

READING

Music cultures

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2063R

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can read and understand the main points of a text about music cultures.
- I can talk about my musical tastes and the music culture in my country.



Warm-up

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **match** the type of music/musical event with the decade.

1 pop music

2 British Invasion

3 glam metal

4 disco

5 R&B

a 1970s

b 1980s

c 1960s

d 1950s

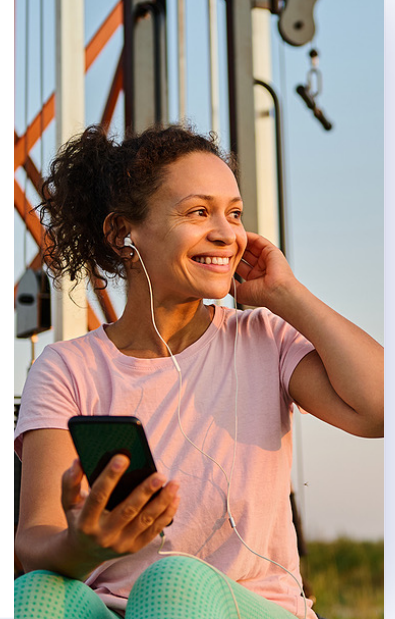
e 1990s

Pop music and rock and roll

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

Pop music has always been, by definition, the most popular genre of music, but the structure and content of pop music has changed greatly over the past 50 years. Like all other musical genres, pop music is in a constant state of flux. Listeners pick and choose which type of pop they want to listen to according to their mood: upbeat for a workout, slow and melodic for a romantic dinner.

Many consider the 1950s the beginning of pop music. Its origins were in a mixture of gospel music and rhythm and blues, and it was one of the first types of music which appealed to all types of people. It was also one of the first genres around which a teenage culture grew, with fashion, hairstyles, and dance moves appearing alongside the music.



1. What kind of music do you listen to when you're sad. Why?

Pop music and rock and roll

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

The 1960s was a revolutionary decade as it saw the evolution of rock music and the first music festivals. The 1960s saw the so-called British Invasion, when multiple British bands became wildly popular both at home and across the pond in the US. The music had a strong blues influence in the middle of the decade, and hordes of screaming teenage fans followed the boy bands everywhere.

Towards the end of the decade, many established bands began to produce psychedelic music, drawing on influences from India. The first music festivals had bands performing mainly rock and folk music, and they came to be the epicentre of American counterculture, with hippies epitomising these festivals.



1. Can you describe what psychedelic music sounds like?



Matching

Match the words to their definition.

1

horde

2

epicentre

3

to epitomise

4

to dominate

5

flux

6

revolutionary

a

to be the most important or most noticeable part of something

b

continuous change

c

a large group of people

d

the central point of something

e

completely new and having a big impact

f

to be the perfect example of something



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Where is the epicentre of music in your country?



Which genre of music is dominating the music charts in your country at the moment?



Music in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s.

Read the text.

The 1970s saw the rise of disco in the Western world. Disco was seen as a reaction to the dominance of rock in the previous decade. Many disco songs used synthesisers, electric piano, and guitar. This trend has continued to the present day, as producers use a lot of synthesised music and electric instruments to create music.

In the 1980s, the popularity of glam metal and hard rock grew. Glam metal performers and their fans often had long, back-combed hair, wore lots of make up and sported flashy clothing.

Hip hop, which had been gaining popularity throughout the 1980s, continued to do so in the 1990s, along with R&B, rap, and reggae. Alongside these genres, the big ballad made a comeback, and boy and girl pop bands also became very popular.





They **sported** flashy clothing.

If you **sporting** something, you are wearing or are decorated with it.

What are you **sporting** now?



Check your answers

Check your answers from the warm-up. Were they correct?

