

Lesson plan | Music is GREAT

Topic: Music and music festivals

Objectives:

- To discuss music tastes and trends
- To identify the meaning of vocabulary in the context of music festivals
- To practise reading for gist and specific detail
- To find out more information about music festivals in the UK and internationally

Level: Intermediate+

Introduction:

This lesson is about music and, in particular, music festivals, which have become an increasingly popular phenomenon in recent times. The lesson aims to develop speaking and listening skills and provides practice of the sub-skills of reading for gist and reading for specific detail. The students' own experiences and opinions form the basis of all discussion and extension work.

Procedure:

Warmer (5 mins)

Task 1

- Hand out Task 1 and ask the students to make sentences from the words in the word cloud
- Elicit, from the word cloud, the phrase 'The UK is home to some of the world's greatest music' – ask students if they agree with this statement
- Show the 'Music is great' poster and ask students if they can tell where the photograph is taken
- Ask students to choose the adjectives from the box that they would use to describe the poster and elicit further ones, giving extra support with unfamiliar words. Establish whether the students feel positively or negatively towards the image they have been shown
- Tell the students that before they learn more about music festivals, they will discuss their own attitudes towards music

Speaking (10 mins)

Task 2

- Allocate pairs
- Hand out Task 2
- Give students a few minutes to prepare their responses to question 1 and then monitor as they give a short talk about their own attitudes, giving feedback where required and making a note of common errors
- Encourage students to join up with another pair to discuss music in a wider context (question 2) for a few more minutes and then feed back as a whole group, promoting effective debate in relation to the different opinions of those present

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- Address any common errors noted during pair and group discussion

Pre-reading vocabulary activity (10 mins)

Task 3

- Hand out Task 3
- Ask students to match the words to their definitions

Reading task (gist) (5 mins)

Task 4

- Hand out Task 4
- Ask students to consider the question while they read the text
- Explain that, because they are reading for gist, and not detail, you will give them a time limit
- After reading, ask students if Glastonbury is an event they'd like to go to

Reading task (specific detail) (15 mins)

Task 5

- Hand out Task 5
- Ask students to write sentences in relation to the given numbers
- Monitor, giving additional support where required
- Ask students if any of the information surprised them

Information gap activity (15 mins)

Task 6

Each student will need a copy of worksheet 2, however the texts will only need to be copied once per four students

- Divide the class into groups of four
- Give each student a copy of the blank fact files and one of the texts which get progressively longer/ more complex from text 1-4
- Ask them to complete a fact file for their text
- Once completed, instruct them to ask questions to the other people in their group to complete the remaining fact files (it may be useful to elicit the questions prior to starting the activity in order to include a focus on question formation and model target language)
- Monitor the activity, making a note of common errors
- Ask students to consider which of the festivals they would most like to go to and why
- Discuss their responses as a whole group and address any common errors noted

Extension activities

Task 7

- Hand out Task 7
- Briefly explain the two options and allow students to make their own choice about which task they would like to do

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- Monitor and give guidance where required, although try to avoid inhibiting creativity by necessitating complete accuracy
- Ask students to present their work to the class

Notes

Warmer

Task 1

- The word cloud creating web tool automatically removes very high frequency words, such as *the*, *is*, *to*, *some* and *of*. If you are interested in making your own word cloud, visit www.wordle.net

Pre-reading vocabulary activity

Task 3

- For a more interactive approach, you may want to cut up the vocabulary table prior to the lessons, allocating each student a word or a definition as the basis of a mingling activity
- For differentiated learning, you could ask the higher-level students to write the vocabulary in sentences or use the National Corpus (<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>) to find examples of the word in context and common collocations associated with it
- Images are particularly useful to illustrate the words *quagmire* and *wellies* – Creative Commons images can be found at www.flickr.com

Reading task (gist)

Task 4

- Before handing out Task 4, you could provide the first paragraph as the text for a ‘running dictation’ activity. Instruction for this can be found here: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/running-dictation>
- If you have access to an interactive whiteboard, you could go to <http://www.Flickriver.com> to show some Glastonbury images as part of the introduction to this task
- The BBC provides extensive coverage of the festival and images, videos, etc. may be watched here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/festivals/glastonbury/2011/>

