

COMMUNICATION

Talking about my music preferences

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_2051X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can talk about trends in music and whether I follow them or not.
- I can talk about my music preferences and what I believe makes a good song.



Warm-up

**What makes a
song great?**

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



What's the greatest song of all time?

1. **Read** the first part of the text.
2. **Answer** the questions below.

Rolling Stone recently updated its list of the 500 greatest songs of all time and gave the top spot to Aretha Franklin's version of 'Respect', which was originally performed by Otis Redding. Second on the list was 'Fight the Power' by Public Enemy.

The magazine's original list was published in 2004. It was updated for the first time in 17 years. The revised ranking saw a lot of changes, with more hip-hop, country music, Latin pop, reggae and R&B added to it. The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, and Fleetwood Mac rose in their rankings, while newer artists like Drake, Lorde, Taylor Swift, Lizzo, and Lady Gaga appeared in the top 100. Interestingly, songs from the 1970s appeared most often on the list.

1. The list changed a lot since it was first published. Why do you think this happened?
2. What music trends does the updated list show?

What's the greatest song of all time?

1. **Read** the second part of the text.
2. **Answer** the questions below.

Christian Hoard, the music editor for the magazine, said, "Music changes so fast, the pace of change is incredible...it's not just classic rock."

In 2004, the greatest song of all time was Bob Dylan's 'Like a Rolling Stone'. Number 2 on the list was '(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction' by The Rolling Stones.



1. Do you agree with Christian Hoard's statement? Why or why not?
2. Do you think 'Respect' will be the greatest song of all time in 20 years?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Do you prefer listening to songs in your own language or in another language?

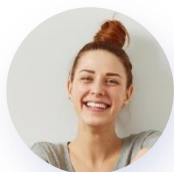


What are some current music trends in your country?



Expressing your preference

1. **Read** the sentences. 2. **Complete** the task in the blue box.



I like listening to pop music **more than/less than** rock music because...



I prefer listening **to** country music **over** hip hop because...

- Think of your favourite and least favourite style of music.
- Form a sentence using the phrases from the examples above.



Matching

1 I like the **cover** of the song more than the original.

2 I think that song is **overplayed**. I'm sick of hearing it!

3 The album is **overproduced**. There's too much going on!

4 The **chorus** is catchy! I can't get it out of my head.

5 That band is so **underrated**. I'm surprised more people don't know of them.

a when a song is played (on the radio, on the internet, at parties) all the time

b a repeated section of a song that contains the main melody

c when something is not very famous, even if it is very good

d a new performance of a song by a singer or band different from the original singer or band

e When too many things are added, making something not as good as it could be



Discuss

**Is there any song, band,
or style of music that
has *grown on you*?**



**Is there any song, band,
or style of music that
you can't stand?**

Discuss

Ask a classmate which music-related trends (in the red box on the left) they like or dislike, and why?

Try to keep the conversation going until you find a trend you both like!

- Music livestreaming on social media
- Music documentaries
- Auto-tune
- Disco
- K-pop
- Music on social media platforms like TikTok
- Music festivals

*Do you like **K-pop**?*

*No, I **can't stand it!** I think **K-pop** is **overproduced**. What about you? Do you like **K-pop**?*

*Yes, it's **grown on me**. I think the songs are very **catchy!** Do you prefer **listening to disco over K-pop**?*



Learn more about your classmates

1. **Ask** these questions in breakout rooms or together as a class.
2. Then **invent** a question to ask.

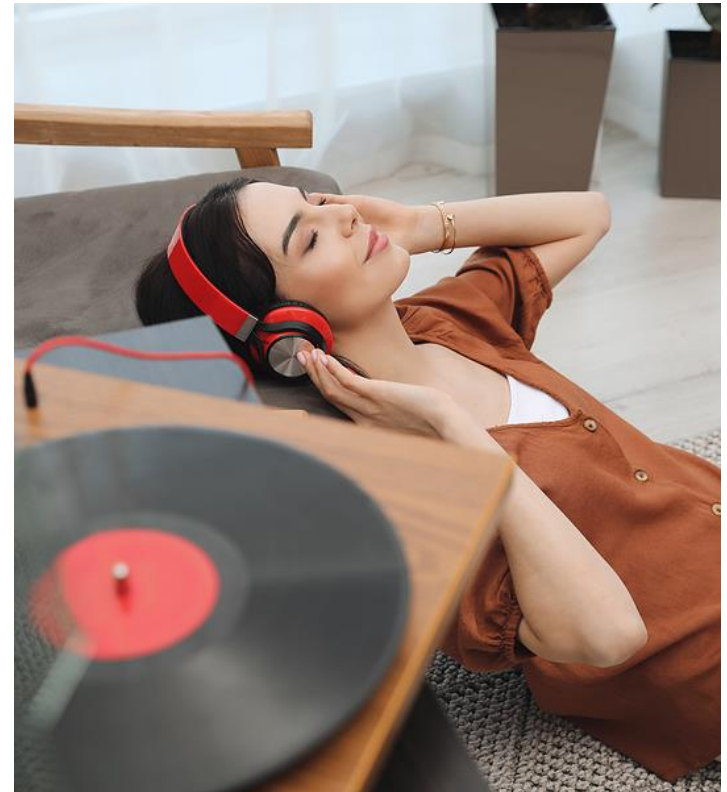
1 How do you discover new music to listen to?

