

Pan pipes, pinot noir and productivity: the hidden power of music

Level: Elementary – Teacher's notes

Article summary: How music is integral to our lives and why we are all musical, even if we don't think we are.

Time: 90 minutes

Skills: Reading, speaking, writing

Language focus: Vocabulary, speaking, writing

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. In this warmer task, students work with a partner or in groups of three and scan the article to find which music genres are mentioned there and add them to their boxes. Then they add others they know. Then they discuss the question, come up with suggestions and share them with the rest of the class.

2. Short discussion

- a. Students discuss the questions directly related to the article and then read the article to find out what it says about these topics.

3. Key words

- a. Students write the correct words from the wordpools next to the definitions on the lines provided. Then they find and highlight them in the article to read them in context. Note that the radio programme *Desert Island Discs*, mentioned in the article, is explained and expanded on in task 7.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>screechy</i> | 6. <i>soothing</i> |
| 2. <i>lush</i> | 7. <i>familiar</i> |
| 3. <i>culture</i> | 8. <i>distracting</i> |
| 4. <i>therapy</i> | 9. <i>concentrate</i> |
| 5. <i>increase</i> | 10. <i>ballad</i> |

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

Key:

1. *therapy*
2. *concentrate*
3. *familiar*
4. *culture*

4. Understanding the article

- a. Students first read the statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the article and correct any that are false.

Key:

1. *False. Turn It Up is the title of an exhibition at the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester.*
2. *False. He was asked to say what tastes certain music made him think of. Screechy music made him think of bitter lemons.*
3. *False. In western music, there are associations between major keys and happiness and minor keys and sadness, but that is not the same in all cultures around the world.*
4. *True*
5. *True*
6. *False. That was a joke. The best kinds of songs to listen to while driving are ballads.*

5. Key language

- a. Students match the words to make word pairs from the article, and discuss and find out their meanings.

Key:

1. *c*
2. *d*
3. *e*
4. *a*
5. *b*

- b. Then students use the word pairs to complete the sentences.

Pan pipes, pinot noir and productivity: the hidden power of music

Level: Elementary – Teacher's notes

Key:

1. *on hold*
2. *hanging about*
3. *mechanical tasks*
4. *care home*
5. *luxury items*

6. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the questions that are related to the article.

7. In your own words

- a. Students read the explanation and look up 'Desert Island Discs' to find out more about it. You could even play (part of) one of the radio shows, which are all available for free online as podcasts. Explain that on a desert island, they will be all alone. No one will be there with them. Then they do the task as explained on the worksheet.