Reading task (specific detail)

Task 5

- To consolidate this activity, check understanding and add a lively, competitive element, you may like to play a ‘number grabbing’ game. Students are divided into small groups, and each group is given a set of the numbers from the text. The teacher then reads out a sentence in relation to one of the numbers, and one student from each group must ‘grab’ the relevant number and take it to the teacher, who accepts the first correct card and allocates a point to the relevant team. The procedure is repeated until all the numbers have been used up

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Information gap activity

Task 6

- The information for this activity is about four UK festivals. The activity could be easily adapted, however, to include festivals that the students may be more familiar with
- Another alternative would be to make it into a 'Webquest' activity whereby students need to use the Internet to complete the fact files. If you decide to do this, the following links might be of use:

<http://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/>

<http://glyndebourne.com/>

<http://www.creamfields.com/>

<http://www.cambridgefolkfestival.co.uk/>

<http://www.readingfestival.com/>

Extension activities

Task 7

- Internet access would certainly be useful for the extension activities, but not essential
- For more guidance on using 'Glogsters' with your students, visit <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/using-glogster-creating-interactive-online-posters>

Suggested answers

Pre-reading vocabulary activity

Task 3

1. C
2. E
3. B
4. H
5. F
6. A
7. D
8. G

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Reading task (specific detail)

Task 5

1,500	<i>The number of people who attended the first Glastonbury festival.</i>
100,000	<i>The number of tickets sold in the year 2000.</i>
2013	<i>The year the next Glastonbury festival will take place.</i>
150,000	<i>The approximate number of people who attended in 2011/ The approximate number of 'fence-jumpers' in 2000</i>
4	<i>The number of hours in which tickets sold out in 2011.</i>
1970	<i>The year the festival began.</i>
1997	<i>The year in which the festival is renowned most for being very muddy.</i>
>1,000,000	<i>The amount of money that was donated to charity in 2003.</i>
250,000	<i>The number of people who attended the festival in 2000.</i>
195	<i>The price (in pounds) of tickets in 2011.</i>
2002	<i>The year security was tightened and the 'superfence' was created.</i>
1994	<i>The year in which the pyramid stage burnt down.</i>
1	<i>The price (in pounds) of a ticket to the first Glastonbury festival.</i>

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Information gap activity

Task 6

Text 1

Festival name	<i>Cambridge Folk Festival</i>
When it began	<i>1964</i>
Location	<i>Cherry Hinton Hall, south of the city</i>
When it takes place	<i>July</i>
How often it happens	<i>Every year</i>
How long it lasts for	<i>Four days</i>
Price of ticket	<i>Around £120</i>
The sort of music played	<i>Folk</i>
Famous artists	<i>Paul Simon, Nick Cave, Billy Bragg</i>
Other attractions	<i>Crafts, workshops, world foods</i>

Text 2

Festival name	<i>The Glyndebourne Festival</i>
When it began	<i>1934</i>
Location	<i>Glyndebourne, East Sussex, England</i>
When it takes place	<i>Summer time</i>
How often it happens	<i>Every year</i>
How long it lasts for	<i>A few months</i>
Price of ticket	<i>Varies</i>
The sort of music played	<i>Opera</i>
Famous artists	<i>Melly Still, Michael Grandage</i>
Other attractions	<i>Beautiful surroundings</i>

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Text 3

Festival name	<i>Creamfields</i>
When it began	<i>1998</i>
Location	<i>Cheshire, north-west England</i>
When it takes place	<i>August</i>
How often it happens	<i>Every year</i>
How long it lasts for	<i>Three days</i>
Price of ticket	<i>£120 if booked in advance</i>
The sort of music played	<i>Dance</i>
Famous artists	<i>Primal Scream, RunDMC, Sasha, Daft Punk</i>
Other attractions	<i>Fairground</i>

Text 4

Festival name	Reading Festival
When it began	1970s
Location	Reading (Richfield Avenue) and Leeds (Bramham Park)
When it takes place	August
How often it happens	Every year
How long it lasts for	Three days
Price of ticket	About £200
The sort of music played	Rock
Famous artists	The Jam, The Who, Pink Floyd, Guns 'n' Roses
Other attractions	The Alternative Stage (comedy and other cabaret acts)

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Task 1

Make some sentences from the words in the word cloud.



