



## Cultural awareness

### Festivals in Scotland



#### Fact box

Edinburgh and Glasgow have a lot of festivals! There are film festivals, and many kinds of music festivals.

1 Look at the pictures. Which of the two performances would you like to watch?

2 1.29 Read and listen to the guide. Which famous person was once in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival?

A quick guide to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

HOME GUIDE

**What is it?**  
It's the biggest festival of theatre, comedy, music and dance in the world. Every year there are thousands of different performers from all over the world!

**Who performs in it?**  
Lots of young actors, comedians, musicians and dancers.

**When did it start?**  
In 1947 – the same year that the Edinburgh International Festival started.

**Why was it special?**  
There were rules about who could and couldn't perform at the International Festival. However, at the Fringe Festival anybody could put on a show!

**Who has appeared at the festival?**  
Many famous people began their careers at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. For example, Rowan Atkinson, the actor who plays Mr Bean, appeared in a play there when he was a student at Oxford University.

**Where does it take place?**  
All over Edinburgh. Performances don't always take place in theatres, however. You can watch them outside on the street, in cafés and in people's homes. Once there was even a show on a moving bus!

**When does it take place?**  
Every August for three weeks.

**How much do tickets cost?**  
Most tickets cost under ten pounds, but many performances are free.

**What does it offer for young people?**  
Lots! In the 2012 festival, for example, many events were for teenagers. They included a youth circus workshop and a musical comedy performed by American high-school pupils.




**Word check**  
festival perform put on a show  
take place circus comedy

3 Read the guide again. Are the sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 The International Festival began after the Fringe Festival.
- 2 You don't need any experience to take part in the Fringe Festival.
- 3 There was a Mr Bean show at one festival.
- 4 Performances are sometimes in strange places.
- 5 The Fringe Festival isn't just for adults.

#### CULTURAL COMPARISON

4 Think of a festival in your country and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is it?
- 2 When is it?
- 3 Who takes part in it?
- 4 How much do tickets cost?

