

## Reading, Listening and Vocabulary

I remember the first **album** I bought when I was a kid. It was The Joshua Tree by U2. We had a **turntable** at home, so I used to love **putting the needle on the record** and listening to the album. My father hated my music taste so he always shouted at me, "we have headphones you know!", so I usually **plugged** myself **in** for a few hours after my household chores. In my house, I grew up with various musical influences, my father loved country music; my mother loved classical, my older brother **was into** rock, my older sister was into pop, and I was into **alternative** music. When I was in secondary school, my music taste reflected my fashion and my attitude. I hung around in a group, about four or five of us, all dressed in black, with nail varnish, lipstick, piercings and hair standing up on our heads. We were all into Goth music, the Cure, The Jesus and Mary Chain and we always got into fights with the rockers (the guys who wore blue denim and black leather jackets, who loved rock music).

In university, I **grew out of** that Goth scene, and became more interested in **singer-songwriter** musicians, listening to Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen and Nick Cave, people I still listen to today. I also became more aware of Irish musicians, who in some way reflected how I felt at particular moments throughout my life. Depending on my mood, I would **pump up** a song loud enough that I couldn't hear myself singing. One of my favorite songs for this was "Revelate" by The Frames (the lead singer is the main actor in the movie "Once"). I also enjoyed dance music and hip hop, but this was mostly when I went clubbing, I would rarely listen to this at home. I was never really into **chart music**, or what the latest **hit** was, and MTV **was** never really **on** in my house.

Nowadays, I usually **troll through** Myspace or Itunes, or a few other websites to find **music samples**, before I buy the CD or download. My ipod can hold a lot of music and it displays the album art and organizes the songs into **playlists**, artists, songs, albums, **composers**, **genres**, **compilations**, podcasts and so on.

With the technology of today, it seems to be much easier and faster to access the artists you want to hear, it is quite different to when I was a child recording songs off the radio with a **cassette player**. When I travel now or go for a jog (sometimes), I will put on my ipod, put in my headphones and set my music to **shuffle**.

However, something which I miss most about living in a new country is **live music**. Seeing and hearing your favorite band, group or singer **on stage** is amazing. I even miss walking down the street and listening to a **busker strumming** away on his guitar. The **vibe** you get from the crowd gathered around you, all with open ears, listening to every chord, beat, note or lyric is something I used to love about going to live music, whether it was on the street, in a small **intimate venue**, a concert hall or at a large **open air concert**. I will always have a love for music, even though I am terrible on the guitar and **can't hold a note** to save my life.

## Phrases

### The most commonly used Music Phrasal Verbs

Verb	Collocations	Example
be into	music	William <b>is</b> really <b>into</b> modern jazz music.
be off		He said no one had told them officially that the concert <b>was off</b> .
bring out	best	Sam Taylor's music <b>brings out</b> the best not only in his fans, but he brings out the best in other musicians!
crank out	hits	It's hard to go wrong with a CD of the best songs by this talented trio that keeps <b>cranking out</b> hits.
crank up	volume	The bus was so noisy that I had to <b>crank up</b> the volume and press the headphones to my ears to hear the music.
drum up	interest	Members of the New York Police Department's own pipe band are visiting Edinburgh in an attempt to <b>drum up</b> interest among Scottish musicians.
go off		It's only our first album and I'm sure by the time we get to record our second, we will have <b>gone off</b> in a different direction.
have on	radio	I love to listen to music, so I always <b>have</b> the radio <b>on</b> or CDs spinning in my stereo.
join in		The singer told the audience to <b>join in</b> the chorus.
kick off		The tour is going to <b>kick off</b> right here in Atlanta, June 20th at the Lakewood Amphitheater.
kick up	heels	This traditional New England town hall dance will have everyone from toddler to great-granny <b>kicking up</b> their heels!
look forward to	concert	I'm <b>looking forward to</b> the concert.
make up		Laid-back tunes and the odd jazzy number <b>make up</b> this silky little album.
notch up	sales	In just a few years the band had <b>notched up</b> sales of 12 million singles and were quickly likened to Abba for their catchy songs.
pack out		He's a very popular artist. Last year he was able to <b>pack out</b> London's Royal Albert Hall.
pick up	guitar	I <b>picked up</b> my guitar and headed into town for a morning's busking.
pump up	bass	Sound quality is relatively good and you can <b>pump up</b> the bass to a reasonable level.
put off	tour	The band had to <b>put</b> the tour <b>off</b> until May because the drummer broke his arm.
put out	album	In between working with other artists, Wyclef also found time to <b>put out</b> his album Masquerade last year.
rack up	sales	The album went on to <b>rack up</b> sales of over 17 million units, making the Fugees the biggest-selling rap group of all time.
rip up		Almost 30 years together this band still <b>rips it up</b> like nobody else.
sell out		Ricky and the band have been playing to <b>sold out</b> audiences across the country.