1 pop music

2 British Invasion

3 glam metal

4 disco

5 R&B

a 1970s

b 1980s

c 1960s

d 1950s

e 1990s



Discuss

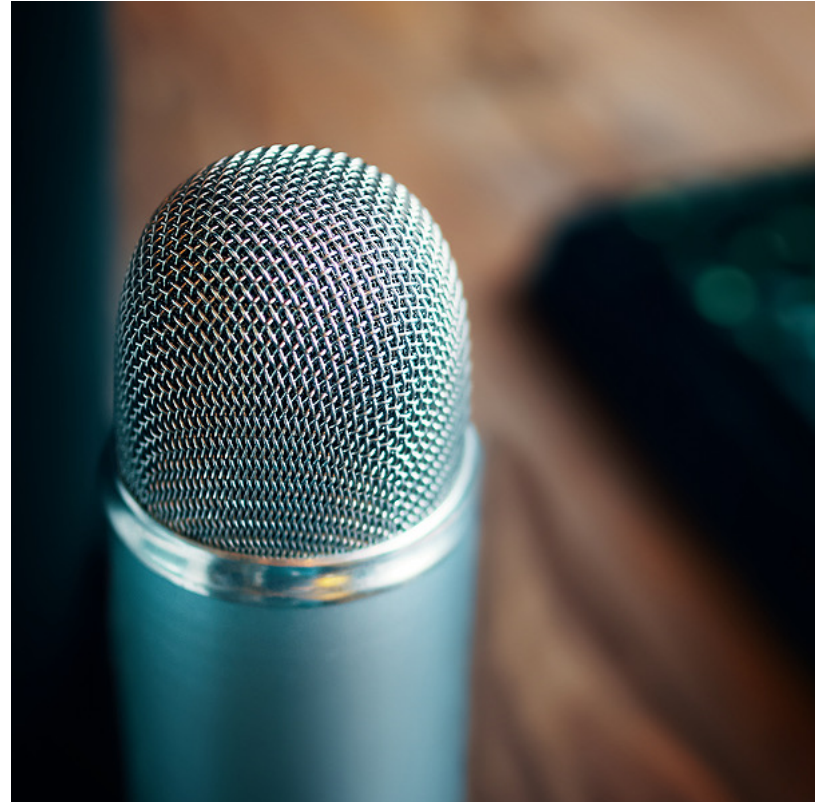
Can you name some artists and songs from these decades?

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s





Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What do you think was the most revolutionary decade of music? Why?



Have you ever been to a music festival?



Music culture in your country

Answer the questions below.

1. Take 2-3 minutes to **write down** some notes.
2. Then **share** your answer with the class.

**Can you briefly
describe the music
culture in your
country?**

**How did music trends develop
and evolve?**





End of the lesson

Idiom

It's not my forte.

Meaning: it's not your strength or area of expertise

Example: Dancing is definitely not my forte!



Additional practice



Fill in the blanks

Complete the sentences with the correct word.

- 1 There was a _____ of people waiting outside the venue's doors before the concert started.
- 2 British bands _____ the music scene in the 1960s.
- 3 Pop music is in a constant state of _____. That's one big reason why it's remained so popular.
- 4 I've never heard anything like it before. It's truly _____!
- 5 The Beatles _____ the popularity and influence of the British Invasion.

dominated
revolutionary
epitomised
horde
flux



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Are there any bands or musicians performing today that you think are revolutionary?



Are there any fashion trends that you connect with a certain genre of music?



Discuss

Answer the question below.

**What makes you
like a song?**

**The melody, the lyrics, or
something else?**





Answer key

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

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

P.17: 1.) horde 2.) dominated 3.) flux 4.) revolutionary 5.) epitomised



Summary

Music cultures

- *horde; epicentre; to epitomise; to dominate; flux; revolutionary; to sport*
- **Hordes** of teenage fans followed the boy bands everywhere.
- Hippies came to **epitomise** music festivals.



Vocabulary

horde

epicentre

to epitomise

to dominate

flux

revolutionary

to sport

