

# Language for ...

## surviving a music festival

**Age:** Adult / Young adult

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Length:** 45–60 minutes

**Language Focus:** Key vocabulary associated with attending a large music festival

**Skills:** Reading, speaking

**Materials:** One copy of the worksheet per student, internet access if available

**Aims:** To provide students with the language needed to give advice to people attending a music festival for the first time



### What are red words?

Ninety per cent of the time, speakers of English use just 7,500 words in speech and writing. These words appear in the Macmillan Dictionary in red and are graded with stars. One-star words are frequent, two-star words are more frequent and three-star words are the most frequent. 'Language for' lessons are based on red words and encourage students to improve their English through communicative tasks using collocation and commonly used phrases.

- 1 To introduce the topic, show students the two short videos. (Note: The two videos were filmed in summer and briefly show both men and women in revealing outfits. Please watch them before class to ensure they are suitable for your teaching context.)

- 'The best of Glastonbury 2017 – BBC Music': [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMgZR1C8xO4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMgZR1C8xO4)
- 'Coachella fest 2017': [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCTd0F7Dfzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCTd0F7Dfzs)

Elicit what they show (*music festivals*).

The first video is of the famous Glastonbury music festival in the UK. This is the largest green-field music and performing arts festival in the world and takes place across 900 acres of countryside in

south-west England over five days. About 200,000 people attend each day. The video lasts for about five minutes, but if time is short you can just show the first couple of minutes.

The second clip is of the Coachella festival. This is a three day music and art festival over two consecutive weekends that takes place in California. It attracts approximately 250,000 people.

- 2 Elicit words that students associate with music festivals. You may want to divide these into positive and negative categories.
- 3 Give a copy of the worksheet to each student.
- 4 Ask students to work in pairs or small groups to choose the correct answers to the warmer. Encourage them to use a dictionary if necessary but also be prepared to explain the meaning of some of the words (e.g. *hand sanitiser* – a special spray or liquid that keeps your hands clean and kills bacteria – and *wet wipe* – a small wet cloth usually in a packet that you use to clean yourself). Check the answers with the whole class.



**Teaching tip:** Encourage students to note down words that go together and keep them in their notebooks. The examples in the warmer are all compound nouns, but later in the worksheet there are examples of verb + noun collocations (Exercise 3c). Storing these words together may help learners to recall them, and it is also useful to see how words are used in context.

- 5 Ask students if they have ever been to a music festival, and if so, which one. If students haven't been to a music festival, ask them if there is one they would like to attend. Remember: music festivals aren't just for 'pop' music, but can be for other musical genres such as classical, world and country music, too.

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- 6 As a class, brainstorm advice for going to a music festival, using students' own experiences or best guesses. Write this on the board.
- 7 Ask students to read the text and then, in pairs, match up the 15 pieces of advice with their reasons. As an alternative option, the advice and reasons could be cut up and stuck on the wall around the classroom, with learners walking around the room and matching them up. Once completed, learners should check their answers with another pair.
- 8 Ask students to work individually to complete Exercise 2b without looking at the text again. Ask them to compare their answers in pairs and check them by looking in the text. Check their answers as a class to make sure they have all the correct answers.
- 9 Ask students to work in pairs to complete Exercise 2c. Check answers with the whole class.
- 10 In pairs, students describe (or use the internet to research) a music festival, either in their country or elsewhere. They should note down where it is, when it takes place, how many people attend and which famous bands or singers have performed there. They should then write down a minimum of five 'do's' and 'don'ts' for people who have never been to this concert. Ensure students don't simply copy from the text. Briefly remind them how we use the imperative and negative imperative (simply the base verb in the positive and *don't* plus the base verb in the negative).
- 11 In pairs, students present their festival and advice to the class, or, if time is short, to another pair.
- 12 Ask students to work individually to think about their reactions to the statements in Exercise 5. Encourage them to write notes if necessary. Then

ask them to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the three statements. Ask each pair or group to report back to the class. Make sure they give reasons and don't simply say 'We agree' or 'We disagree.'

### KEY:

- 1
  - 1 e
  - 2 d
  - 3 a
  - 4 f
  - 5 b
  - 6 c
- 2a.
  - 1 k
  - 2 e
  - 3 n
  - 4 b
  - 5 l
  - 6 h
  - 7 i
  - 8 f
  - 9 a
  - 10 d
  - 11 g
  - 12 m
  - 13 c
  - 14 o
  - 15 j
- 2b.
  - 1 sunburnt
  - 2 queuing
  - 3 jewellery
  - 4 battery
  - 5 contact
  - 6 regularly
  - 7 pitch
  - 8 schedule
- 2c.
  - 1 b
  - 2 f
  - 3 d
  - 4 a
  - 5 c
  - 6 e
- 3-5 students' own answers

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### 1 Warmer

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make important things to take to a music festival. Check the meaning in a dictionary if necessary.



- 1 sun
- 2 water
- 3 sleeping
- 4 wet
- 5 hand
- 6 toilet

- a bag
- b sanitiser
- c roll
- d bottle
- e cream
- f wipes



### 2 Text

a. Read the text and match up the reasons (a-o) with each piece of advice (1-15).

