

## Music to my ears



1. Since I was a young girl my favourite style of music has been jazz and blues. The first ever CD that I bought was Chuck Berry's Greatest Hits when I was 11 years old. I absolutely loved it and I used to sing along and dance to the music around my bedroom. Even now, whenever I hear one of Chuck Berry's songs I tap my feet and hum along to the music.

2. Later, I started to listen to other musicians from this genre. I used to listen to Elvis Presley almost every day after school. I just loved music that made me want to dance. I started to love soul music too after a friend bought me a Motown Classics CD for my 15th birthday. My absolute favourite pastime was listening to Aretha Franklin or Katrina and the Waves. I used to admire a lot of these amazing artists and performers and still do to this day. As a shy person, hearing these people perform with such confidence and such talent was inspirational to me.

3. Blues music originated in African-American history in the 19th century when African slaves and ex-slaves started to sing about their experiences. The birthplace of the blues is said to be the Mississippi Delta near New Orleans in the USA. Jazz, which became popular in the 1930s and 40s, is different from the blues but they have always influenced each other.

4. I think I enjoy music so much because it is a form of escapism from reality and I find that if I have had a hard day or I'm feeling a little low, listening to music can turn my mood around and cheer me up. In fact, scientists at the University of Missouri have shown that people can boost their moods by listening

to upbeat tunes! Moreover, a study made by Herriot-Watt University here in Scotland even links certain personality traits with musical preference! Apparently, those who enjoy jazz and blues music are more likely to be creative, outgoing and have high self-esteem.

## **ACTIVITY 1:**

### **Multiple Choice.**

**Read the text again and circle the correct alternative for each statement.**

**1. Paragraph 1 is about...**

- a. the author's favorite singer Chuck Berry.
- b. the author's reasons why she loves music.
- c. the reasons why jazz and blues are the best music.
- d. how Chuck Berry's music inspired her musical taste.

**2. Paragraph 2 states that...**

- a. the author didn't like jazz or blues anymore.
- b. the author was not shy anymore thanks to music.
- c. the author admired artists and performers at that age.
- d. she enjoyed listening to different artists in this kind of music.

**3. In Paragraph 3 the author states that...**

- a. both, the blues and jazz originated together.
- b. the blues originated before jazz.
- c. jazz and the blues have nothing in common.
- d. jazz and the blues originated in New Orleans.

**4. In paragraph 4 the main idea is...**

- a. to establish a link between music and escapism.
- b. to say why the author enjoys music so much.
- c. to say why music can be beneficial to boost our mood.
- d. to provide evidence about the importance of music.



## VIDEO WATCHING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1UV8FGnToo>

**Work in pairs and answer the following questions:**

1. Have you ever heard about Nikola Tesla?
2. Do you know about some of his accomplishments?
3. Share what you know about him with the class.



### **ACTIVITY 1:**

**Listen to the following video and work with your classmate to complete these statements.**

1. Nikola Tesla was born in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ an important role in the development of electromagnetism and electricity.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ the Technical University of Gratz in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In 1882 Tesla went to work for the \_\_\_\_\_ in Paris.
5. In 1884 he \_\_\_\_\_ in New York City.
6. George Westinghouse bought the \_\_\_\_\_ for Tesla's dynamos, motors and transformers in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Tesla started the Tesla Electric Light and Manufacturing Company in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. He invented the \_\_\_\_\_ in 1891.
9. Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ in Colorado Springs from 1899 to the early 1900.
10. He \_\_\_\_\_ alone in the New Yorker Hotel in \_\_\_\_\_.