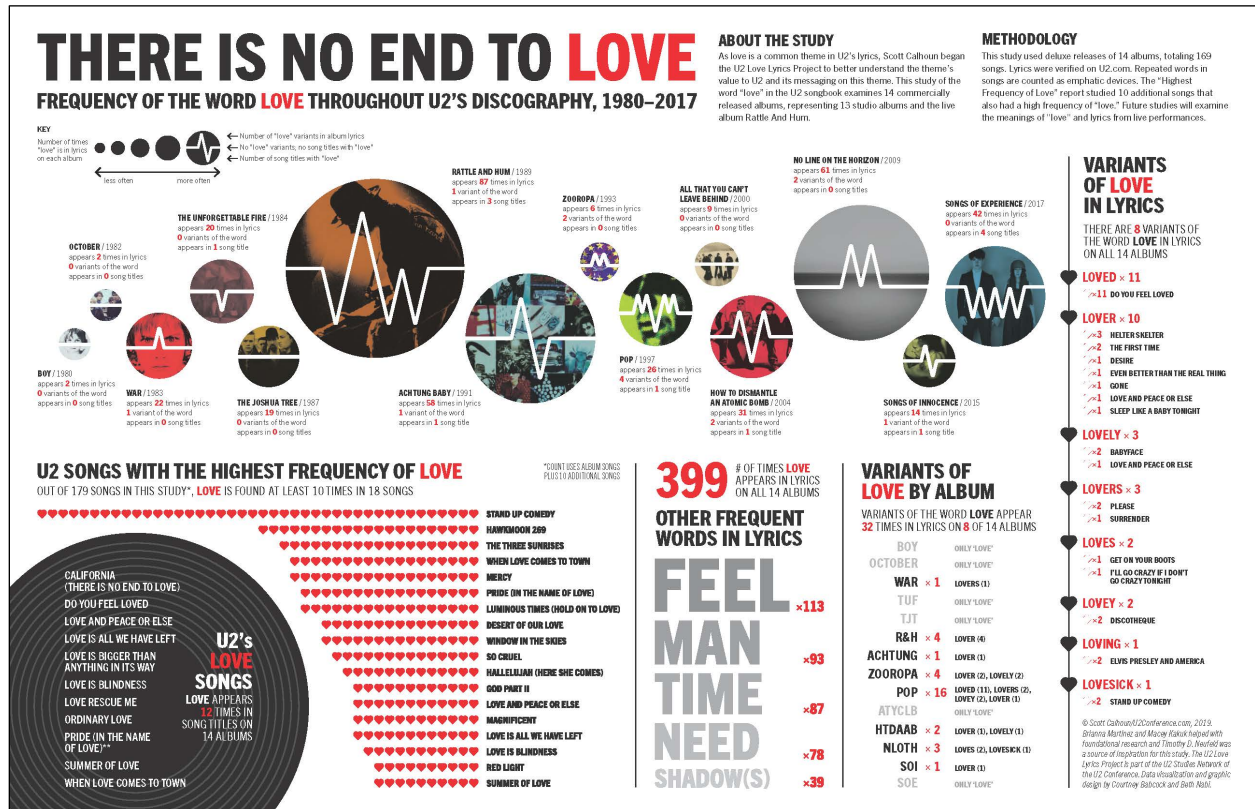


This study uses lyrics published on U2.com, which differ in a few instances from the lyrics sung on studio recordings and printed in albums. All lyrics here are shared for educational purposes only. U2's lyrics are ©U2.

