

Music

Lesson code: RLXS-G2RF-D16V

UPPER INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm up

What kind of music are you into?

2 Musical instruments

Name the musical instruments and put them into the correct categories below.

a cello
a tambourine

a flute
a trumpet

a recorder
a violin

a saxophone
drums



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Wind instruments: _____

Brass instruments: _____

String instruments: _____

Percussion instruments: _____

Can you add any more? Do you play any musical instruments?



3 Describing music

Listen to the music samples and match them to the adjectives below. One sample can be described with two of the adjectives.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. heavy _____ | 2. upbeat _____ | 3. melancholic/sad _____ |
| 4. jazzy _____ | 5. funky _____ | 6. orchestral _____ |



Which music instruments did you hear in these samples?

Study the opinions below.

- "I like the new Madonna hit. It has a catchy melody."
- "Their latest single always gets me in an energetic mood. It has a fast tempo."
- "I can't stand the new Ricky Martin song. It's very cheesy."
- "I never get bored of listening to Yesterday by the Beatles. It's a timeless classic."
- "I used to listen to this song a lot in my childhood. It brings back memories."
- "They were playing the song in every bar, cafe and nightclub. It was a smash hit."

Which expression describes a song that ...

- never goes out of fashion?
- tries too hard to be emotional and is not very original?
- is very memorable and makes you repeat the tune in your head all the time?
- is unusually successful and popular everywhere?
- has an energetic beat?
- is nostalgic?

4 Describe the song

Work with a partner. Make a list of singers and songs that you both know. Give your opinion or describe your feelings about one of the songs using any relevant language from this lesson. Your partner should try to guess which one you are talking about. Feel free to agree or disagree with each other. You may also find the expressions below useful.

It makes me feel relaxed/happy/excited/nostalgic/sad ...

I'd want to/ wouldn't want to listen to it if I was feeling/trying to...

I really like the guitar solo/ beat/ bass line/ instrumental part/ background vocals ...

It's suitable for .../ideal for ...

It's perfect to have on when I'm ...



5 Music idioms

In pairs, study the underlined idioms below. Match them to the definitions.

1. Mark wanted to quit his job, but after he was offered a higher salary, he changed his tune very quickly.
2. Charlotte hardly studied at all. She will have to face the music when the exam results are posted.
3. We don't have a plan. We'll just have to play it by ear.
4. The news that Spain won the world cup, was music to my ears.
5. I can't remember his face, but his name rings a bell.
6. We know you're a successful writer now. There's no need to blow your own trumpet all the time.
7. This recipe definitely needs some fine tuning in order to make a delicious cake.

- a. adjustment
- b. boast
- c. changed his mind
- d. deal with a difficult situation/accept the unpleasant consequences of your actions
- e. deal with a situation as it develops
- f. is somewhere in my memory (but not very clear)
- g. very pleasant to hear

6 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below.

1. Describe an occasion when you changed your tune.
2. Describe a situation in which you had to 'play it by ear'.
3. Has there been any news recently that was music to your ears?
4. Do you know anyone who blows their own trumpet all the time?
5. What kind of music do you like/hate? Why?
6. When do you listen to music? When do you prefer silence?
7. How has your taste in music changed since when you were a child?
8. What decade has produced the best music?
9. What do you think of most of the music that is produced these days?
10. Do you think the Internet has helped musicians or made life more difficult for them?



2 Musical instruments

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. drums | 2. a recorder | 3. a trumpet | 4. a violin |
| 5. a cello | 6. a flute | 7. a saxophone | 8. a tambourine |

1. Wind instruments: a recorder, a flute, a saxophone, a trumpet
2. Brass instruments: a trumpet
3. String instruments: a violin, a cello
4. Percussion instruments: drums, a tambourine

NOTE: Wind instruments can be divided into woodwind instruments and brass instruments. Woodwind instruments are almost always made out of wood and are played using a wooden reed and metal keys, with the exception of the flute. Brass instruments are made out of metal or brass and contain no wood or reed.

Other wind/brass instruments: clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trombone, tuba, French horn

Other string instruments: guitar, bajo, double bass, harp

Other percussion instruments: cymbals, bells, bongo drum, gong

3 Describing music

Play the audio file or scan the QR code with a smartphone or mobile device.

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------------|------|
| 1. 5 | 2. 1 | 3. 4 | 4. 6 | 5. 3 and 6 | 6. 2 |
|------|------|------|------|------------|------|

The samples feature a variety of instruments including the saxophone, electric guitar, other string instruments, percussion instruments (drums, cymbals, etc.)

1. It's a timeless classic.
2. It's very cheesy.
3. It has a catchy melody.
4. It was a smash hit.
5. It has a fast tempo.
6. It brings back memories.

4 Describe the song

This activity can be used to revise the expressions for agreeing/disagreeing from the worksheet 'Discussing opinions'.

5 Music idioms

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. d | 3. e | 4. g | 5. f | 6. b | 7. a |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

