

MUSIC GENRES IN ENGLISH: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

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If you want to talk about music in English, one of the first questions you need to answer is: What kind of music do you like? To answer this, you need to know the words for different genres (types) of music in English. Read on to find out how to explain your favourite music genre in English.

Glossary:

Beat = Rhythm Loud = noisy



Classical. Some famous classical music composers are Mozart, Beethoven, Vivaldi, etc. Classical music is often performed by an **orchestra** (big group of musicians), a **choir** (a group of singers) or a **soloist** (just one person). People usually say a '**piece**' of classical music, they don't say a 'tune' or 'song'.

Jazz and blues are both originally from the USA. Jazz has a strong rhythm. The melody has different scales. Charlie Parker and Miles Davis are famous jazz artists. **Blues** is a style of music famous for sad people. Blues music has stories of the difficult lives of the people.

Folk music is the traditional music of a particular group of people. **Country music** is one of the famous kinds of folkloric music and is popular in many parts of the world.

Pop. Every country in the world has its own pop stars. '**Pop**' is short for '**popular**' music – it is the most popular or common form of music in most countries. Wherever you go in the world, it's easy to hear music from famous **pop stars** like Madonna, Michael Jackson or Lady Gaga.

Rock music is famous for being loud! Rock groups use electric guitars, bass and drums to create music with a strong beat and lots of energy. There are lots of sub-genres (styles) of rock, for example **metal**, **punk** and **prog-rock**.

Dance music is the kind of music you usually hear in clubs and bars. It has a strong beat, is often repetitive, and is perfect for dancing to. Similar to rock, there are many different styles of dance music. They are sometimes slow, or sometimes fast, but they all get your feet moving!

Rap is different to most music genres. Rappers speak, they don't sing. The words rhyme, in a similar way to a poem, and follow the rhythm of music.

Alternative. When the music you like doesn't correspond to one of these categories, it is probably **alternative**. They combine different styles and only a small group of people like it.

So, what is your favourite music genre and what kind of music person are you?

Exercise 1. Read the following sentences and decide if they are true or false.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Classical is a style of music for sad people | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. Jazz and Blues are two American styles | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 3. Country is an example of Folk music | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 4. Pop isn't the short name for popular music | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 5. Rock music and Rap have different sub-genres | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 6. A rap vocalist speaks; they don't sing | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 7. You regularly hear alternative music in clubs and bars. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |

Exercise 2. What's your opinion? Answer the questions with expressions and pronouns in the box as in the example.



Affirmative	Negative	Pronouns	
Yes, I like... a lot	No, I don't like... very much	him	them
		her	it



- Do you like heavy metal music? Yes, I like it a lot
- Do you like Usher? No, _____
- Do you like Adele? Yes, _____
- Do you like Viagra boys? Yes, _____
- Do you like romantic comedies? No, _____
- Do you like videogames? Yes, _____
- Do you like Johnny Depp? No, _____

Exercise 3. Rank the music genres according to your preference, 1 is the most important and 8 the opposite. Then compare your answers with others.

Classical	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jazz and Blues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Folk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rap	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>