“What U2 Talk About When U2 Talk About Love: *Achtung Baby* Edition” Prepared for The U2 Conference 2021

Taken from “The U2 Love Lyrics Project: There is No End to Love”
©Scott Calhoun

Special thanks to Brianna Martinez, Macey Kakuk,
Courtney Babcock, and Beth Nabi



Achtung Baby (1991)

- Love in a song title = 1
- Love in all lyrics = 58
- Love as other forms (lover) = 1
- Song with most love = “So Cruel” (14)
- Song with least love = “Tryin’ To Throw Your Arms Around the World” (0)
- Love ranking of all albums = 3rd



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Zoo Station (2)

I'm ready
Ready for the laughing gas
I'm ready
Ready for what's next
Ready to duck
Ready to dive
Ready to say
I'm glad to be alive
I'm ready
Ready for the push

In the cool of the night
In the warmth of the breeze
I'll be crawling around
On my hands and knees

She's just down the line ... Zoo Station
Got to make it on time ... Zoo Station

I'm ready
Ready for the gridlock
I'm ready
To take it to the street
Ready for the shuffle
Ready for the deal
Ready to let go
Of the steering wheel
I'm ready
Ready for the crush

Alright, alright, alright, alright, alright
It's alright ... it's alright ... it's alright ... it's alright
Hey baby ... hey baby ... hey baby ... hey baby ...
It's alright
It's alright

Time is a train
Makes the future the past
Leaves you standing in the station
Your face pressed up against the glass

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I'm just down the line from your **love** ... Zoo Station **noun, object of the preposition**

Under the sign of your **love** ... Zoo Station **noun, object of the preposition**

I'm gonna be there ... Zoo Station

Tracing the line ... Zoo Station

I'm gonna make it on time ... make it on time ... Zoo Station

Just two stops down the line ... Zoo Station

Just a stop down the line ... Zoo Station

Noun, object of the preposition = 2

Even Better Than The Real Thing (1 form)

Give me one more chance

And you'll be satisfied

Give me two more chances

You won't be denied

Well, my heart is where it's always been

My head is somewhere in between

Give me one more chance

Let me be your **lover** tonight **noun, direct object**

Oh yeah, check it out

You're the real thing

Yeah, the real thing

You're the real thing

Even better than the real thing, child

Give me one last chance

And I'm gonna make you sing

Give me half a chance

To ride on the waves that you bring

You're honey, child, to a swarm of bees

Gonna blow right through you like a breeze

Give me one last dance

We'll slide down the surface of things

You're the real thing

Yeah, the real thing

You're the real thing

Even better than the real thing, child

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We're free to fly the crimson sky
The sun won't melt our wings tonight
Oh now
Oh yeah, here she comes
Take me higher
Take me higher
You take me higher
You take me higher

You're the real thing
Yeah, the real thing
You're the real thing
Even better than the real thing
Even better than the real thing
Even better than the real thing

noun, direct object = 1

One (8)

Is it getting better
Or do you feel the same
Will it make it easier on you
Now you got someone to blame
You say one **love**, one life **noun, direct object**
When it's one need in the night
It's one **love noun, direct object**
We get to share it
It leaves you baby
If you don't care for it

Did I disappoint you
Or leave a bad taste in your mouth
You act like you never had **love noun, direct object**
And you want me to go without
Well it's too late tonight
To drag the past out into the light
We're one but we're not the same
We get to carry each other, carry each other
One

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Have you come here for forgiveness
Have you come to raise the dead
Have you come here to play Jesus
To the lepers in your head
Did I ask too much
More than a lot
You gave me nothing
Now it's all I got
We're one but we're not the same
We hurt each other, then we do it again

You say **love** is a temple **noun, direct object**

Love a higher law **noun, subject**

Love is a temple **noun, subject**

Love the higher law **noun, subject**

You ask me to enter but then you make me crawl

And I can't be holding on to what you got

When all you got is hurt

One **love**, one blood, one life **noun, subject**

You got to do what you should

One life with each other

Sisters, brothers

One life but we're not the same

We get to carry each other, carry each other

One

One

Making it, making it, making it, making it

High, high, high, high

noun, direct object = 4

noun, subject = 4

Until The End Of The World (1)

(Extra note: The printed lyrics on U2.com, which this study uses, have fewer instances of the word love than the sung lyrics on the studio recording.)

Haven't seen you in quite a while
I was down the hold, just passing time.
Last time we met it was a low-lit room
We were as close together as a bride and groom.

