

READING

Subcultures built around music

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2053R

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can read and understand the main points of a text about subcultures built around music.
- I can give my opinion on different subcultures using appropriate vocabulary.



Warm-up

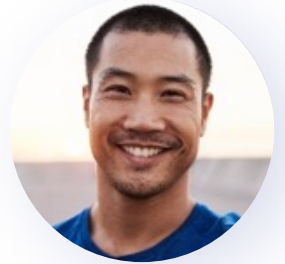
1. **Read** what Lizzie and Stu reveal to one another.
2. **Answer** the questions in the pink box.



Lizzie

It might be
hard to believe,
but when I was
18, I was a
goth!

Really? When I
was 16, I was
into punk rock.
I even had a
green mohawk!



Stu

Do you have a similar story?

How have your musical tastes changed over the years?



Subcultures built around music (1/3)

1. **Read** the text.
2. **Answer** the questions below.

Music has always been a way for people to express themselves. One of the best-known subcultures related to music are the hippies. Hippies first formed a subculture on the West Coast of the USA, particularly around San Francisco, but their numbers soon proliferated.

They were easily identified by their long hair and colourful style of dress, which were seen as a reaction against conformist elements in society. Hippies were heavily involved in the Vietnam War protests in the late 1960s. Many hippies travelled a lot, and there was even a route from Europe to India, nicknamed the hippie trail, that many people undertook by train and bus to reach either Goa in India, or Kathmandu in Nepal.

1. Why do you think hippies undertook the hippie trail? Would you like to do a similar journey?
2. Why do you think the hippie movement developed when it did?

Subcultures built around music (2/3)

1. **Read** the text.
2. **Answer** the question below.

Arriving in the mid-1970s were the punks. With their black clothes and teased hairstyles, they could not have looked more different to the laid-back hippies. Punks were associated with an aggressive version of rock music called punk rock. They wore leather and tartan, skinny jeans and clothes held together with safety pins and tape. They rejected mainstream and conventional views.

In Peru, punk subculture really came into its own in the mid-1980s, as punks there circulated illegal cassette recordings of music, which continues to this day. Free digital copies are circulated in the country as an expression of being anti-establishment.



1. In what other ways do you think punks are anti-establishment?



Subcultures built around music (3/3)

1. **Read** the text. 2. Then **answer** the questions below.

In Africa, we have Botswana's Renegades, or the Botswana metalheads—leather-wearing cowboys who love American and homegrown metal music. In this subculture, traditional hunting knives and animal hides are combined with metal band t-shirts and leather jackets (warm accoutrements in the Kalahari desert!). Many of the Renegades also love to ride large motorbikes.

Finally, we move to Japan, where rockabilly was a thriving subculture. It was a mashup of rock and roll and country music.

Leather jackets and ducktail hair were the uniform of the rockabilly, and very enthusiastic dance moves were one of their staples.

How are the subcultures in Africa and Japan similar?

Are there any subcultures of music that you don't like?

Can you think of more examples of music that are a mashup of other styles?

Which subculture from the lesson do you find most interesting? Why?





Matching

Match the words to their definition.

1 **accoutrements**

2 **staple**

3 **mashup**

4 **homegrown**

5 **to proliferate**

6 **conformist**

a a main part of something

b someone who acts or thinks like everyone else

c to increase suddenly

d a type of music that consists of parts of different songs or styles of music

e belonging to, or developed, in one's own country

f the equipment needed for an activity or way of life



In Peru, punk subculture really **came into its own** in the mid-1980s

We use this phrase to say that someone or something has become very successful, used, or recognised.

What are some other subcultures?
When do you think they **came into their own**? Why?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Are there any subcultures popular in your country at the moment?



Are there any music trends in your country that are homegrown?



Discuss

**Do you think someone
has to embody the values
of a subculture to be a
true fan of the music?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class!**





Talking about posers

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **read** the definition and then **answer** the question.

Poser:

A person who tries to fit in with a certain group or lifestyle that they don't really believe in.



Why do you think *real* fans get so angry with posers?



End of the lesson

Idiom

change your tune

Meaning: to change your opinion about something

Example: You used to be against the idea, but you've changed your tune!



Additional practice



Fill in the blank

Complete the sentences with the correct word.

- 1 Harmonies accompanied by string instruments, such as the steel guitar, banjo, and fiddle, are a _____ of most country music.
- 2 I always view my parents as being _____. It's hard to believe that they were once anti-establishment punk rockers!
- 3 Polka-pop is a _____ of polka and pop music.
- 4 The number of hippies _____ 1960s. It seemed they were everywhere!
- 5 One of the country's most popular songs comes from a _____ artist who sings about issues affecting people living here.

mashup

staple

homegrown

conformist

proliferated





Discuss



Do you think the subcultures in this lesson have something in common or are they rather different?

Share your answer with the rest of the class!





Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Can you imagine being a part of any of the subcultures in this lesson?



Which styles of music have certain dances as their staple?



Writing

Write one sentence that sums up each subculture.

hippie

punk

goth

Botswana's
Renegades

rockabilly

poser

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Answer key

P.7: 1.) f 2.) a 3.) d 4.) e 5.) c 6.) b

P.15: 1.) staple 2.) conformist 3.) mashup 4.) proliferated 5.) homegrown



Summary

Subcultures around music

- *accoutrements; staple; mashup; homegrown; proliferate; conformist; to come into its own; poser*
- *Leather jackets were a **staple** for them.*
- *Real fans don't like **posers**.*



Vocabulary

accoutrement

staple

mashup

homegrown

proliferate

conformist

to come into its own

poser



Notes