Advice	Reason
1. Try and <b>avoid</b> the sun	a. To check for any rips or tears.
2. <b>Keep clean</b>	b. People lose things at festivals and, unfortunately, there may also be some people who will use the presence of a large <b>crowd</b> of people to steal things. Leave valuable possessions such as <b>jewellery</b> at home and only take <b>essential</b> things with you, e.g. <b>mobile phone</b> and <b>credit card</b> . Keep these with you at all times and never leave them in your tent.
3. <b>Keep warm and dry</b>	c. You may have to do lots of walking and you <b>probably</b> won't need everything you take.
4. <b>Don't take valuables</b>	d. You don't want to find you have to sleep on the <b>ground</b> because there's no space to put up your tent.

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<p><b>5. Stay in <b>contact</b></b></p>	<p><b>e.</b> Queuing for hours to take a shower probably isn't the best idea and, anyway, after a couple of days, the showers may not be as clean as you would like them to be. Take wet wipes and, if possible, hand sanitiser and remember to use it regularly.</p>
<p><b>6. Drink lots of water</b></p>	<p><b>f.</b> Don't pitch your tent at the bottom of a hill (you will get very wet if it rains!) or near the toilets (they will probably smell bad after a couple of days). Keep your sleeping bag in a bin bag when you are not using it. This will keep it dry.</p>
<p><b>7. Plan your <b>schedule</b></b></p>	<p><b>g.</b> Walk around and <b>explore</b> and <b>experience</b> everything.</p>
<p><b>8. <b>Pitch</b> your tent in a <b>suitable</b> place</b></p>	<p><b>h.</b> Don't forget to drink water <b>regularly</b>. In hot weather this is particularly important. It can be expensive to buy bottles of water at festivals and you will probably have to <b>queue</b> to buy some so take your own water bottle and fill it up at one of the free water stations.</p>
<p><b>9. Before you go, put up your tent at home</b></p>	<p><b>i.</b> Decide in advance which bands you want to see and when. There may be several <b>stages</b> and with tens of thousands of people moving around, it's easy to get lost. Don't try and see too much. Take a <b>break</b> (and a rest) from time to time.</p>
<p><b>10. When you arrive, put up your tent first</b></p>	<p><b>j.</b> Your phone will run out of <b>battery</b> very quickly.</p>
<p><b>11. Don't spend all your time in your campsite</b></p>	<p><b>k.</b> This sounds <b>obvious</b> but remember that you will probably be spending 8 to 10 hours a day in the open air. This means you will also be in the sun. Being sunburnt at a music festival isn't <b>fun</b>. Make sure you take sun-cream, sunglasses and a <b>hat</b>.</p>
<p><b>12. Don't spend your whole time at the stages</b></p>	<p><b>l.</b> Remember there may be tens of thousands of people at the festival. <b>Arrange</b> a meeting place where you can meet up with your friends at specific times during the festival.</p>
<p><b>13. Don't take too many things</b></p>	<p><b>m.</b> There is so much more to see!</p>
<p><b>14. Bring toilet roll, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, spare socks, deodorant and wellies</b></p>	<p><b>n.</b> Yes, music festivals usually take place in the summer but remember that <b>wet</b> days are not unusual even in July and August. Make sure you take at least one change of clothes a day and keep them dry by <b>storing</b> them in bin bags in your <b>tent</b>. The <b>temperature</b> can also drop sharply at night so take a warm jacket too.</p>
<p><b>15. Take a portable phone charger and turn off your data</b></p>	<p><b>o.</b> You can get everything else there.</p>



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b. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

pitch	battery	regularly	schedule
queuing	sunburnt	jewellery	contact

- Being \_\_\_\_\_ at a music festival isn't much fun.
- \_\_\_\_\_ for hours to take a shower isn't much fun either.
- Don't take valuable items like \_\_\_\_\_ to a music festival.
- Your mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ will probably run out quite quickly.
- Stay in \_\_\_\_\_ with your friends by arranging a regular meeting place.
- Remember to drink water \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your tent at the bottom of a hill.
- Plan your \_\_\_\_\_ before you go to the festival.

c. Match the verbs from the text (1-6) with noun phrases (a-f).

- |           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 avoid   | a your schedule     |
| 2 pitch   | b the sun           |
| 3 arrange | c your mobile phone |
| 4 plan    | d a meeting place   |
| 5 charge  | e a break           |
| 6 take    | f a tent            |

### 3 Language in use

In pairs, choose a music festival. It can be in your country or somewhere else. Write down the following information about this festival:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Average number of people who attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Famous bands or singers who have performed there: \_\_\_\_\_

You are going to give advice to someone who has never been to this music festival before. Make a list of five 'do's' and 'don'ts' for attending this festival.

Do

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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Don't

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Communicate

Tell other students about the festival you chose. Give your advice.

### 5 Discussion



Read these statements. Decide whether you agree or disagree with them. Think of reasons for your answers. Then discuss your answers with a partner or in a small group.

1. 'Music festivals are awful. They are crowded, uncomfortable and expensive.'
2. 'The best place to listen to music is at home.'
3. 'Music festivals are fun. It's great being in the open air for three days.'

### Red Words

tent**	temperature***	store***	wet***	arrange***	hat***
fun**	obvious***	break***	stage***	queue*	regularly***
pitch**	suitable***	schedule**	credit card**	mobile phone**	
essential***	jewellery**	crowd***	contact***	avoid***	
probably***	ground***	battery**	explore***	experience***	