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We ate the food, we drank the wine
Everybody having a good time except you.
You were talking about the end of the world.

I took the money, I spiked your drink
You miss too much these days if you stop to think.
You led me on with those innocent eyes
And you know I **love** the element of surprise. **present verb**
In the garden I was playing the tart
I kissed your lips and broke your heart.
You, you were acting like it was the end of the world.

In my dream, I was drowning my sorrows
But my sorrows they'd learned to swim
Surrounding me, going down on me
Spilling over the brim
Waves of regret and waves of joy.
I reached out for the one I tried to destroy.
You, you said you'd wait till the end of the world.

present verb = 1

Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses (1)

You're dangerous 'cos you're honest
You're dangerous 'cos you don't know what you want
Well, you left my heart empty as a vacant lot
For any spirit to haunt
Hey hey, sha la la, hey hey

You're an accident waiting to happen
You're a piece of glass left there on the beach
Well you tell me things I know you're not supposed to
Then you leave me just out of reach
Hey hey, sha la la
Hey hey, sha la la

Who's gonna ride your wild horses
Who's gonna drown in your blue sea
Who's gonna ride your wild horses
Who's gonna fall at the foot of thee

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Well you stole it 'cos I needed the cash
And you killed it 'cos I needed revenge
Well you lied to me 'cos I asked you to
Baby, can we still be friends
Hey hey, sha la la
Hey hey, sha la la

Who's gonna ride your wild horses
Who's gonna drown in your blue sea
Who's gonna ride your wild horses
Who's gonna fall at the foot of thee

The deeper I spin
The hunter will sin for your ivory skin
Took a drive in the dirty rain
To a place where the wind calls your name
Under the trees, the river laughing at you and me
Hallelujah, heaven's white rose
The doors you open, I just can't close

Don't turn around
Don't turn around
Don't turn around
Your gypsy heart
Don't turn around
Don't turn around again
Don't turn around
And don't look back
Come on now **love noun, subject**
Don't you look back

Who's gonna ride your wild horses
Who's gonna drown in your blue sea
Who's gonna taste your salt water kisses
Wh's gonna take the place of me
Who's gonna ride your wild horses
Who could tame the heart of thee

noun, subject = 1

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So Cruel (14)

We crossed the line, who pushed who over?
It doesn't matter to you, it matters to me.
We're cut adrift, but still floating.
I'm only hanging on to watch you go down, my **love**. **noun, direct object**

I disappeared in you
You disappeared from me.
I gave you everything you ever wanted
It wasn't what you wanted.
The men who **love** you, you hate the most **present verb**
They pass right through you like a ghost.
They look for you, but your spirit is in the air.
Baby, you're nowhere.

Oh, **love**, you say in **love** there are no rules. **noun, subject, noun, object of the preposition**
Oh, **love**, sweet-heart, you're so cruel. **noun, subject**

Desperation is a tender trap
It gets you every time.
You put your lips to her lips
To stop the lie.
Her skin is pale like God's only dove
Screams like an angel for your **love** **noun, object of the preposition**
Then she makes you watch her from above
And you need her like a drug.

Oh, **love**, you say in **love** there are no rules. **noun, subject, noun, object of the preposition**
Oh, **love**, sweet-heart, you're so cruel. **noun, subject**

She wears my **love** like a see-through dress **noun, direct object**
Her lips say one thing, her movements something else.
Oh, **love**, like a screaming flower **noun, subject**
Love dying every hour. **noun, subject**
Ah, you don't know if it's fear or desire,
Danger the drug that takes you higher?
Head of heaven, fingers in the mire
Her heart is racing you can't keep up.
The night is bleeding like a cut

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Between the horses of **love** and lust we are trampled underfoot. **noun, object of the preposition**
Oh, **love**, to stay with you I'd be a fool. **noun, subject**
Oh, sweetheart, you're so cruel.

