Conversation ▶ Now You're Talking!

Musical Instruments

excited	Adjective
/ɪkˈsaɪtɪd/ having or showing a lot of energy, enjoyment, or interest	,
The crowd got excited when the band started.	
olay	Verb
/pleɪ/ to make music with a musical instrument	
play the violin in the orchestra.	
pianist	Noun
/piːˈænɪst/ a person who plays the piano	
They booked a pianist for their wedding reception.	
cello	Noun
/ˈtʃɛloʊ/ a musical instrument that looks like a large violin	
Cello is one of the biggest instruments.	
not a chance	Phrase
/nα:t ə ʧæns/ there is no possibility	
Do you want to be a singer? // No, not a chance .	
adore	Verb
/əˈdoʊr/ love something or someone very much	
adore music.	
sound	Noun
/saʊnd/ something that you can hear	
These speakers have excellent sound .	
string	Noun
/strɪŋ/ a thin wire on a musical instrument that produces a musical note	

Dialogue Practice

Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

Sarah and Liam talk about musical instruments.





Hi, Liam! I'm glad we have music class together. It's so cool.

Liam



Are you excited? I can't sing. Girls are so much better at singing!

Sarah



Come on, you can't be that bad. I'm not a singer, either. But I play the piano!

Liam



Do you want to be a professional pianist in the future?

Sarah



No, not a chance. I just like to play for myself and in music class, too.

Liam



I see. I think I want to learn to play the cello.

Sarah



It is such a pretty instrument. I adore the sound of the strings.

Liam



Yes, me too.

Sarah



Maybe you should attend a music school. What do you think?

Liam



It is a bit expensive, so I think I'll ask our music teacher to help me learn.

Sarah



That's not a bad idea.

Check your understanding:

- 1. Why is Sarah excited?
- 2. What instrument does Liam want to play?
- 3. What is Sarah's opinion about the cello?

Exercise 3

Listening Comprehension

Listen to your teacher read the text then choose the correct answers to the questions.

- 1. Who did Carol ask to help her learn how to play the guitar?
 - A. She found a teacher who showed her how to play the guitar.
 - B. Carol invited Paul over to teach her a few chords.
- 2. What was Carol shown first when learning how to play the instrument?
 - A. First, she was shown how to hold the guitar.
 - B. First, she was shown how to play "Amazing Grace".
- 3. Why did Carol choose to play the guitar?
 - A. Carol chose the guitar because she loves the sound of its strings.
 - B. She decided to buy the guitar because the piano was too expensive.
- 4. What did Carol promise Paul?
 - A. Carol promised Paul that she'll practice and learn everything he showed her.
 - B. She made a promise that she'll replace the strings regularly.

Exercise 4

Role Play

Role-play the following situation with your teacher.

Situation

- You bought a new instrument.
- Tell your friend about it.

Exercise 5

Discussion

- 1. Do you play or want to play an instrument? What instrument?
- 2. What do you think about improvising music?
- 3. Have you or your friends ever been in a band?
- 4. Did you ever take a music class in high school? How did you like it?