Reading Final Exam 2024

2nd year



Reading

Want to play in a band?

Many people start playing an instrument when they are young, often at the suggestion of their parents. But the joy of playing music increases significantly when you join or form a band. So how do you start?

Before anything else, decide whether you want to join an existing band or create your own. If you join a band, you will have to get on with other musicians and you won't have much creative control. However, the band may already be playing concerts and you can develop your live performance skills faster.

If you form your own band, which I recommend, you must choose and manage the other members which can be challenging, but you control the style of the band. Your first creative decision will be the band's name – the more unusual the better.

To find members, start with people you hang out with who are interested in joining. Getting on well with your band members is more important than playing perfectly. Try putting posters up in local schools or advertise in local music groups on social media because to rehearse together, you need to live relatively close. Tell your friends to ask around. Word of mouth is one of the best ways to find people. If you need to find a new member, consider these questions:

- Do they arrive on time? Punctuality is vital.
- How often are they free to practise with you? Do your schedules coincide? If they don't, you may not have enough time to work on new songs.
- What are their ambitions? If you want to perform live, you will need someone who is content being in front of an audience.
- Can they play?

When you've found a place to practise, aim to play about 12 songs well for an entertaining concert. Don't rush, practice makes perfect!

9 Read the online article and tick (✓) three things that the article mentions.

1 why parents encourage their children to play an instrument ___

2 the advantages and disadvantages of joining a band ___

3 the advantages and disadvantages of creating your own band ___

4 how to think of a great name for your band ___

5 things to think about when choosing a new band member ___

Score __/3

10 Read the article again. Are the sentences T (true) or F (false)?

1 A lot of young people who play an instrument get the idea from their parents. **T/F**

2 The writer suggests deciding how you want to form a band before choosing a name. **T/F**

3 Joining an existing band means you get to control the creative style of the band. **T/F**

4 The writer thinks creating a band is better than joining one. **T/F**

5 When finding band members, the writer suggests that musical ability is the most important thing. **T/F**

6 It is very important that band members show they can be on time. **T/F**

Score __/6

11 Choose the correct option.

1 According to the writer, what is the most enjoyable thing about playing an instrument?

a learning on your own

b playing music with others

2 What does the writer say about joining a band that already exists?

a Relationships between members are very important.

b You won't be allowed to play live at first.

3 What does the writer say about forming your own band?

a Finding a name is the hardest thing.

b Finding the right sort of people is the hardest thing.

4 According to the writer, what is the best way to find band members?

a Informal communication between people you know helps a lot.

b Choose your close friends first, even if they don't play music.

5 According to the writer, what's the best way to choose a new member?

a Consider when you are both available to play together.

b Ask them to perform live in front of a large group.

6 What does the writer say about the songs?

a Take your time and work to produce good songs.

b Get as many songs as possible quickly.

Score __/6

LIVEWORKSHEETS