Look at the poster. Can you tell where the photograph is taken?



Which of the following adjectives would you use to describe the picture?

exciting	overcrowded	exhilarating	splendid
awesome	claustrophobic	thrilling	disconcerting

- Are these words positive or negative?
- Can you think of any more adjectives to describe the picture?

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Task 2

Discussion

1. In pairs, talk about the music you like.

You should say:

- what sort of music you like to listen to and why
- how you access music
- where you listen to music
- who your favourite musicians/ bands are

2. Discuss the following question with your partner:

- How popular is live music in your country and are music festivals an important part of the culture?

Task 3

Vocabulary

Match the words to their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. exponentially (adverb)	A. an abbreviated form of 'wellington boots', which are rubber boots worn in wet, muddy conditions
2. countless (adjective)	B. well known, or famous, usually for a positive reason
3. renowned (adjective)	C. describes the way in which something is growing or increasing very quickly
4. quagmire (noun)	D. the end or death of something
5. undeterred (adjective)	E. very many
6. wellies (noun – plural – informal)	F. not prevented from doing something, even though it may be difficult or problematic
7. demise (noun)	G. large in size, amount, degree or importance
8. substantial (adjective)	H. a soft, wet area of land, which you may sink into if you walk across it

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Task 4

You are going to read a text about Glastonbury, a major music festival in England.

- Do you think this is an event you would like to go to? Why?

Glastonbury festival.

The first Glastonbury Festival took place in 1970 and was organised by Michael Eavis, who still runs the festival now on his farm in Somerset in the south-west of England. Michael charged people just £1 to enter, and the ticket included free milk from the farm. Only 1,500 people attended on that occasion, but this number has grown exponentially since then. In 2011, there were approximately 100 times more people in the crowd and tickets, which cost £195 each, sold out within 4 hours. The festival takes place almost every year in the last weekend of June and lasts for three days.

Although it is best known for contemporary music, Glastonbury (or 'Glasto' as it is often called) is host to other performing arts such as dance, comedy and theatre. The festival site is now made up of distinct zones, each one providing something different to cater for the tastes of all those present.

Countless famous British musicians have played at the festival, including Sir Paul McCartney, Oasis and Coldplay, however the festival also attracts international interest, and has seen headline acts in recent years such as the likes of Beyonce Knowles, Stevie Wonder and Jay-Z.

The festival is renowned for being extremely muddy, and on many occasions, most notably in 1997, heavy rainfall turned the whole festival site into a quagmire. Glastonbury-goers remain undeterred, however, and are quite happy to boogie the festival away in their wellies.

Because of the high demand for tickets, the festival has also been famous for 'fence-jumpers'. In 2000, when only 100,000 tickets were sold, about 250,000 people attended the event – many of whom jumped over the surrounding fence to gain entry. Security increased in 2002 and a 'superfence' was created to prevent people from entering without a ticket. In the same year, the new Pyramid Stage, graced by the presence of David Bowie, was welcomed back following its demise in 1994 when it burnt down just a week before the festival was to begin.

The festival supports Fair Trade and has made substantial contributions to charity over the years. In 2003, over a million pounds was donated, and Greenpeace, Oxfam and WaterAid continue to be main beneficiaries.

The next Glastonbury festival is set to take place in 2013, following a year off in 2012 to make way for the Olympics and give the farmland a chance to recover. Registration for tickets is already open.

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Task 5

Find the numbers below in the text. Write a sentence to say what they refer to. The first one is done for you.

1,500	<i>The number of people who attended the first Glastonbury festival</i>
100,000	
2013	
150,000	
4	
1970	
1997	
>1,000,000	
250,000	
195	
2002	
1994	
1	

- Did any of these figures surprise you?