noun, subject = 7

noun, direct object = 2

noun, object of the preposition = 4

present verb = 1

The Fly (8)

Oh, baby child
It's no secret that the stars are falling from the sky
It's no secret that our world is in darkness tonight
They say the sun is sometimes eclipsed by a moon
You know I don't see you when she walks in the room
It's no secret that a friend is someone who lets you help
It's no secret that a liar won't believe anyone else
They say a secret is something you tell one other person
So I'm telling you, child

Love, we shine like a burning star **noun, subject**
We're falling from the sky tonight
A man will beg
A man will crawl
On the sheer face of **love** **noun, object of the preposition**
Like a fly on a wall
It's no secret at all

It's no secret that a conscience can sometimes be a pest
It's no secret ambition bites the nails of success
Every artist is a cannibal, every poet is a thief
All kill their inspiration and sing about their grief
Oh **love** **noun, subject**

Love, we shine like a burning star **noun, subject**
We're falling from the sky tonight
A man will rise
A man will fall
From the sheer face of **love** **noun, object of the preposition**

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Like a fly from a wall
It's no secret at all

Achtung baby

Love, we shine like a burning star **noun, subject**

We're falling from the sky tonight

Love, we shine like a burning star **noun, subject**

We're falling from the sky tonight

A man will rise

A man will fall

From the sheer face of **love** **noun, object of the preposition**

Like a fly from a wall

It's no secret at all

It's no secret that the stars are falling from the sky

The universe exploded 'cause of one man's lie

Look, I gotta go, yeah I'm running outta change

There's a lot of things, if I could I'd rearrange

noun, subject = 5

noun, object of the preposition = 3

Mysterious Ways (7)

Johnny, take a walk with your sister the moon

Let her pale light in to fill up your room

You've been living underground, eating from a can

You've been running away from what you don't understand

Love **noun, subject**

She's slippy, you're sliding down

She'll be there when you hit the ground

It's alright, it's alright, it's alright

She moves in mysterious ways

It's alright, it's alright, it's alright

She moves in mysterious ways

Johnny, take a dive with your sister in the rain

Let her talk about the things you can't explain

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To touch is to heal, to hurt is to steal
If you want to kiss the sky, better learn how to kneel
On your knees, boy

She's the wave, she turns the tide
She sees the man inside the child

It's alright, it's alright, it's alright
She moves in mysterious ways
It's alright, it's alright, it's alright
She moves in mysterious ways
It's alright, it's alright, it's alright
Lift my days, light up my nights, **love noun, subject**

One day you'll look back, and you'll see
Where you were held
How by this **love** while you could stand there **noun, object of the preposition**
You could move on this moment
Follow this feeling

It's alright, it's alright, it's alright
She moves in mysterious ways
It's alright, it's alright, it's alright
She moves in mysterious ways
Love, it's alright, it's alright, it's alright **noun, subject**
We move through miracle days
Move you, spirit, move, making **love noun, direct object**
It's alright, it's alright, it's alright
Yeah, move, yeah, move, make **love noun, direct object**
Spirit moves in mysterious ways
You move with it, she moves with it
It's alright, it's alright, alright
Lift my days, light up my nights, **love noun, subject**

noun, subject = 4

noun, object of the preposition = 1

noun direct object = 2

Tryin' To Throw Your Arms Around The World (0)

Six o'clock in the morning
You're the last to hear the warning

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You've been tryin' to throw your arms around the world
You've been falling off the sidewalk
Your lips move but you can't talk
Tryin' to throw your arms around the world

I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
Be still
I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
Woman I will

Sunrise like a nosebleed
Your head hurts and you can't breathe
You been tryin' to throw your arms around the world
How far are you gonna go
Before you lose your way back home
You've been tryin' to throw your arms around the world

I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
Woman be still
I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
Woman I will

I dreamed that I saw Dali
With a supermarket trolley
He was tryin' to throw his arms around a girl
He took an open-top beetle
Through the eye of a needle
He was tryin' to throw his arms around the world

I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
Woman be still
I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
Woman I will

Nothin' much to say I guess
Just the same as all the rest
Been tryin' to throw my arms around the world
A woman needs a man
Like a fish needs a bicycle
When you're tryin' to throw your arms around the world
I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you
I'm gonna run to you, run to you, run to you

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Woman be still, woman be still, be still
Woman be still
Woman I will

Ultraviolet (Light My Way) (4)

(Extra note: The printed lyrics on U2.com, which this study uses, have fewer instances of the word love than the sung lyrics on the studio recording.)

