From a Garage to the Big Stage

Music has always been the most important part of my life. Ever since I was a child, I have dreamed of becoming a famous musician. Three years ago, my best friends and I decided to start our own school band called *The Soundwaves*. At the beginning, we didn't have any expensive instruments or professional equipment. We bought a second-hand drum kit and an old microphone, and we practised in my parents' garage every single weekend. Sometimes our neighbours complained about the noise, so we had to turn down the volume.

Everything changed last summer when we met Mark, a professional sound technician. He heard our rehearsal by chance and offered to help us. A few weeks later, he invited us to a real recording studio. We spent three days there and recorded our very first demo track. It was an unforgettable experience because we saw how real DJs and producers work behind the scenes. Since that day, our band has achieved incredible results. We have already written eight original songs and released our first mini-album online. We have also filmed three video clips and uploaded them to our official music channel. Recently, one of our tracks has become quite popular among teenagers in our city, and thousands of people have listened to it!

Last month, we played our biggest live gig at the annual youth music festival. Before going on stage, I felt super nervous, and my hands were shaking. However, as soon as we started playing, the crowd cheered loudly and sang along to our lyrics. Even a local celebrity watched our performance and shared a short clip on social media the next day.

Of course, we haven't reached the top yet. We haven't performed in a massive concert hall or gone on a national tour yet, because we still have to finish school. However, we have just entered a prestigious national music competition, and we have practised every day this week to make our sound perfect. I know the road to success is difficult, but I have never felt happier or more inspired than I do right now.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the text and decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

1. The narrator and his friends started their band *The Soundwaves* two years ago. True/ False
2. At the beginning, the band practised in a garage and sometimes their neighbours complained about the noise. True/ False
3. Mark, a professional sound technician, invited the band to record their first demo track in a real studio. True/ False
4. The band has already released three albums and uploaded eight video clips to their music channel. True/ False
5. During their live gig at the youth music festival, the audience didn't like their performance. True/ False
6. A local celebrity saw the band's performance and shared a short video of it on social media. True/ False
7. The band has already performed in a massive concert hall and gone on a national tour. True/ False

Complete the sentences using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each gap.

1. At first, the musicians had to play more quietly because of complaints from _____.
2. Mark noticed the band's talent when he accidentally listened to _____.
3. Working in the recording studio gave the teenagers a chance to see DJs and producers _____.
4. One of the band's recent tracks has gained popularity among _____ in their city.
5. Despite the narrator's nervousness before the gig, the audience happily _____ to the band's songs.
6. A local celebrity helped promote the band by posting a _____ online.
7. The band is practising daily this week to prepare for a _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening. Amazing Buildings Around the World

Listen to the podcast again and answer the questions.

1. Where is the Crooked House located, and what does its roof look like?
2. Why is the Crooked House more interesting for tourists than a regular glass tower?
3. How tall is the Burj Khalifa, and how did its construction compare to other modern projects?
4. What is the advantage of going to the top floor of the Burj Khalifa, and what is the disadvantage?
5. What materials were used to build the speaker's new school eco-library?
6. How does the new reading room compare to the old one?
7. What makes the school eco-library as eco-friendly as a modern green home?

Answer the questions about yourself

1. Have you ever tried playing a musical instrument or singing in a band?
2. What is the best live concert or music festival you have ever attended? Who performed there?
3. If you started your own band tomorrow, what kind of music would you play and where would you practise?
4. What is the most unusual or the most beautiful building you have ever seen in your city or during your travels?
5. Do you think modern glass skyscrapers are better than historic buildings, or are they not as interesting as old architecture? Why?
6. What would you change in your school to make it more eco-friendly and brighter for students?

LIVEWORKSHEETS