

The 2020 Eurovision Song Contest is postponed until 2021

Elementary

1 Warmer

Read some facts about the Eurovision Song Contest. Choose the best answers.

1. People have sung more than **1,500 / 15,000** songs at the Eurovision Song Contest.
2. In 1969, **three / four** countries had the same number of points, so they were all winners.
3. Norway has finished in last place **11 / 21** times.
4. Since 2015, **Australia / the USA** has also taken part in the Eurovision Song Contest.

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

venue

event

postpone

pandemic

cancel

host

1. A _____ is a disease that affects many people across the whole world. (para 1)
2. An _____ is an organized occasion, for example a sports competition. (para 1)
3. If people _____ an event, they decide to hold it at a later time. (para 1)
4. If people _____ an event, they decide that it will not happen at all. (para 1)
5. A _____ is the place where an activity happens. (para 2)
6. A _____ is a place or organization that organizes a special event. (para 2)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. When was the first Eurovision Song Contest?
2. How many countries entered the first competition?
3. How many different countries have won the competition?
4. Which country holds the record for the most Eurovision wins?
5. How many winning songs have been in English?
6. When did the Swedish group ABBA win the contest?

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4 June, 2020

- 1 Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, many popular events and activities have been postponed or cancelled. In sport, the European Football Championship and the Olympic Games have been postponed until 2021. Concerts, music festivals and theatre performances have also been cancelled. And on 18 March, Eurovision said that it had to cancel the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time in its 64-year history.
- 2 The venue for the 2020 contest was Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Rotterdam was chosen because the winning song in 2019 was the Dutch song, and the country of the winning song is always the host of the next year's event. Now Eurovision wants to have the next contest in May, 2021.
- 3 The first Eurovision Song Contest was in Switzerland in 1956. Only seven countries entered the competition that year, and each country had two songs. One of the Swiss songs was chosen as the best song that year. Since then, 26 other countries have won the competition. Ireland has won the most times (seven), Sweden has won six times, and four countries have won five times – France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK.
- 4 Many of the singers and groups that perform in the Eurovision Song Contest sing their songs in their own language. But 33 of the winning songs have been in English, and there have been 14 winning songs in French. Some of the singers or groups have become famous after winning the contest. Perhaps the most famous winner of all is the former Swedish pop group ABBA. It won the contest in 1974 with the song *Waterloo*, and it is probably the best-known winning Eurovision song of all time. Another winner who became an international star was Céline Dion. She won the 1988 contest for Switzerland.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, ... | a. ... for the past 64 years except in 2020. |
| 2. 2019's winning song was the Dutch song, so ... | b. ... probably the most famous winner of the Eurovision Song Contest. |
| 3. There were 14 songs at the first Eurovision Song Contest, so singers from... | c. ... the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest has been cancelled. |
| 4. The Eurovision Song Contest has been held every year ... | d. ... each of the seven countries performed two songs. |
| 5. The song <i>Waterloo</i> by ABBA is ... | e. ... is called Dutch. |
| 6. The language of the Netherlands ... | f. ... the Netherlands was the venue for the 2020 competition. |

5 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. song | a. known |
| 2. best- | b. festival |
| 3. music | c. championship |
| 4. football | d. contest |

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6 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

of

in

after

for

until

- _____ winning the contest
- the most famous winner _____ all
- postponed _____ 2021
- _____ the first time _____ its 64-year history

7 Verb phrases

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make verb phrases from the text.

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1. enter | a. an event |
| 2. cancel | b. a winner |
| 3. be | c. famous |
| 4. become | d. a competition |

8 Discussion

- Do you like song contests? Why? Why not?
- Many events have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Which events do you miss?