



UNIT #4 – GRAMMAR SECTION #1

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1 Listen and read. TR: 5.7

Not Your Grandpa's Mariachi

There's a new band in town. They're playing a traditional style of Mexican music called *mariachi* . . . but with a twist. Before meeting this new band, let's step back in time.

Mariachi music started hundreds of years ago, but the traditional style we see today began in the 19th century. Groups of farmers played together. Their instruments included traditional violins and different kinds of classical guitars. The smaller guitars played the higher notes, and a traditional bass guitar played the low ones. They had trumpets, too. The music was often loud, happy, and exciting, but it could also be quiet and romantic. The musicians wore traditional suits with silver buttons and a sombrero, a wide Mexican hat.

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The mariachi played and danced at celebrations such as birthdays and weddings. As people from Mexico moved around the world, the mariachi tradition spread, too. In the past, mariachi bands were always men and they always sang in Spanish.

Fast forward to today and meet the Mariachi Flor de Toloache. They're an all-woman mariachi band. The band met in New York, in the USA. Some of the women have Mexican or Puerto Rican families, but others do not. So the band sometimes sings in Spanish and sometimes in English. They sing traditional songs, but they also sing versions of modern songs in a mariachi style. They still dress in traditional mariachi suits. The band is building on the mariachi tradition and making mariachi music to fit today's modern world.



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2 Read and write.

1. Where did mariachi music begin? _____
2. What instruments are usually in a mariachi band? _____
3. When did the traditional mariachi that we see today begin? _____
4. What language do mariachi singers usually sing in? _____
5. Where did the Mariachi Flor de Toloache band meet? _____

3 Write. Compare traditional mariachi to the Mariachi Flor de Toloache.

	traditional mariachi	Mariachi Flor de Toloache
male or female		
choice of songs		
dress		
language		

4 Make new music. Work with a partner. Invent a new musical style. It can be completely new, or you can modernize a style you know. What styles would you mix? What instruments would you use?

Let's mix tango
and rock!

Yes! Let's add drums and an
electric guitar! Any other ideas?



Mice sing to
each other
at night.



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