

# Festivals and concerts

READING

LEVEL  
Intermediate

NUMBER  
B2\_2033R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English






## Goals

- Can read and understand the main points about today's music cultures, festivals and concerts.
- Can talk about my own musical tastes and express my opinions on festivals.





Listening to **music** is often a **social experience**, and never more so than when surrounded by thousands of screaming **fans** in a muddy field, enjoying a **festival**.



## Vocabulary

genre

mixture

evolution

epicentre

gaudy



mainstream

cater to

decline



## Vocabulary



People like different **genres** of music, such as rock, classical or pop.

Many musical genres are a **mixture** of other styles, such as reggae, rock, rap, metal and dance-punk.



The **evolution** of pop music has been rapid since the 1960s.

San Francisco became the **epicentre** of hippie culture in the 1960s.





## Vocabulary



Glam metal bands wear **gaudy** clothes and dark makeup.

Pop music is mainstream, while other **genres** are often in the background.



Festivals **cater to** many different audiences. You can find a festival for any type of music.

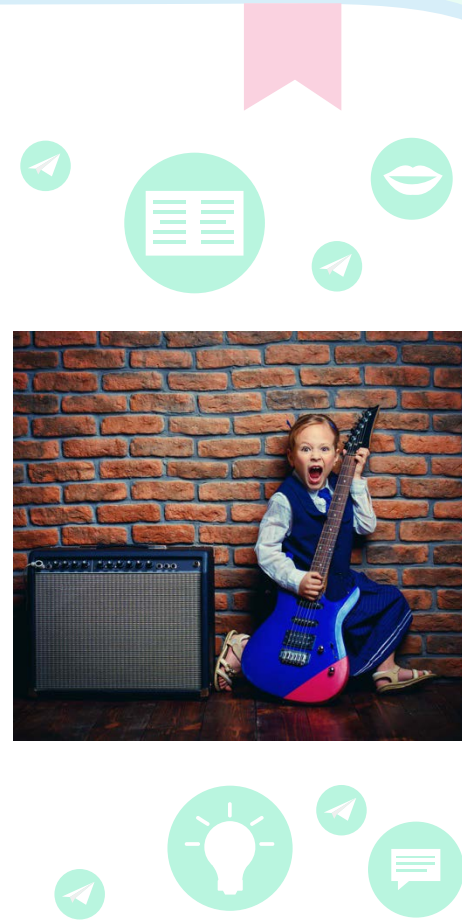
Sales of physical records have **declined** since the advent of the internet.





## Festivals and concerts

Pop music has always, **by definition**, been the most popular **genre** of music, but the **structure** and content of pop music has changed greatly over the past 50 years. Like all other musical genres, pop music is in a constant **state of flux**. Listeners pick and choose which type of pop they want to listen to according to their mood: upbeat and fast for a workout, slow and **melodic** for a romantic dinner.





## Festivals and concerts



Looking back to the 1950s, which many people believe was the decade of the birth of pop music, we see rock and roll **dominating**. Its origins were in a **mixture** of gospel music and rhythm and blues, and it was one of the first types of music which appealed to all types of people. It was also one of the first genres around which a teenage **culture grew**, with fashion, hairstyles, and dance moves appearing alongside the music.



## A state of flux

Do you agree that **pop music** is  
in a constant **state of flux**?  
What arguments are there for or  
against this?





## Music

What kind of music would you choose for these different occasions?  
Why?





## Speaking

Answer the questions with your classmates or teacher.



1

Do you know any famous rock and roll artists or songs?

2

What kind of style do you associate with rock and roll?

3

Why do you think rock and roll is cited as the first real pop music?



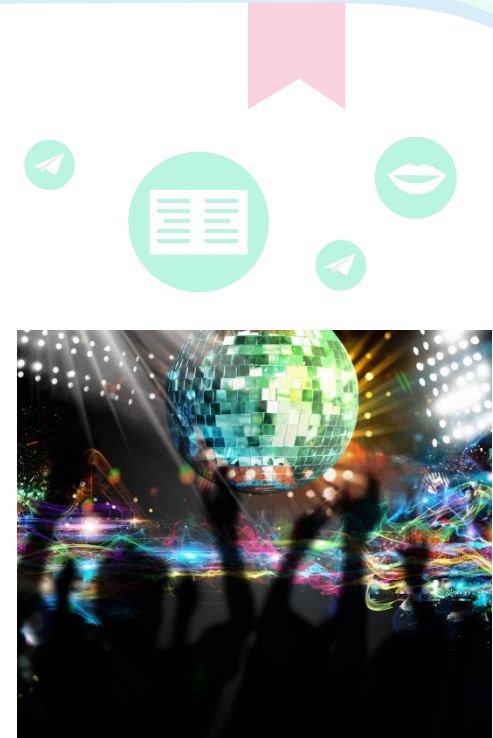
## Festivals and concerts

The 1960s was a revolutionary decade as it saw the **evolution** of rock music and the first music festivals. The 1960s saw the so-called *British Invasion* of the US charts, when multiple British bands became **wildly popular** both at home and **across the pond**. The music had a strong blues influence in the middle of the decade, and **hordes** of screaming teenage fans followed the boy bands everywhere. Towards the end of the decade, many major, established bands began to produce **psychedelic** music, drawing on influences from India. The first music festivals had bands performing mainly rock and folk music, and they came to be the **epicentre** of American **counterculture**, with hippies **epitomising** these festivals.



