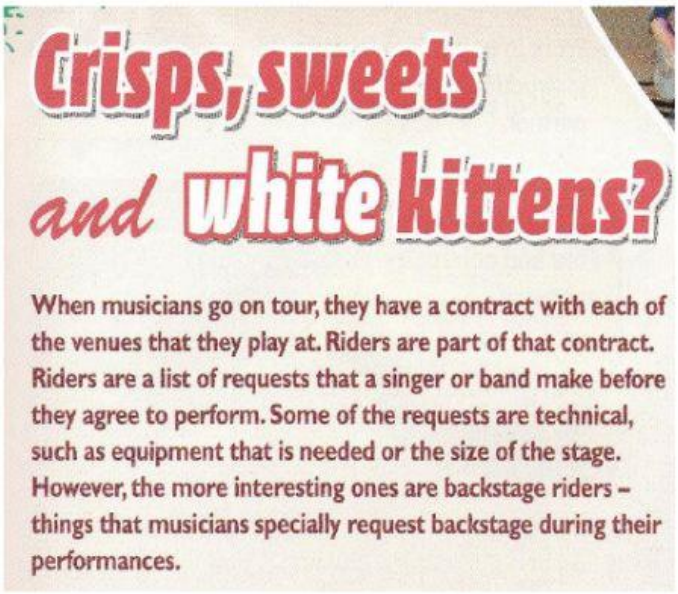
Reading

What do you know about ...? Click the link:

1. Enter VoiceThread.
2. Remember your username and password.
3. Click on the + symbol and click on the mic.
4. Record yourself.

- Read the first paragraph of the article. What are riders?



Crisps, sweets and white kittens?

When musicians go on tour, they have a contract with each of the venues that they play at. Riders are part of that contract. Riders are a list of requests that a singer or band make before they agree to perform. Some of the requests are technical, such as equipment that is needed or the size of the stage. However, the more interesting ones are backstage riders – things that musicians specially request backstage during their performances.

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Which artist -Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Coldplay, Jennifer Lopez or Maroon 5- do you think made these requests in their riders?

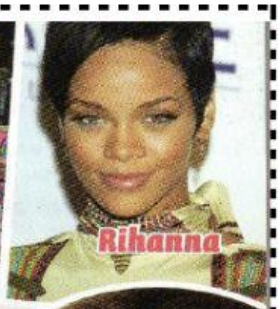
1. white rooms, white flowers, white furniture. .....
2. crisps, sweets, fruit. .....
3. recycling facilities and locally-grown food. .....
4. eight local postcards and stamps. .....
5. a whole roast chicken and ten different types of soft drink. .....

- Read the text on the following page and check your answers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Crisps, sweets and white kittens?


Coldplay


Rihanna

When musicians go on tour, they have a contract with each of the venues that they play at. Riders are part of that contract. Riders are a list of requests that a singer or band make before they agree to perform. Some of the requests are technical, such as equipment that is needed or the size of the stage. However, the more interesting ones are backstage riders – things that musicians specially request backstage during their performances.

Big tours often go on for months and visit numerous cities. At each venue stars need to get ready for their show in a dressing room. 1 ....D..... Jennifer Lopez once demanded that all her dressing rooms were white, with white flowers, white candles, white tables and white sofas. Beyoncé's rider once specified that it must be exactly 28.5°C backstage. Her husband, Jay-Z, makes no comment about temperature, but he has made a specific request for matching blue leather sofas.

Musicians need feeding. Rihanna seems to love snacks: her rider asks for a wide range of crisps, sweets and fruit to be on offer. Lady Gaga used to ask for a whole roast chicken and ten different types of soft drink. 2 ..... And remember to feed her 150-person team exactly on time at 5pm or the concert will be cancelled!


Lady Gaga

Some performers are aware that large tours can have a significant environmental impact. Maroon 5 and singer Jack Johnson are artists who have 'green' sections on their riders, encouraging venues to recycle and to use locally-grown food where possible. They even set up stalls for fans attending the concert to learn about trying to reduce their carbon footprint. Let's hope a certain former member of the Beatles is seeing one of these two soon. 3 .....

