

1 Work in groups of three. You want to take part in a talent night organised by a local club. Discuss what you could present as a team. Use the advert below for ideas.



TALENT NIGHT AT THE SLAM CLUB

COME ON STAGE FOR A 3-MINUTE SHOW

We welcome dancers, singers, music bands, actors, comedians, poets, hip-hop artists, magicians and crazy performers of all kinds!

The show starts at 8 p.m.

2 Read the text. Then put the paragraphs A–D in the correct order.

SLAMS

If you are bored with discos, try a different kind of entertainment and come to a slam. 'But what on earth is a slam?' you might ask ...

A Like at a rock concert or at a song festival, the audience make all sorts of noises to show whether they liked a performance or not. Also, before the competition begins, five people in the audience become judges. After each show, the judges give the performers points and the winner gets a cash prize. Local slam winners in the USA often decide to take part in the national competition, the National Poetry Slam, where 80 teams compete against each other.

B The club competition, which is becoming more and more popular in Poland now, is called *open mike* (mike = microphone). You can come and present any of your artistic talents. Rappers and hip-hop artists share the club stage with poets, singers, dancers and comedians. The only limit is time – you only have six minutes for your *open mike* show. So instead of watching talent shows on TV, check the Net for the latest dates of open mikes and slams in your area, and good luck!

C Obviously, people in other countries organise their own slams, too. In Poland, regular poetry slams are organised in different cities including Warsaw, Tczew and Bydgoszcz. Some of them bring together artists from countries like Austria, Israel, Poland, Portugal and Romania and invite speakers of all languages to participate.

D Well, here comes the answer. A slam is a live talent competition organised in a club. It started in 1984 in a club in Chicago, where young poets read their poems to the club audience. Slammers perform in various styles. Some use rap or hip-hop style and others read poems as stories. They cannot use props or costumes, but some participants dance during their performances. Interestingly, people in the slam audience do not just sit and listen either.



3 Read the text in exercise 2 again and complete the email. Use no more than two words in each gap.

Hi Elsie,

Just a short note to let you know that I finally arrived in Bydgoszcz two days ago. The weather is great, so I'm really looking forward to getting to know the city better. Ola is taking me to an OPEN MIKE tonight. It's an opportunity for people to go on the ¹ _____ and show off their talents. You can do whatever you want ² _____ that you stick to the time limit. The idea of the open mike reminded me of the original slam competitions. They originated in Chicago around ³ _____ ago! Can you believe it? What I really love about slams is that the ⁴ _____ really takes part in the show by ⁵ _____ each of the performances. I hope they've kept that element here. The only thing I'm worried about is that it's going to get really emotional and melancholic if there are too many people reading their ⁶ _____; I much prefer listening to hip-hop artists.

Anyway, that's all for now. I'll let you know how it goes.

Bye,
Zoe