

# Woodstock Festival

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_1018S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



lingoda



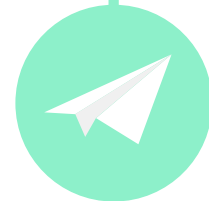


## Goals

- Can discuss music festival culture in detail.
- Can recall my own experiences with festivals and naturally describe the atmosphere and the venue.



Rarely does a festival generate a  
**legacy** as **mythical** as that of  
Woodstock. Let's delve deeper into the  
history of this **transformative**  
moment in rock music.





## Warm-up

**How do you imagine the people at this festival are feeling?**





## Warm-up

**Do festivals fulfil  
a cultural  
function?**

Social cohesion

Collective  
emotion

Stress relief



## Warm-up

What do you know about hippies?







## Introduction



Woodstock Music and Art fair is now **renowned** as the festival that changed rock music forever. With over 400,000 festival-goers, it is not only one of the largest rock festivals ever to have taken place, but also the moment in which the *hippie* **transgressed** the boundary of the individual into the realm of the mass movement, cultural phenomenon and **subculture**. Yet, this outcome far exceeded its organisers' intentions.



## The initial idea



The idea for the festival was **conceived** by Michael Lang and Artie Kornfeld. In spite of the anti-capitalist ideals of the hippies who ultimately attended the festival and created its legacy, Woodstock was **a capitalist venture**, financed by New York City entrepreneurs John Roberts and Joel Rosenman. After rejecting an initial suggestion by Lang and Kornfeld of creating a record studio and retreat in the woods of Woodstock, Roberts and Rosenman **gave the go-ahead** for a music concert that would feature artists known **to frequent** the Woodstock area. **On the basis of** this proposal, Woodstock Ventures company was created, its offices based in Manhattan.





## Vocabulary review

renowned

to transgress

to conceive

a capitalist  
venture

to give the go-  
ahead



to frequent

on the basis of

subculture



## Match the new words to the sentence

**renowned**

I used \_\_\_\_\_ the local bar at the end of the street, but I don't like the owners anymore, so I prefer to go elsewhere.

**to frequent**

By the age of 20, Nas had become a world-\_\_\_\_\_ artist.

**conceived**

Remnants of the punk \_\_\_\_\_ can be seen in the squat bars of Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain.

**subculture**

As soon as the baby was \_\_\_\_\_, the couple decided to marry in order not to upset their Christian parents.

**on the basis of**

We waited for the boss \_\_\_\_\_ before we proceeded with the business proposition.

**to give the go-ahead**

She opted for 1&1 Internet providers \_\_\_\_\_ their seductive 12-month offer which included instant WiFi connection.



## Unscramble to practise sentence structure

A

was also

it

was the library

uncomfortably  
hot,

Not only

ridiculously  
smelly.

B

the bouncer

the eager  
clubbers

entry to the  
club,

felt a twinge of  
guilt,

After denying

in spite of their  
blatantly  
inappropriate  
dress.



## Comprehension

**Answer the questions below in relation to the text.**



1

Can you see any irony in the story behind the creation of Woodstock festival?

2

What was the significance of Woodstock for the hippie movement?

3

What was the initial idea for Woodstock? Could it have worked?



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on  
training your listening comprehension



## Make a list

**As you listen to your teacher read, note down two nouns, two adjectives and two verbs that you've never heard before.**



## True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. There were very few obstacles during the development of the Woodstock project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The festival ultimately took place on a diamond farm just outside of NYC.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A fence was built due to the escalating number of attendees ahead of the festival.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The festival took place from 15th – 18th August 1969.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Collaboration over food shortages resulted in good relations between festival-goers and authorities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The energy of the festival reflected the violent nature of the Vietnam War.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



to encounter



The evolution of the project was largely as a result of the obstacles that the organisers **encountered** along the way.

Who knows what we will **encounter** on our travels?

to be depleted



However, the late change in venue left the organisers with little time to prepare and **depleted** funds.  
He drank an energy drink because his energy levels were **depleted** after the run.

## projection



... which was cleverly placed at the bottom of the farm's hill to help with the **projection** of the sound.

The quality of the film **projection** was remarkable.



Describe what is happening in this picture. Try to use as many words you noted down in the last activity as you can.







## Over to you

**What do you think about going to a festival where you don't need tickets? Would it be safe? Do you agree with the concept?**

“

Plans for building a fence to enclose the festival were abandoned and the concert became freely accessible to everyone who wanted to attend, ticket or no ticket.

”

*I wish I had been there because...*

*I think it would be fun, but...*



## Big question

**Imagine you  
have organised  
a huge,  
commercial  
festival. How  
would you deal  
with...**



...food shortages?



...over-attendance?



## Recap

**Recap with your teacher the obstacles that were encountered when preparing for Woodstock and the ways in which they were overcome.**

Obstacles	Solutions





**Now or then?**

**Would you like to have been  
a young adult during the  
1960s? Why (not)?**

**Would it be better to be  
young now instead?**



## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Answer Key

### Exercise p. 10

1. to frequent
2. renowned
3. subculture
4. conceived
5. to give the go-ahead
6. on the basis of

### Exercise p. 11

A: Not only was the library uncomfortably hot, it was also ridiculously smelly.  
B: After denying the eager clubbers entry to the club, the bouncer felt a twinge of guilt in spite of their blatantly inappropriate dress.