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Task 7

Extension activities

Option 1

Plan a trip to a festival. You may want to choose a festival you learned about during the lesson, or another one of your choice. The following websites might be useful:

<http://www.efestivals.co.uk/>

<http://www.thefestivalcalendar.co.uk/>

<http://www.timeout.com/travel/features/599/the-worlds-best-music-festivals>

<http://worldparty.roughguides.com>

Consider the following questions:

- Where is the festival?
- When is the festival?
- How will you get there?
- Where will you stay?
- How long will you stay?
- What will you do at the festival?

Give a short presentation to the class about your festival plans.

Option 2

Design a poster for your dream music festival.

1. Consider the following questions:

- What is the name of your festival?
- Where is it?
- When is it?
- How often does it happen?
- How long does it last for?
- How much do tickets cost?
- What sort of music is played?
- Which famous artists/ bands will headline?
- Will there be any other activities?

2. Present your poster to the class, explaining why you made your choices.

If you have Internet access, www.glogster.com enables you to produce an attractive, online, interactive poster. You can embed music and movie clips to make your poster even more appealing!

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Task 6

Each member of your group will have a short text about a music festival in England. Ask each other questions (and use your own text) to complete the fact files. Which of the festivals you have learned about today would you most like to visit? Why?

Text 1

Festival name	
When it began	
Location	
When it takes place	
How often it happens	
How long it lasts for	
Price of ticket	
The sort of music played	
Famous artists	
Other attractions	

Text 2

Festival name	
When it began	
Location	
When it takes place	
How often it happens	
How long it lasts for	
Price of ticket	
The sort of music played	
Famous artists	
Other attractions	

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Text 3

Festival name	
When it began	
Location	
When it takes place	
How often it happens	
How long it lasts for	
Price of ticket	
The sort of music played	
Famous artists	
Other attractions	

Text 4

Festival name	
When it began	
Location	
When it takes place	
How often it happens	
How long it lasts for	
Price of ticket	
The sort of music played	
Famous artists	
Other attractions	

Worksheet | Music is GREAT**Text 1**

Cambridge Folk Festival is one of the longest running festivals of its kind. Paul Simon, who played at the first one in 1964, paved the way for many more popular musicians, such as Nick Cave and Billy Bragg. The festival takes place at Cherry Hinton Hall to the south of the city each July and spans across four days. To stay for the whole duration would cost you around £120. It's a family friendly festival, and other attractions include crafts, workshops and food from around the world.

Text 2

The Glyndebourne Festival is held at Glyndebourne, an English country house, in East Sussex in England. The festival, which is run by the Christie family, began in 1934 and takes place annually over a few months in the summer. The festival's focus is opera music and includes performances of productions originating from the 17th to the 20th century. Famous opera singers who have performed at the festival include Melly Still and Michael Grandage. Visitors to the festival are encouraged to enjoy the beautiful surroundings in which the house is situated and soak up the wonderful atmosphere. Ticket prices vary depending on which performance you want to see and when.

Text 3

Creamfields is the UK's most popular dance festival and has been host to some of the biggest names in the music genre. When the festival began, in Winchester in 1998, live performances from Primal Scream and RunDMC accompanied DJs sets from the likes of Sasha and Daft Punk. The festival now takes place every August Bank Holiday weekend in Cheshire in the north-west of England. If the music is not enough for thrillseekers, the on-site fairground provides more excitement. So popular is the festival with dance music lovers that 'Creamfields International' now operates in countries worldwide, including, 'Creamfields Brazil', 'Creamfields Australia' and 'Creamfields Peru'. A three-day camping ticket in England costs £120 if booked in advance.

Text 4

Reading festival, which started out in the 70s in Berkshire, has become a major rock festival in Britain, and has been headlined by musical legends such as The Jam, The Who, Pink Floyd and Guns N' Roses. Due to increasing demand, which exceeded the capacity of the Reading festival site, another venue in the north of England was opened in the 90s to accommodate the vast number of people wanting to attend. In recent years, the festival, now commonly referred to as the 'Reading and Leeds festival', has taken place each August in two locations – Bramham Park in Leeds and Richfield Avenue in Reading – each one with the same line-up performing at different times. The Alternative Stage offers comedy and other cabaret acts and provides high-class entertainment for visitors wanting something a bit different during the three-day event, which costs about £200.