

- 1 Read the model. Have you ever experienced a live music gig? If so, were your feelings similar?



My first gig

I first went to hear a live rock concert when I was eight years old.

My brother and his friends were all fans of a heavy metal group called Black Wednesday. When they discovered that Black Wednesday were going to perform at our local theatre, they all bought tickets for the gig. However, at the last minute, one of the friends couldn't go, so my brother offered me the ticket. I was thrilled!

I remember the buzz of excitement inside the theatre as we all found our seats. After a few minutes, the lights went down and everybody became quiet. I could barely make out the stage in the darkness. We waited. Then there was a roar from the crowd, like an explosion, as the first members of the band stepped onto the stage. My brother leaned over and shouted something in my ear, but I couldn't hear what he was saying. The first song was already starting and the music was as loud as a jet engine. I could feel the bass notes and the drum beats in my stomach.

I can't recall any of the songs that the band played. I just remember that I didn't want it to finish. But in the end, after three encores, the show finished. We left the theatre and stumbled out onto the pavement. I felt bewildered, as if I had just woken from a long sleep. My ears were still ringing with the beat of the last song.

After the gig, I became a Black Wednesday fan too for a few years before getting into other kinds of music. Once in a while, though, I listen to one of their songs and imagine I'm back at that first gig.

WRITING TIP

You can improve the style of your writing by using sentences of different lengths. Very short sentences can be effective if used occasionally to create emphasis or build suspense or tension.

- 2 Read the *Writing tip*. Then underline two very short sentences in the model. Which is used for emphasis and which is used to build suspense?

- 3 Rewrite the sentences to include at least one short sentence. Say whether the effect is building tension or suspense or adding emphasis.

- When we arrived at the hotel, I went straight to our room. I looked out of the window and there was the sea!
- As Ben approached the door, he could hear footsteps inside the room. He turned the handle, the door swung open and he finally came face to face with the man who had been following him.
- The playground was huge and I had never seen so many other children in one place. They were running to and fro, shouting and bumping into each other and it was terrifying.

- 4 Complete these sentences from the model.

- Then there was a roar from the crowd, _____ an explosion, as the first members of the band stepped onto the stage.
- The first song was already starting and the music was _____ loud _____ a jet engine.
- I felt bewildered, _____ I had just woken from a long sleep.

- 5 Use your answers to exercise 4 to complete the information about similes.

LEARN THIS!

Similes

Writers often use similes to make their writing more descriptive. A simile makes a comparison using *like* or *as*.

- We use _____ + *noun* to express a general similarity between two things.
The hospital was _____ a maze.
- We use _____ + *adjective/adverb* + _____ + *noun/-ing form* to compare a specific aspect.
Her face was _____ white _____ snow.
- We use _____ to introduce a comparison with a complete clause.
The runner fell to the ground _____ he'd been shot.

- 6 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Invent similes to complete these sentences.

- My sister covered her mouth with her hand, as if ...
- The water in the lake where we used to go swimming was like ...
- When I lost my teddy bear, I cried and cried as if ...
- I crept downstairs as quietly as ...
- My mother suddenly began sniffing the air like ...
- The two men stared at each other as if ...