## Festivals and concerts

The 1970s saw the rise of disco in the western world, which **originated** in house parties, and was seen as a **reaction** to the **dominance** of rock in the previous decade. Many disco songs used **synthesisers**, and the electric piano and guitar were also popular. This trend has continued to the present day, as we use a lot of synthesised music and electric instruments to create music. This also **ties into** the fact that the beat of pop music is now mechanised, making it much more accurate than when the beat was set by drummers.





## Festivals and concerts



In the 1980s, we saw the popularity of glam metal and hard rock grow. Glam metal performers and fans often had long, **back-combed** hair, lots of make up and **gaudy** clothing. Hip hop, which had been gaining popularity throughout the 1980s, continued to do so in the 1990s, along with R&B, rap, and reggae. Alongside these genres, the **big ballad** made a comeback, and boy and girl bands singing **upbeat** pop were also very popular.



## Do you know this vocabulary from the text?

evolution

wildly popular

across the pond

horde

epitomise

synthesiser

tie into

back-combed

big ballad



## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the words below.

gaudy

synthesisers

hordes

back-combed

epitomise

1. What kind of bands and singers do \_\_\_\_\_ of fans follow around today?
2. Do you think hippies \_\_\_\_\_ music festivals now, or is there another type of fan?
3. Which genres of music make a lot of use of \_\_\_\_\_ and which don't?
4. Which bands or singers do you associate with \_\_\_\_\_ clothes and \_\_\_\_\_ hair?





## Speaking

**Now answer the questions on the previous page with your classmates or teacher.**





## Artists and songs

**Can you name some  
artists and famous  
songs from these  
decades?**

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s



## Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences about these music genres in your own words.

1. Psychedelic music was...
2. The 1970s saw the rise of disco music which...
3. Glam metal performers...
4. Hip hop gained popularity...
5. In the 1990s, big ballads...



## Writing

**Which type of music mentioned so far do you prefer?  
Write a short paragraph about why you like it, and any extra details  
which are not mentioned here.**

*instruments  
played*

*famous singers*

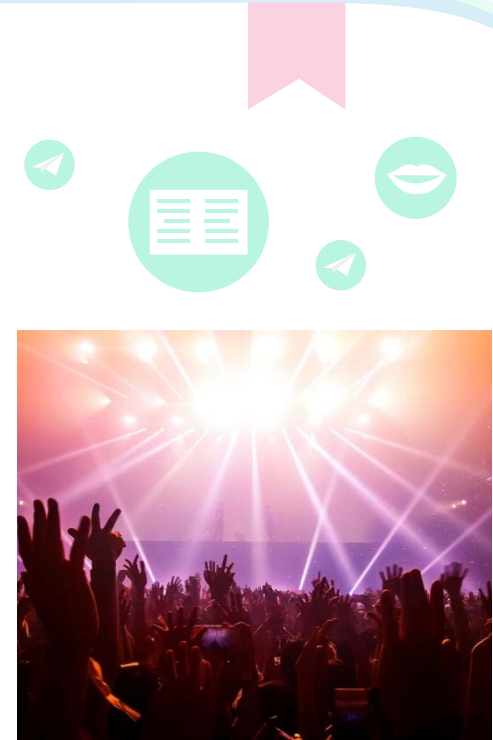


A vertical sheet of white paper with a blue binding edge on the left and horizontal lines for writing.



## Festivals and concerts

Since the 1960s, music festivals have continued to grow and show no sign of losing popularity in the present day, though they have certainly changed a lot since they first hit the **mainstream**. From having just a few festivals a year, we now have festivals in every city and town, and which **cater to** every musical genre and fan. Music festivals now are also much more corporate than the hippie festivals of the 1960s and early 70s were, with big brands **sponsoring** the festivals and sponsoring celebrities to show up looking fashionable.





## Festivals and concerts



Social media has had a huge influence on music festival goers, and rather than seeing a **decline** in attendance, major festivals are actually making more and more money every year. Social media builds a **buzz** around the festival, both by advertising and allowing attendees to share their experiences, making tickets sell out well before the event. It also allows the festival organisers to know more about the attendees, so that they can cater to their **specific** interests better. Perhaps one of the most important **contributions** of social media is that attendees can show their friends (and enemies) where they are - and what those friends are **missing out** on.



## Social media

In what ways do you think social media creates a buzz around festivals?



targeted  
advertising

sharing images

tagging people  
and locations

promoting  
products



## Changing festivals

Using the text and your own ideas, make a list of how festivals have changed since the 1960s.

A sheet of white lined paper with a blue vertical margin on the left side and horizontal lines for writing.





