MUSIC

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."

Plato (428BC – 348BC), Greek philosopher

1. Music Discussion

1. How many different genres of music can you think of? What is your favourite type of music? Which types of music do you hate?
2. What is your opinion of the following genres: jazz, rock, hip-hop/rap, electronic, classical, country, reggae, pop music?
3. What was the last song you listened to? Who are some of your favourite bands or singers? What is the greatest song of all time?
4. Which era does the best music come from? Which countries produce the best music?
5. When do you like to listen to music? What do you like to do whist listening to music?
6. Do you play any instruments? Did you play an instrument at school? Which instrument would you like to learn?
7. Do you think you're a good singer? Have you ever sung karaoke?
8. Have you been to any music festivals? If you could go to any music festival in the world, which one would you like to go to? What music festivals take place in your city/country?

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2. Music Vocabulary

- **to be into something** (verb) – *to have an interest in something or to enjoy something.*
- **to get [a song] stuck in one's head** (verb) – *when you hear a song, and you repeatedly sing it to yourself in your head.*
- **to go clubbing** (verb) – *to go out dancing in nightclubs.*
- **(to have a good/bad) taste in music** (noun) – *the type of music a person likes.*
- **gig** (noun) – *a live musical performance, especially when playing more modern music.*
- **one-hit wonder** (noun) – *an artist or band that is famous or successful only for one song.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. My colleague claimed to be really **into** techno, but when I asked what his favourite DJs were, he said David Guetta, Calvin Harris and Tiesto.
2. I've got *"Cruel Summer"* by Taylor Swift **stuck in my head**. I can't stop singing it, but it's fine because I love Taylor Swift!
3. My friend went to one of the first ever Arctic Monkey **gigs** in Sheffield and hasn't stopped mentioning it since.
4. My neighbour has a terrible **taste in music**. He's spent all morning listening to Justin Bieber's "greatest" hits.
5. The Rembrandts are a **one-hit wonder** due to their song *"I'll Be There For You"* that became famous as the theme song to the TV show *Friends*, but the band never achieved success with any other tracks.
6. We **went clubbing** last night, but instead of dancing, everyone just filmed the DJ on their phones.

Music vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What music were you into when you were at school?
2. Which songs have you got stuck in your head?
3. Do you like to go clubbing? Which are the best clubs in your city?
4. Has your taste in music changed over your lifetime?
5. Have you been to many gigs? Do you have a favourite?
6. Can you think of any one-hit wonders?

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3. Video: The Beatles

You are going to watch a video by WatchMojo called "The History of The Beatles."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-music/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What was the nickname of The Beatles?
   a) the famous four ***b) the fab four*** *c) the furious four*
2. In which year did the Beatles form?
   a) 1950 ***b) 1960*** *c) 1970*
3. How many of the Beatles sang?
   a) 2 *b) 3* ***c) 4***
4. 'Beatles mania' was a frenzied reaction by whom?
   a) band managers ***b) fans*** *c) their parents*

Sentence completion

5. The Beatles' first number one hit, and their appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, paved the way for the **British invasion** of America.
6. On their **international tour dates** in 1964, the band were chased by screaming fans.
7. The Beatle's number one **soundtrack** from their film *Help!* featured the song *Yesterday*.
8. In 1966, John Lennon caused **controversy** when he made comments about the Beatle's popularity.

Short answer

9. Where did the band go after releasing the song *All You Need Is Love*? **A meditation retreat (in Bangor, Wales)**
10. What category of film was *Yellow Submarine*? **Animated**
11. What is the Beatle's self-titled album also known as? **The White Album**
12. By the time of *Let It Be*, what had Lennon and McCartney started to release? **Solo material**

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4. Music Conversation Questions

1. What are people listening to right now in your country? What musical styles is your country known for? Who are the most famous musical artists from your country?
2. What music do you listen to if you're depressed? How about when you're happy? What would you listen to to energise yourself?
3. Which bands or artists defined their genres?
4. Would you like to live a rock and roll lifestyle?
5. Is music with violent lyrics to blame for violence in society?
6. How has downloading and streaming music changed the industry? Has it made it better or worse?
7. How important is music in your life? Could you live without music?
8. What is the point of music? Why have humans always created music?

5. Music Writing Task

Write a review of a music album. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Give a brief explanation of the artist/band (their genre, style, history, etc).
- Give your opinion on the individual songs and the album overall (music, lyrics, etc).
- Explain how you felt listening to the music.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people say that a country's traditional music is more important than music from other countries. Others, however, say that music that is popular all over the world is clearly more important than traditional music. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

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