



## Episode 7: Music

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#). **Also, if you're a teacher, check out this [blog post](#) for lots of fun ideas for teaching with music.**

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss their opinions of different types of music and share experiences related to enjoying music.

**Here are some explanations, words and phrases about the topic that you may find useful:**

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| <b>music genres</b>  | Click the links below to find out more about some of the music genres discussed in the conversation<br><br><a href="#">Alternative</a> <a href="#">Funk</a> <a href="#">Country</a> <a href="#">R&amp;B</a> <a href="#">Rap</a> <a href="#">Hip Hop</a><br><a href="#">Hard Rock</a> <a href="#">Classic Rock</a> <a href="#">Jazz</a> |
| <b>take up [a musical instrument] Ph. V.</b>                             | To begin learning how to play an instrument. Ex. I'm thinking of <u>taking up</u> the guitar.  |
| <b>sheet music</b>   | the written form of a song with the musical notes  |
| <b>read music</b>  | To understand and be able to play an instrument using sheet music  |
| <b>play by ear</b>   | To be able to play a song just from hearing it, without the need to use sheet music  |
| <b>have an ear for music</b>   | have the ability to learn and understand the structure of a piece of music quickly and easily  |
| <b>gig</b>   | Slang: a one-time job for a musician or group of musicians to perform. Ex. We have a <u>gig</u> tonight at a bar downtown.   |
| <b>be into/not be into</b>   | Have an interest in a particular subject. Ex. I'm <u>not</u> really <u>into</u> country music.   |
| <b>lyrics</b>  | the words of a song  |
| <b>Test your knowledge on some music vocabulary <a href="#">HERE</a></b> |  |

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>taste</b><br>[in something]     | a person's choice in things they enjoy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We never discussed our <u>taste</u> in music</li> <li>She has good <u>taste</u> in clothes.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>rock [a baby] to sleep</b>      | help a baby get to sleep by rocking in a chair, cradle, etc.   |
| <b>national anthem</b>             | patriotic song officially adopted by a country as an expression of national identity   |
| <b>catchy tune</b>                 | a song that is pleasing and easy to remember   |
| <b>you lost me</b>                 | I don't understand anymore; I've become confused about what you're saying.   |
| <b>eclectic</b>                    | taken from many different sources; if you have eclectic taste in music, it means you like a wide variety of musical styles.  |
| <b>butcher</b><br>[something]      | informal: to do a very bad job at something. If you butcher a word, it means you pronounce it very badly. Someone who butchers a song does a poor performance of it.   |
| <b>staple</b>                      | something that is used widely and often, particularly in a specific area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country music is an American <u>staple</u>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>to be up for</b><br>[something] | Ready and willing for something; agreeable to something. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm always <u>up for</u> something new.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>come up</b>                     | be mentioned or discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are some common topics that <u>come up</u> in country songs.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>bingo card</b>                  | See Cultural Notes in the next section   |
| <b>tearjerker</b>                  | story, song, movie etc. that moves or is intended to move its audience to tears  |
| <b>spectrum</b>                    | a complete range of different opinions, people, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>songs that cover the whole <u>spectrum</u>: from tearjerkers to party songs, to everything in between.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>hooked</b>                      | very interested in something; constantly wanted more and more <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I got my son <u>hooked on</u> AC/DC.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>get carried away</b>            | to be so excited about something that you cannot control what you say or do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oops! I <u>got carried away</u>! (when Donielle accidentally started singing the song)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>cover [a song]</b>              | perform or record a performance of a song that was written and made famous by someone else, as opposed to an original piece of work. The performance of said song is called "a cover." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lot of bands have <u>covered</u> this song.</li> <li>It's a <u>cover</u>, but I prefer it over the original</li> </ul> |

## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

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| <b>stand up</b><br>[in a wedding]                  | be a maid of honor or bridesmaid in a wedding.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I had to <u>stand up</u> in my friend's wedding the next week.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>meet</b> [a celebrity]                          | If a person says they met a singer (like Tina Turner), it doesn't mean that they just attended a concert, for example. It means that they actually interacted with the person, shook their hand, got an autograph, picture, etc.   |
| <b>impromptu</b>                                   | made or done without any previous planning or preparation<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several Ukrainian bands put on an <u>impromptu</u> concert.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>drag</b> [someone]<br><b>along</b>              | When you want or need to go to an event but you force or convince someone who doesn't really have any desire to attend to go along with you.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When I was growing up, my aunts and uncles would often <u>drag me along</u> to concerts.</li> </ul> |
| <b>kick</b> [someone]<br><b>out</b>                | make someone leave a place<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our coach came back to our rooms to <u>kick everybody out</u> to go to the dance.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>sign</b> [someone]<br><b>up</b> [for something] | very common phrasal verb used to register for something, or sign one's name (as to a contract) in order to obtain, do, or join something.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <u>signed up</u> for the gym.</li> <li>My parents <u>signed me up</u> for music school.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>be</b> [someone's]<br><b>calling</b>            | an activity, profession, etc. that you are naturally drawn to  |
| <b>get out of</b><br>[something]                   | manage to avoid an activity or doing something<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I was able to <u>get out of</u> P.E. class if I joined the band.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>stink</b> [at<br>something]                     | to be extremely bad at a particular activity.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I played the clarinet, but I <u>stunk</u>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>boost</b>                                       | lift, make better<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music <u>boosts</u> your mood.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>have</b> [someone]<br><b>over</b>               | describing the situation where someone is in your home for a social visit<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We <u>had</u> friends <u>over</u> for dinner.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>in no time</b>                                  | very quickly<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play some music for the plants, and we'll be eating cucumbers <u>in no time</u>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>you do you</b>                                  | Informal: used to say that someone should do what they think is best, what they enjoy most, or what suits their personality  |
| <b>Spare</b> [someone]                             | to not tell someone every detail about something because it is too boring, personal, or unpleasant<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We could keep talking about this, but we'll <u>spare</u> you.</li> </ul>  |

## Cultural Notes: Bingo Card



Bingo is a very popular game in which players mark off numbers on cards as the numbers are drawn randomly by a caller, the winner being the first person to mark off five numbers in a row or another required pattern. Sometimes instead of numbers, there are random words or images that need to be covered, allowing the game to fit just about any holiday or occasion.

People often use the idea of this game to talk about specific situations where many people might predict a series of possible actions or activities, which they might place on an imaginary bingo card. For example, if a particular TV show has certain things that regular viewers can predict will occur or phrases that are likely to be used during the episode, they might go on this “bingo card.” The idea is that on this hypothetical bingo card, we would cover the respective space upon hearing the phrase or seeing the activity.

Similarly, in the discussion about Country music, we talked about a variety of topics that frequently come up in many Country songs. Each of these topics ( e.g. beer, small town, truck, boots, cheating, etc.) could be something that we might put on a bingo card because there is a strong likelihood that in any given Country song, many of these topics will come up.

### Join the Conversation

- What types of music do you like to listen to? Do you listen to music more often in English or your native language? Are there any types of music you don't like to listen to?
- Click on some of the links on the first page to explore some of the different music genres. Which of these were you familiar with? Was there anything interesting that you learned? Which ones do you think you would enjoy most?
- Can you name any songs or singers/groups that are popular right now? Do you like them?
- How often do you listen to music? Do you listen to certain types of music while doing specific types of activities?
- Do you think music has the power to change your mood? If so, how does different music affect you?
- Do you enjoy dancing? What kind of music do you enjoy dancing to?
- Do you enjoy live music? Do you ever go to concerts? Talk about a time when you saw a musical performance.
- Do you have any musical ability? Can you sing? Can you play an instrument? Are there any instruments that you would like to take up?

# Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



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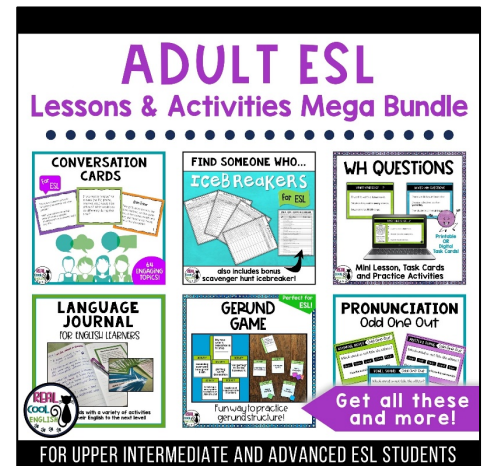
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