

Topic: Music

Let's get started...

How often do you listen to music? Do you listen to music in your car? Do you listen to music at home? What type of music do you like to listen to?

Background:

The music industry is always changing. In the past, the only way people could listen to music was if they played an instrument, or if it was live music. There was no way to record or broadcast music. Then radios were invented, and people could listen to music that was broadcasted into their homes. But there was still no way to record it to listen to it later. Then 8-tracks were invented, and people could buy music from different bands and music groups. After 8-tracks, records were invented, and then cassettes, and then CDs, and then MP3s and iPods! You can listen to music in so many ways.

There are also many different types of music. Some types of music are classical, rap, pop, rock, country, folk, religious music, R & B (rhythm and blues), jazz, and reggae. Different types of music may use different instruments, or have different tones, beats, and lyrics.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

- What is your favorite kind of music? Why?
- Are there any kinds of music that you do not like?
- Do you play a musical instrument? How long have you played it? Was it a difficult instrument to learn? Who taught you how to play it?

Share your partner's answers with the group.



Discussion Questions:

Where do you listen to music the most? At work? At home? In your car?

Have you ever been to a concert? Who was playing at the concert?

Does everyone in your family like the same kind of music?

Do you prefer music with or without words?

Is music important in your native country?

In your native country, are there some songs that everyone learns?

When do people sing in your native country? (At work, at home, in church, with friends.)

In your native country, what are some common musical instruments that people play? What are some traditional musical instruments from your native country?

What are some common instruments that people play in the United States?

Do you like to sing? Do you ever sing in a group? Do you ever sing alone? Do you sing in the shower?

Do you know about Karaoke? (Singing to recorded music using a microphone.) Is it popular in your native country? Have you ever tried it?

Who is your favorite musician? What type of music do they play?

What is your favorite musical group? What type of music do they play?

Have you ever seen people playing music on the streets in Seattle? Is it common in your native country for people to play instruments on the street to earn money?

Do you know any American songs? Which ones?

Do you like to dance? What type of music do you like to dance to?

What is your favorite type of dance? Do you like to watch people dancing?

Do you like to listen to music in your native language, or in English?

Is it easy or difficult to understand songs in English? Why or why not?

Does listening to songs in English improve your listening and speaking skills? What is helpful about listening to songs in English?

New words and Idioms:

Band, musical group, musician, instrument, concert, censored, traditional, beat, modern, 8-track, record, cassette, CD, MP3, live music, broadcast, stereo, reggae, rap, gospel, alternative, folk, classical, lyrics, tones.