

For young fans, K-pop can offer more than entertainment. It can become a way to build confidence and community. A student who is shy in class may feel completely different when performing a cover dance with friends. Someone who does not usually speak much English may suddenly learn new phrases from interviews, subtitles, or international fan posts. Online fandoms can also help teenagers practise communication, creativity, editing, design, and teamwork. Fans translate lyrics, make posters, organise birthday projects, and discuss theories about music videos. In other words, being a fan can involve a surprising number of real-world skills.

Vietnam's connection with K-pop is not limited to one famous concert. When groups such as TEMPEST performed in Ho Chi Minh City, and when K-pop-themed festivals attracted young singers and dancers in Hanoi, they showed that the relationship between Korean pop culture and Vietnamese audiences is becoming more active. Fans are not only waiting for celebrities to arrive; they are creating their own stages, cover videos, dance crews, and online communities. The border between audience and performer is becoming less fixed. A teenager watching a music video today might be leading a dance team tomorrow.

However, the popularity of K-pop also raises interesting questions. Why can a song in a language many fans do not fully understand still feel so emotional? Why do people spend hours learning a dance routine from a three-minute video? Why can a concert become a shared memory for thousands of strangers? Part of the answer may lie in the way K-pop combines precision with emotion. The performances are carefully produced, but the feelings they create are very real. Fans may admire the artists' talent, but they also connect with ideas such as ambition, friendship, self-expression, and growth.

There is also a social side to the experience. At a concert, the most powerful moment is not always the loudest song or the most expensive stage effect. Sometimes it is the sound of the crowd singing together, the glow of lightsticks moving like waves, or the realisation that thousands of people around you love the same thing. For teenagers who often feel pressure from school, family expectations, or social media, this shared excitement can feel like a temporary escape. It gives them a space where they can be energetic, emotional, and part of something bigger than themselves.

Still, it is important to look at K-pop with both admiration and awareness. The industry can inspire young people to work hard and dream boldly, but it can also create unrealistic standards of beauty, success, and perfection. Fans may feel connected to idols, but they should remember that public images are carefully managed. Enjoying K-pop in a healthy way means appreciating the music and performances without comparing one's own life too harshly with the polished version shown online.

Perhaps this is what makes K-pop such an interesting topic for students to read about. It is colourful and exciting on the surface, but underneath it are deeper themes: global culture, youth identity, technology, business, creativity, and belonging. When K-pop comes to Vietnam, it brings more than famous songs and shining stages. It creates moments when young people can see how culture travels, how communities are formed, and how a performance can turn into a memory that lasts long after the final song ends.

I. Read the text and decide if the statements are True or False.

1. K-pop is now part of many teenagers' daily routine. → _____
2. Fans at the BLACKPINK concert did not interact with each other. → _____
3. The excitement around the concert only started on the day of the show. → _____
4. Being a K-pop fan can help teenagers build real-world skills. → _____
5. Vietnamese fans only enjoy K-pop by watching famous groups perform. → _____

II. Read the text and fill in each blank with ONE word.

1. K-pop raises a question: why can a song feel emotional even in a _____ fans do not understand?
2. K-pop combines _____ with emotion in its performances.
3. At a concert, thousands of people singing _____ can be the most powerful moment.
4. For teenagers under pressure, K-pop can feel like a temporary _____.
5. K-pop can create _____ standards of beauty and perfection.

WRITING

Write an open letter to someone you admire

People often write open letters not only to express admiration, but also to share how someone has genuinely influenced their lives.

Write an open letter to someone you admire (real or fictional). Explain how this person has influenced you — for example, in the way you think, your confidence, your creativity, or your attitude towards life. Be specific and reflective, not just complimentary.

I. Writing checklist

Section	What to include	Useful language
Opening / Greeting	Address the person directly and introduce yourself briefly	Dear [Name], / I am writing to you as someone who... / You may not know me, but...
Reason 1	Describe a specific moment that affected you	I still remember the first time... / One moment that stayed with me was... / When I heard / watched...
Reason 2	Explain how their work has changed you — in confidence, creativity, or how you see the world	Because of your music, I... / It helped me realise that... / I began to... / I used to... but now...
Personal reflection	Be honest and specific — not just complimentary	I am not writing this to flatter you. / What I want you to know is... / This is not just admiration — it is...
Closing	Thank them and end warmly but genuinely	Thank you for... / I hope you know that... / Yours sincerely, / With gratitude,

II. Model letter

Dear Rosé,

I am writing to you as someone who has followed your work for several years. You may not know me, but your music has been part of some important moments in my life.

READING PRACTICE (10 questions)

Lưu ý:

1. Khi làm bài tập có từ mới, các con phải tra từ điển. Sau khi tra từ điển, các con chép mỗi từ mới **1 dòng** để ghi nhớ.
2. Các con gạch chân các từ khóa chính trong bài.

Exercise 1: Read the text from Classwork (page 1-2) again and match two halves to make complete sentences.

1. K-pop has become a cultural phenomenon because	1-	a. intense training, strict schedules, and fierce competition.
2. Behind the glossy surface of K-pop, idols face	2-	b. it encourages fans to create their own stages, videos, and online communities.
3. Vietnam's connection with K-pop goes beyond concerts because	3-	c. it is a whole system of sound, image, performance, and fan participation.
4. At a K-pop concert, one of the most powerful moments can be	4-	d. without comparing their own lives too harshly with what they see online.
5. Enjoying K-pop in a healthy way means appreciating the music	5-	e. thousands of people singing together and feeling part of the same experience.

Exercise 2: Read the text from Classwork (page 1-2) again and complete the summary with the words in the text.

K-pop performances are known for their (1) _____ timed choreography and highly polished production. However, behind the (2) _____ surface, idols face intense training, strict schedules, and fierce competition that fans rarely see. What fans do see — the interviews, photoshoots, and social media posts — is (3) _____ managed to protect the idol's public image. Despite this, K-pop continues to inspire young people to work hard and (4) _____ boldly about their future. For many fans, being part of a fandom means feeling part of something bigger than (5) _____ — a global community connected by music, creativity, and shared passion.