GCSE Bitesize Computer Science
Sam Bail on making your own app

Hi, my name's Samantha Bail. I started a group called Manchester Girl Geeks, which is a not-for-profit group that runs workshops all around science, technology, engineering, mathematics. A big group of women and girls of all ages getting together - for example, learning how to code or building something with electronics.

I made a little project, which I really just did for myself but also to get some practice in using open data and using APIs, which is called Songs With X. It's really just a silly little application that helps me find song titles with a specific word in the name, but not only the specific word I'm looking for, but also related words.

If I'm looking for a song title that has the word "tired" in it, I'd also be happy to have a song title that has the word "sleepy" or "drowsy" or "snoozy" or any kind of related term. This is actually really, really difficult to get from search engines like Google, for example.

So what I did – I did basically a mash-up of two big data sources. One is just a public online thesaurus, a big data store that has loads of related terms. The other one is just a music database that has all the records and singles and bands that have ever existed. All I did was I had a little search box. You type in your search term, for example you type in "tired". It sends that term off to the thesaurus database, okay. It queries it. It gets back a list of related terms. It takes that list of related terms, queries the music database, and it just returns you a list of songs that have one of these words in the title - and that's my Songs With X, which I use to make mixtapes, for example.