Sometimes I feel like I don't know
Sometimes I feel like checking out.
I wanna get it wrong
Can't always be strong
And **love**, it won't be long. **noun, subject**

Oh, sugar, don't you cry.
Oh, child, wipe the tears from your eyes.
You know I need you to be strong
And the day it is dark, as the night is long.
Feel like trash, you make me feel clean.
I'm in the black, can't see or be seen.

Baby, baby, baby, light my way.
Alright now, baby, baby, baby, light my way.

You bury your treasure where it can't be found
But your **love** is a secret that's been passed around. **noun, subject**
There is a silence that comes to a house
Where no-one can sleep.
I guess it's the price of **love**; I know it's not cheap. **noun, object of the preposition**

Oh, come on, baby, baby, baby, light my way.
Oh, come on, baby, baby, baby, light my way
Baby, baby, baby, light my way.

I remember when we could sleep on stones.
Now we lie together in whispers and moans.
When I was all messed up and I heard opera in my head
Your **love** was a light bulb hanging over my bed. **noun, direct object**

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Baby, baby, baby, light my way.
Oh, come on, baby, baby, baby, light my way.

noun, subject = 2

noun, direct object = 1

noun, object of the preposition = 1

Acrobat (2)

Don't believe what you hear
Don't believe what you see
If you just close your eyes
You can feel the enemy
When I first met you girl
You had fire in your soul
What happened your face
Of melting in snow

Now it looks like this
And you can swallow
Or you can spit
You can throw it up
Or choke on it
And you can dream
So dream out loud
You know that your time is coming 'round
So don't let the bastards grind you down

No, nothing makes sense
Nothing seems to fit
I know you'd hit out
If you only knew who to hit
And I'd join the movement
If there was one I could believe in
Yeah I'd break bread and wine
If there was a church I could receive in
'Cause I need it now

To take a cup
To fill it up
To drink it slow

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I can't let you go
I must be an acrobat
To talk like this
And act like that
And you can dream
So dream out loud
And don't let the bastards grind you down

What are we going to do now it's all been said
No new ideas in the house and every book has been read

And I must be an acrobat
To talk like this
And act like that
And you can dream
So dream out loud
And you can find
Your own way out
You can build
And I can will
And you can call
I can't wait until
You can stash
And you can seize
In dreams begin responsibilities
And I can **love** **present verb**
And I can **love** **present verb**
And I know that the tide is turning 'round
So don't let the bastards grind you down

present verb =2

Love **Is Blindness** (11)

Love is blindness **noun, subject**

I don't want to see
Won't you wrap the night around me
Take my heart

Love is blindness **noun, subject**

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In a parked car in a crowded street
You see your **love** made complete **noun, direct object**
Thread is ripping
The knot is slipping
Love is blindness **noun, subject**

Love is clockworks and cold steel **noun, subject**
Fingers too numb to feel
Squeeze the handle
Blow out the candle
Love is blindness **noun, subject**

Love is blindness
I don't want to see
Won't you wrap the night around me
Oh, my **love** **noun, subject**
Blindness

A little death without mourning
No call and no warning
Baby, a dangerous idea that almost makes sense

Love is drowning in a deep well **noun, subject**
All the secrets and no one to tell
Take the money, honey
Blindness

Love is blindness **noun, subject**
I don't want to see
Won't you wrap the night around me
Oh, my **love** **noun, subject**
Blindness

noun, subject = 10
noun, direct object = 1