### Exercise p. 15

1. False
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False

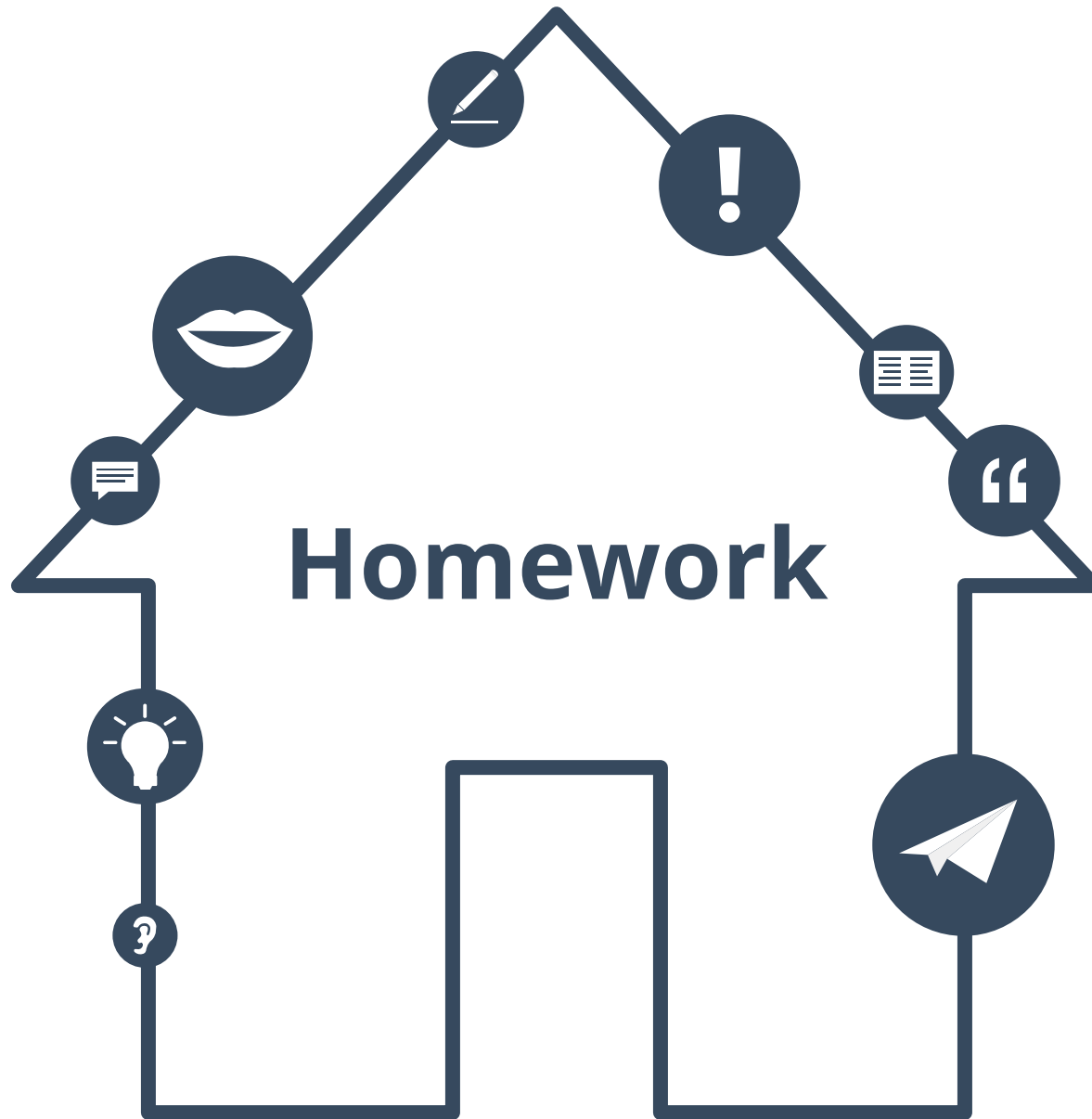


## Transcription: The Evolution...

### Exercise p. 14

The evolution of the project was largely as a result of the obstacles that the organisers **encountered** along the way. The idea of the festival was unpopular among Woodstock locals resulting in much uncertainty about the venue. Eventually, it was decided that the festival would take place at Max Yasgur's dairy farm in nearby Bethel. However, the late change in venue left the organisers with little time to prepare and **depleted** funds. The result: plans for building a fence to enclose the festival were abandoned and the concert became freely accessible to everyone who wanted to attend, ticket or no ticket.

The festival took place on 15 August 1969 and ran until 18 August, one full day longer than advertised. During these four days, a total of 32 artists took to the stage, which was cleverly placed at the bottom of the farm's hill to help with the **projection** of the sound. Highlights included many bands and artists who have since become household names. Remarkably, there were no instances of violence. Attendees and performers even collaborated with authorities to ensure that crowds were sufficiently fed, as there were food shortages throughout the festival. Consequently, the festival took on symbolic value as a demonstration of peace and unity in the violent social context of the Vietnam war. Out of a capitalist project and a series of accidents, the so-called "Woodstock generation" was born.





## Write an e-mail

**Imagine you are organising a festival in your local area. Write to your venue of choice explaining your vision and why you think this venue is suitable. Try to persuade them to host your event for free!**

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□

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To:

Subject: an opportunity of a lifetime

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having carefully considered a large variety of potential venues for my innovative project, I have concluded that your \_\_\_\_\_ is the best suited...



## Make a list

**Write a list of potential hurdles and solutions that you expect to encounter while organising your project.**

Obstacles

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Solutions

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