

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

Level: Advanced – 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–c. In this warmer task, students work with a partner or in groups of three and brainstorm music genres and write them in the box. Then they scan the article to find which ones are mentioned there and add them to their boxes if they hadn't thought of them. Then they discuss the questions, come up with suggestions and share them with the rest of the class.

2. Short discussion

a. Students discuss the questions from the subtitle of the article and then read the article to find out what it says about these topics.

3. Key words

a. Students write the correct word from the wordpool 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>reluctant</i> | 9. <i>aisle</i> |
| 2. <i>ridicule</i> | 10. <i>subliminally</i> |
| 3. <i>lush</i> | 11. <i>utilitarian</i> |
| 4. <i>ubiquity</i> | 12. <i>lingering</i> |
| 5. <i>lullaby</i> | 13. <i>soporific</i> |
| 6. <i>adversely</i> | 14. <i>encapsulate</i> |
| 7. <i>dissonance</i> | 15. <i>rendition</i> |
| 8. <i>agitation</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. <i>utilitarian</i> | 5. <i>reluctant</i> |
| 2. <i>adversely</i> | 6. <i>lingering</i> |
| 3. <i>encapsulates</i> | 7. <i>ridicule</i> |
| 4. <i>aisles</i> | 8. <i>agitation</i> |

4. Understanding the article

a. In this two-part task, students first read the statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the article, correcting any that are false.

Key:

1. *False. Turn It Up is the title of an exhibition at the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester, which tries to make university research accessible to everyone.*
2. *False. The other way round: he was asked to say what tastes certain music brought to mind. Two of his examples were strawberries and lemons.*
3. *True*
4. *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.*

b. In the second part, they find and paraphrase detailed information from the text to answer the questions.

1. *In group music-therapy sessions in care homes, a study found that music could reduce the amount of medication needed. Music took the place of drugs in reducing agitation and distress among patients.*
2. *Lullabies (as would be expected), but music doesn't have to be soporific. It's more important that the music is familiar to the listener and makes them feel comfortable and relaxed.*
3. *Because the music can sum up the deceased person's attitude to life.*

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4. *Classical music suggests that the place is high end, and the price of the products is justified and worth the money. Country music encourages people to buy everyday functional items. Supermarkets play generic French or German music in their wine aisles to encourage people to buy wine from those countries. Fast music makes people shop more quickly.*

5. Key language

- a. Students find phrases that fit with the meanings.

Key:

1. *conjure up*
2. *set store by*
3. *stay on the line*

- b. Then they use the phrases in sentences about other topics.

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. Then they do the task as explained on the worksheet.