## Speaking

**Now discuss with your classmates and teacher whether you think the changes have been for the better or for the worse and why.**





## Music festivals

**Do you know of any famous music festivals?  
What kind of fans do they cater to?  
Have you ever attended a festival?  
Are there any you would like to go to?**





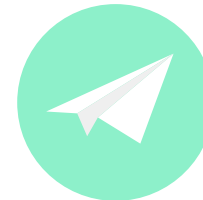
## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

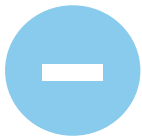
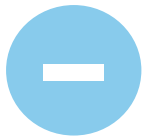
no



## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again

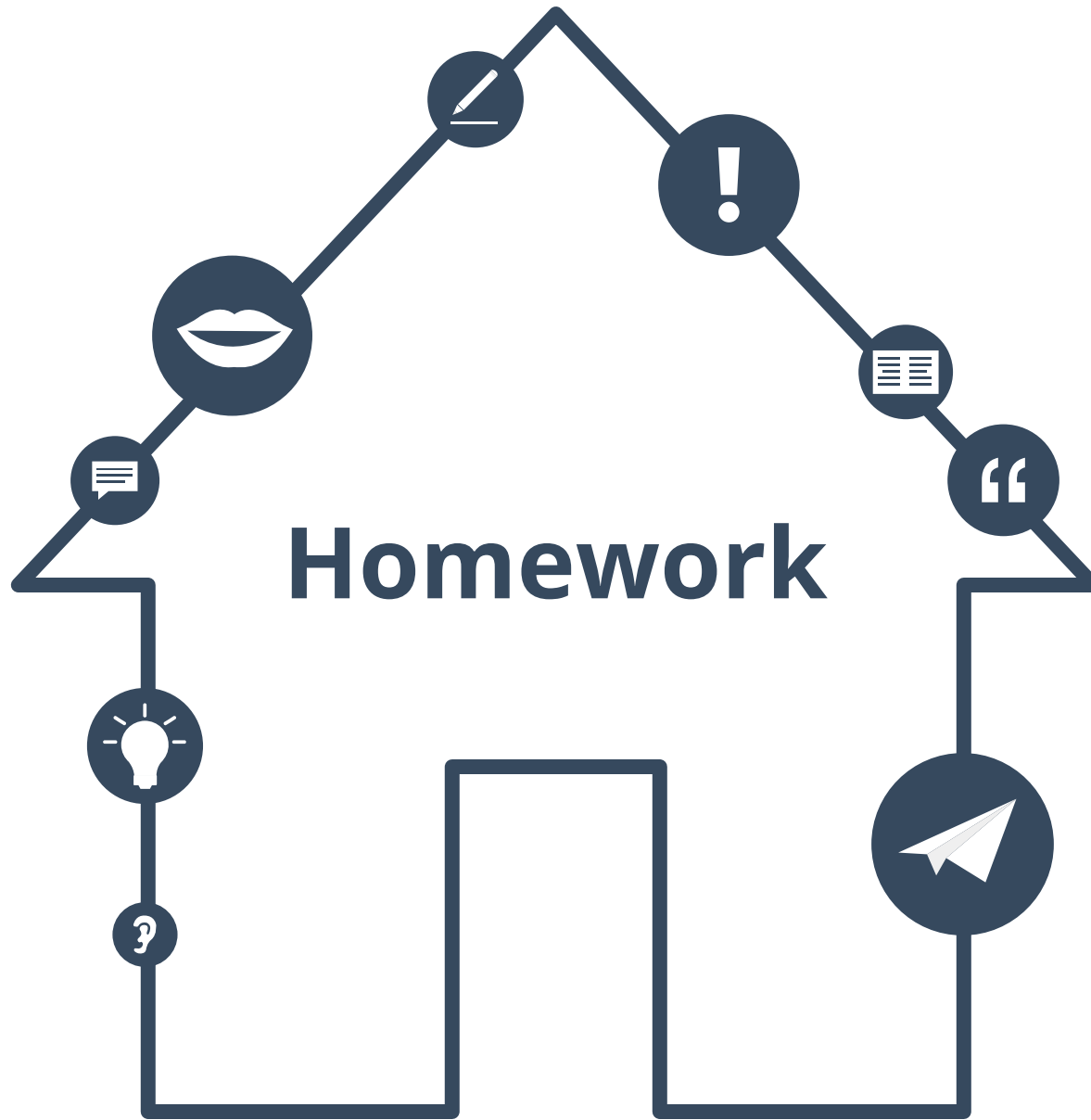




## Answer key

### **Exercise p. 16**

1. hordes, 2. epitomise, 3. synthesisers, 4. gaudy/back-combed





## Fill in the gaps with different genres of music

The early and mid 1960s saw pop music inspired by \_\_\_\_\_, but later in the decade there were more \_\_\_\_\_ influences from India. In the 1970s, \_\_\_\_\_ became very popular, starting in house parties and then becoming mainstream. The 1980s saw \_\_\_\_\_ and hard rock as the most popular, though \_\_\_\_\_ was also growing in that decade. The 1990s had a mixture of influences, with \_\_\_\_\_, R&B, and big ballads all competing for popularity.







## Homework answer key

### **Exercise p. 31**

Blues, psychedelic, disco, glam metal, hip hop, reggae



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