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Teenagers don't often say that they really like folk music. But Sleepy Man Banjo Boys are different – their passion is 'bluegrass, and they're bringing it to a new ²⁰ generation.

The **band** is made up of three teenage brothers from New Jersey, United States – a place which is known more for its rock music. So how did they start playing bluegrass?

The boys were on YouTube one day and saw an old music video of Earl Scruggs – a famous bluegrass musician. "We were like, 'Wow, we've never heard anything like this'", says Tommy. The boys listened to some more songs, started learning some **traditional** bluegrass music, and the band was born.

A short time later, they posted a YouTube video of themselves playing music at home. People were **amazed** to see such young boys playing bluegrass so well. The Sleepy Man Banjo Boys' video went viral and millions of people watched it. Just two weeks later, the boys appeared on TV for the first time.

The brothers are now starting to **create** their own kind of bluegrass music, writing their own songs and adding 'lyrics. 'We're not singing about, you know, the old country road and the 'barn', explains Tommy. 'I'm not saying that's bad, but we're singing about more **modern** things.'

Understanding details

4 Circle **T** for true or **F** for false.

1 The three boys in the band are school friends.	T	F
2 Sleepy Man Banjo Boys play folk music.	T	F
3 New Jersey is famous for bluegrass music.	T	F
4 Many people watched the band's first YouTube video.	T	F
5 Sleepy Man Banjo Boys make their own bluegrass songs.	T	F

Understanding sequence

5 Number the events in the order they happened (1–6).

a The brothers make a video and put it on YouTube.	_____
b The brothers start to learn some bluegrass songs.	_____
c The brothers appear on TV.	_____
d Many people watch the video.	_____
e The brothers start to write their own bluegrass songs.	_____
f The brothers watch a YouTube video of a famous bluegrass musician.	_____

Understanding vocabulary

6 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 An example of a **band** is _____.
a Earl Scruggs b Sleepy Man Banjo Boys
- 2 An example of a **modern** instrument is _____.
a an electric guitar b a banjo
- 3 An example of a **traditional** type of music is _____.
a country b rap
- 4 If you **create** something, you _____ it.
a find b make
- 5 If you are **amazed**, you are very _____.
a happy b surprised

GRAMMAR Present simple

1 Circle the correct options to complete the text.

My friend Amber ¹has / have an unusual hobby. She ²make / makes music videos. She ³doesn't / don't play any instruments herself so she ⁴film / films her friends who ⁵is / are in bands. She ⁶uses / use her phone and she ⁷put / puts the videos on YouTube. I ⁸don't / doesn't always like the music, but I ⁹loves / love her videos. Her new video is my favourite. I hope it ¹⁰go / goes viral!

WORD FOCUS *from*

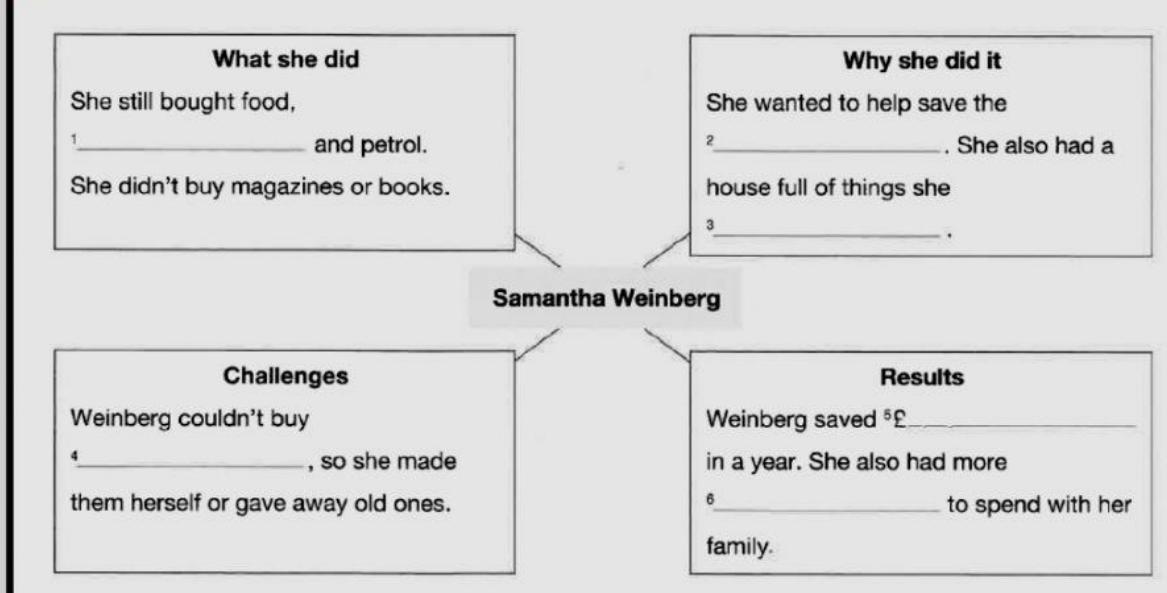
6 Put *from* in the correct place in the sentences.

