

"Saturday Night Live" with Teacher Jeffrey from E-say™ English



"What's playing ~music~"

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Expressions & Idioms:

music to your ears

Meaning: something that you approve of or that you wanted to hear

Example: The sound of my daughter playing happily is music to my ears.

to play (something) by ear

Meaning: to improvise or make something up as you go along

Example: I haven't got a plan for dealing with this client so let's just play it by ear.

face the music

Meaning: to deal with the (usually negative) consequences of an action

Example: That deal went horribly wrong so I'll have to face the music when I tell my boss this afternoon.

Don't you think the **Maestro conducted the orchestra** well?

He **beats the drums** like a madman!

John Lennon **wrote the lyrics** to many of the Beattle's best songs.

You can tell when Peter is in a good mood, **he hums** one of her **favorite tunes**.

Jazz musicians almost always **improvise their solos**.

Most professional musicians **play their instruments** up to five hours a day!

I can remember the time when President Clinton appeared on **MTV to blow his horn - the saxophone**.

Would you please not **tap your foot** in time to the music?

Some of the best **rock singers** don't sing their songs, **they shout** them!

Background Reading: *Please review before class this will not be read in the group lesson.*

Music is an art form whose medium is sound. Common elements of music are pitch (which governs melody and harmony), rhythm (and its associated concepts tempo, meter, and articulation), dynamics, and the sonic qualities of timbre and texture. The word derives from (mousike), "(art) of the Muses".

The creation, performance, significance, and even the definition of music vary according to culture and social context. Music can be divided into genres and subgenres, although the dividing lines and relationships between music genres are often subtle, sometimes open to individual interpretation, and occasionally controversial. Within "the arts", music may be classified as a performing art, a fine art, and auditory art.

To many people in many cultures music is an important part of their way of life. Greek philosophers and ancient Indian philosophers defined music as tones ordered horizontally as melodies and vertically as harmonies. The common sayings such as "the harmony of the spheres" and "it is music to my ears", point to the notion that music is often ordered and pleasant to listen to.

First of all, here is a list of main genres can you think of more?

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Alternative | Indie | Punk | Blues | Jazz | R& B/Soul | Classical | Latin | Reggae | Country | Lounge/Easy Listening | Rock | Dance | Metal | Roots | Electronics | New Age | Soundtracks | Folk | Oldies | Pop | Hip-Hop/Rap | Pop | World

Although they are considered to be at the root of all of the other styles, each of these genres came from somewhere else! Even Electronics and Hip Hop, the sounds of which are more defined by technology, have their roots.

Rock has many, many sub-genres...everything from adult rock to classic rock to folk rock. Originally, rock was actually rooted in the blues, following similar chord progressions and patterns. Classic rock artists from the Beatles to Pink Floyd to Aerosmith, show just how diverse rock became within a very short period of time. The 70's was considered the "Golden Age" of rock and today's alternative and indie music are each an offshoot of rock with their own sub-genres.

Each person in the group will take turns asking another one in the group the following questions or you own.

How popular is live music in your China? When was the last time you went to a concert or live show?

What kind of music do you like? Is there any kind of music that you can't stand?

What types of music do people listen to in your country? Is there any type of music that you can only hear in your country?

Do you play a musical instrument? What instrument? Did you take lessons?

How many CDs do you own? What kind of music do you have the most of?

Do you listen to music on the radio? How often? Do you have a favorite station? Why do you like this station?

What musician would you most like to meet? Why?

Do you prefer music in English or in your own language? Why?

Why do you think English language music is so popular? Can a band be a worldwide hit if they don't sing in English?

Do you like to sing? Have you ever sung karakoe?

Do you ever like to listen to loud music? When?

Do you listen more to words or lyrics? How is this different in your native language and in other languages?

Do you think CDs will ever become obsolete? What will replace them?

How has your opinion of good music changed over your lifetime? Is there anything you liked years ago that you would not like now?

Opinions, Preferences:

I think..., In my opinion..., I'd like to..., I'd rather..., I'd prefer..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., It is fairly certain that..., I'm convinced that..., I honestly feel that, I strongly believe that..., Without a doubt,...

Disagreeing:

I don't think that..., Don't you think it would be better..., I don't agree, I'd prefer..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., Let's face it, The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that...

Giving Reasons and offering explanations: To start with, The reason why..., That's why..., For this reason..., That's the reason why..., Many people think..., Considering..., Allowing for the fact that..., When you consider that...