2 Has your taste in music changed over the years?

3 When do you usually listen to music?

4 How do you listen to most of your music today?
Spotify? YouTube? The radio?

Now invent your own question to ask!





Time to talk!

Take turns choosing a question below and ask a classmate to find out more about them.



- How many CDs do you own?
Cassette tapes?
- What are some special or traditional musical instruments from your country?
- Do you listen to chart music?
- Why do you think music is important to people and culture?
- Do you think it is wrong to download music for free?



End of the lesson

Idiom

That's music to my ears!

Meaning: Information that makes someone happy.

Example: My deadline was extended? That's *music to my ears*! The extra time will help.



Additional practice



Categorise the words

Put each word into one of the categories below, then use each word in a sentence.

Example: I hardly ever listen to rock music.

1

rock

2

overproduced

3

hip hop

4

catchy

5

overrated

6

bootleg

7

country

8

underplayed

9

inspirational

10

classical

Genre

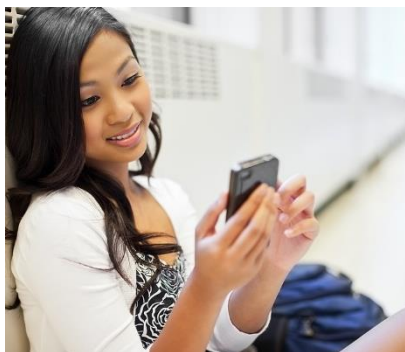
Adjective

Texting activity

Write a text message dialogue between two friends. Then **read your dialogue out** to the class. **Listen carefully** to each other and **ask one follow-up question** each.

You might want to...

- ... describe a music festival you went to
- ... recommend a Spotify playlist you enjoy
- ... explain why you like/dislike the latest song by your favourite artist
- ... share some facts about Sixto Rodriguez



10:37

Person A

You should listen to this playlist I made

Person B

Oh yeah? Does it have any _____?

Person A

Of course! There is lots of _____ and _____ too

Person B

I don't really like _____, but I will give it a try!



Fill the gaps

Use the words from the three categories to talk about music preferences.

Example: I like dance music less than classical music because it is too repetitive.

1 I like _____ more than _____ because _____.

2 My brother _____ less than _____ because _____.

3 I don't _____ but I _____ a lot of _____

4 ...

5 ...

6 ...

hip hop
rock
classical
chart
dance

electronic
+ any other
genres

relaxing
overproduced
boring
sad
Inspirational

catchy
+ any other
adjectives

listen to
enjoy
prefer
use
stream

buy
+ any other
verbs



Your perfect playlist

Discuss your perfect playlist with your teacher.

- 1 What genres of music are on you perfect playlist? Is it all the same genre or it a mix of different styles?
- 2 What artists would make the playlist? Why did you choose them?
- 3 What mood do you want the playlist to create? It is inspirational? Upbeat? Does it help you concentrate?
- 4 When would you put this playlist on? Relaxing at home? At a party? When you go for a run?





Answer key

P:4:

1. Possible answers: new artists started their careers since the list was first published; the original list was a reflection of a particular time in the past/things change and the music that people gravitate towards also change with the times; new generations tend to like different styles of music.
2. More hip-hop, country music, Latin pop, reggae and R&B. The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, and Fleetwood Mac rose in their rankings, while newer artists like Drake, Lorde, Taylor Swift, Lizzo, and Lady Gaga appeared in the top 100. Songs from the 1970s appeared most often on the list.

P.8: 1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (e) 4. (b) 5. (c)

P. 16: Genre = 1, 3, 7, 10; Adjective = 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,



Summary

Musical genres

- We categorise music into genres
- Some popular examples include rock, hip hop, classical, jazz and pop
- People often organise their favourite genres into playlists

Talking about music using adjectives and verbs

- Positive adjectives include inspirational, catchy and underrated
- Negative adjectives include overproduced, overplayed and overrated
- Common verbs: enjoy, stream, listen to, like, prefer

Greatest song of all time

- Rolling Stone named Aretha Franklin's version of Respect as the greatest song of all time
- The list, originally published in 2004, was updated for the first time in 17 years
- The list saw many changes, reflecting our current times



Vocabulary

underrated

more than/less than

overplayed

cover

chorus

to track down

overproduced