- 1 I love listening to music *from* old films.
- 2 The band is *from* New Jersey, United States.
- 3 Classical music is most popular with people aged 55 to 79.
- 4 The film is *on* Monday to Friday.
- 5 We get new songs *from* our music platform.
- 6 Bluegrass music gets its name *from* Kentucky, the 'Bluegrass State'.
- 7 A banjo is *made* wood.
- 8 I hear my friends *online* every day.

A year without spending

- 1 In 2012, British writer Samantha Weinberg was worried about the environment, so she decided to do something to help. She decided to stop shopping for one year. She only bought products she really needed, such as food, toiletries and petrol for her car. She recycled or bought everything else second-hand. This meant that she couldn't buy things like magazines, books or toys for her children.
- 2 At first, Weinberg stopped shopping because she wanted to help the environment. However, as she started looking for things to recycle, she discovered her house was full of stuff she had bought long ago but never used. She decided to donate these things to charity or swap them for more useful things. It also made her realize that she shopped out of habit, rather than because she needed something.
- 3 Weinberg faced many challenges during that year. For example, she couldn't buy birthday gifts for her family or friends. Instead of not giving gifts, she made them herself, or gave away old presents that her family never used.
- 4 Weinberg managed to save £5,000 at the end of that year. She also realized that not shopping meant she had more free time. She could now spend more time with the people who mattered most to her – her friends and family.

2 Complete the word map using information from the text.



Complete the sentences with these phrases.

bad for for myself for one month looking for need for shopping for

- 1 Throwing away plastic bottles is _____ the environment.
- 2 We're _____ the fair-trade products. Where are they?
- 3 I want to try playing the guitar _____.
- 4 Have you bought everything you _____ your holiday?
- 5 I think I could buy nothing new _____.
- 6 I go _____ second-hand clothes every weekend.

GRAMMAR Time clauses

1 Put *before*, *after* or *when* in the correct place in the sentences. Change punctuation and capital letters where necessary.

- 1 She performs on stage with her band, she practises her songs with them a lot.
- 2 We check what we need we do a big food shop.
- 3 I have a problem I ask my best friend for advice.
- 4 I stay up all night studying a big exam.
- 5 I have an important job interview I always wear my best clothes.
- 6 Our team wins a big football game we go out together to celebrate.
- 7 I don't buy new clothes I'm trying to save money.
- 8 A hard morning at work I reward myself with a big cake.

GRAMMAR Past simple

1 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

1 Armstrong and Aldrin did walk on the moon in 1969.	5 Did you grew up in Canada?
2 Leif Eriksson becomed the first European to see North America in 1000 AD.	6 They spended three months walking across the Antarctic.
3 Did you ran the marathon in Madrid?	7 I didn't went to China in 2014. I went in 2015.
4 He tryed really hard, but he didn't win.	8 The exam weren't very easy.

GRAMMAR *should* and *shouldn't*

1 Think about your perfect neighbourhood. Write sentences with *should* or *shouldn't* using these words and phrases.

affordable housing
green space
near the city centre

a lot of shops
heavy traffic
nightlife

busy
noisy
quiet

friendly neighbours
near work

1 *My perfect neighbourhood should be near the city centre.*

2 *It shouldn't be too noisy.*

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____