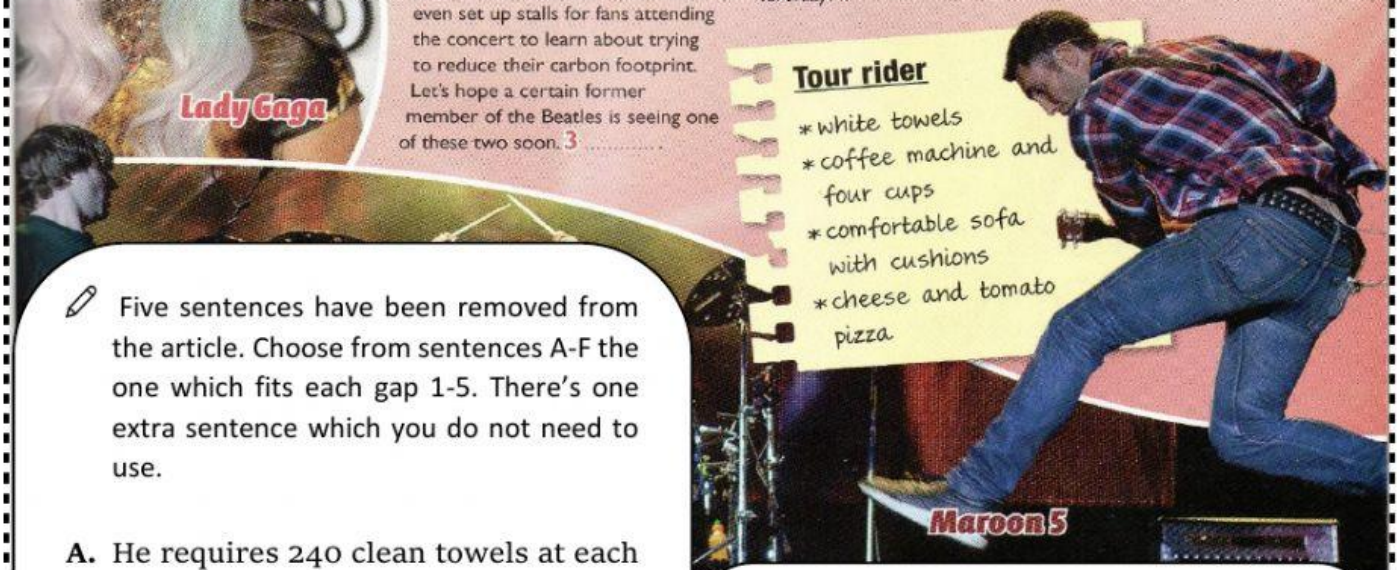
A few requests reveal a generous or even sweet side to performers' personalities. Since she started touring, Adele has insisted that people with free tickets to her concerts must make a donation to charity. 4 ..... And even massive stars like Coldplay clearly never stop thinking about their friends and family while they are away. Their riders list asks for eight local postcards and stamps.


Jennifer Lopez

On the whole most musicians' requests are reasonable, but some can be outrageous. One promoter remembers receiving a demand from an extremely famous female singer for 20 white kittens! Another male singer stated that no one at the venue could talk to or even look at the star directly. 5 ..... They would only play on condition that they were given a large bowl of M&M sweets, but without any brown ones. Furthermore, if just one of these sweets were found anywhere backstage, the band would not play. It turned out that there was a good reason behind their bizarre request. The safety section of the band's rider was long and complicated, so they hid their M&M demand among these details to make sure it was being read carefully!

Tour rider

* white towels
* coffee machine and four cups
* comfortable sofa with cushions
* cheese and tomato pizza


Maroon 5

Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There's one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

A. He requires 240 clean towels at each concert!

B. It appears that this particular form of contract is less popular with the music industry.

C. However, perhaps the most famous remains one made by American rock band Van Halen.

D. ~~This is usually where a backstage rider begins.~~

E. There will be no exceptions to this rule, the rider states.

F. She's obviously eating more healthily nowadays: her more recent riders have included soup, dried fruit, juice and tea.

LIVEWORKSHEETS