# "America", by Simon and Garfunkel

## 1) The 1960s

Look at the events in the box. What do you know about them? Which ones took place in the 1960s?

The Cold War – World War II – The Vietnam War – The Fall of the Berlin Wall – The last Argentinian dictatorship – The Hippie Movement – Rock and Roll Bands – The Russian Revolution – Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II – The Pearl Harbour Attack – The Man on the Moon – The Great Depression – The Civil Rights Movement – The Assassination of JFK – The Summer of Love – Woodstock

## 2) Grammar: Narrative Tenses

a) *Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the brackets. Use Past Simple or Past Continuous. Then, answer the questions below.*

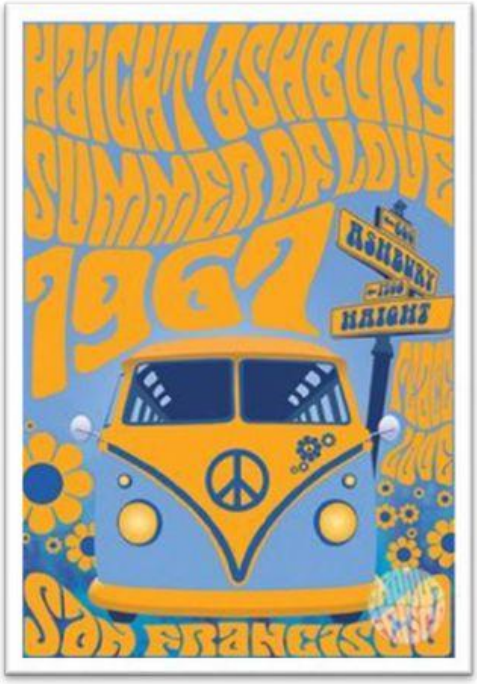
*The Summer of Love*

*In June 1967 when the summer* (start) *about 75.000 people* (travel) *to San Francisco, California, to start what would later be called "The Summer of Love". The people who* (travel), (be) *mostly young people who* (wear) *hippie clothes and* (behave) *like bohemians.*

- Which tense is used to talk about the main events in a story?
- Which tense is used to give background information in a story?

b) *Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the brackets. Use Past Simple or Past Perfect. Then, answer the question below.*

*The focus* (be) *San Francisco, where young people* (travel) *from across America and beyond, attracted by the chance to experiment with drugs and sex. Many* (come )*for the Monterey Pop Festival, which Scott McKenzie's San Francisco ('If you're going to San Francisco...')* *originally* (be) *designed to promote.*




- *Which tense describes the events that happened first?*

**3) Listening:**

*a) Complete the blanks with the words you hear.*

**"America", by Simon & Garfunkel**

Let us be , we'll marry our fortunes together

I've got some here in my bag

So we bought a pack of and Mrs. Wagner's

And we walked off to America

"Kathy", I said as we a Greyhound in Pittsburgh

Michigan seems like a dream to me now

It took me four days to from Saginaw

I've gone to look for America

on the bus, playing games with the

She said the man in the gabardine was a spy

I said, be careful, his is really a camera

*b) Number the verses in the order that you hear them.*

She read her magazine

We smoked the last one an hour ago

Toss me a cigarette, I think there's one in my raincoat

So I looked at the scenery

And the moon rose over an open field

Counting the cars on the New Jersey Turnpike

They've all come to look for America

"Kathy, I'm lost", I said though I knew she was sleeping

All come to look for America

"And I'm empty and aching and I don't know why"

All come to look for America

*c) Read the song lyrics again, and answer the questions.*

1. What had the singer and Kathy done before taking the train?
2. What were they doing while traveling?
3. Take a couple of seconds/minutes to find information about anything in the song which you don't know about.

d) **Discussion**

a. Are there any words that rhyme in the song? Why do you think this is so?
b. Which part of the song do you find optimistic?
c. Which part describes something funny?
d. Are there any sad parts in the song?
e. How would you explain the line "We've all come to look for America"? Do you know what the "American Dream" is?
f. What 3 events in America in the past 50 years best represent the America he's looking for?
g. What 3 events in America in the past 50 years best represent the America he's NOT looking for?