

## Where does your Music Taste come from?

### Warm up:

- What type of music did you like as a teenager?
- Do you know anyone who plays an instrument very well?
- What's the best concert you have ever been to?
- What's the last song you had stuck in your head?
- What genre of music do you listen to most often?
- If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, which song would it be?
- What is the traditional music from your country like?



### 1. Put the phrases in the correct category in the box below.

I can take it or leave it	I can't stand it	I'm not fond of it
It's not my cup of tea	I'm a big fan of it	I'm crazy about it
I'm really into it	I don't have a problem with it	I don't mind it

I don't like it	It's O.K	I like it
<i>I'm not fond of it</i> <i>I can't stand it</i> <i>It's not my cup of tea</i>	<i>I can take it or leave it</i> <i>I don't have a problem with it</i> <i>I don't mind it</i>	<i>I'm a big fan of it</i> <i>I'm crazy about it</i> <i>I'm really into it</i>



### 2. Pairwork: use the phrases from exercise 1 to describe how you feel about the genres of music below. Feel free to have a conversation about the genres with your partner.

Eg *"I don't mind indie rock but I can't stand heavy metal"*

- Heavy Metal
- Jazz
- Hip hop and rap
- Indie Rock
- Techno
- Blues
- Classical
- Golden Oldies



3. You are going to read a statement about where a person's taste in music comes from. The person uses the phrases below. Match the phrases to their definition.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| a) eventually <b>5</b>   | 1. In comparison to                                 |
| b) at first <b>4</b>     | 2. To feel embarrassed for yourself or someone else |
| c) cringe <b>2</b>       | 3. Relaxing   |
| d) whereas <b>1</b>      | 4. It began this way, but changed later             |
| e) hooked <b>9</b>       | 5. After a long time                                |
| f) soothing <b>3</b>     | 6. A period of time                                 |
| g) in hindsight <b>8</b> | 7. Describes music that sticks in your head         |
| h) phase <b>6</b>        | 8. Looking back                                     |
| i) catchy <b>7</b>       | 9. Addicted   |



4. Use the phrases from exercise 3 to complete the text below.

“When I was a kid, I used to love my Mum’s music, but I couldn’t stand my Dad’s music. My Dad used to listen to golden oldies like Bob Dylan and the Beatles, *whereas* my mum listened to classical music like Bach and Beethoven. I always found classical music really *soothing*, and I have some nice memories of falling asleep to Bach. Then when I was a teenager my older brother introduced me to heavy metal. *At first* I hated it, but after listening to it for a few weeks I was *hooked*. My mum wasn’t fond of my new taste, but I didn’t mind that. Heavy metal was exciting and different, and I soon became an even bigger fan than my older brother. *In hindsight* I think I mostly just liked it because it was different to what my parents liked and was my little way of rebelling, and it was a way to connect with my brother. *Eventually* I stopped listening to heavy metal and moved on to my hip hop *phase* in university. Hip hop is so energetic and *catchy*, I almost always had a song stuck in my head. I even dressed like a rapper for a few months, I still *cringe* when I think about it! I still like hip hop, but funnily enough I ended up mostly liking the music my Dad listens to, golden oldies like the Beatles and Rolling Stones.”



5. Now write a text describing your own musical history. Where did your tastes come from, and how did they change over time? Try to use the phrases from exercise 3.

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6. You are going to watch a video about where music tastes come from. The video contains the words in the box. Use the words to complete the sentences below.

peak	pattern	replicate
recognise	gene	single
		conclusion

- They only released one full album, but they put out a new *single* every month.
- I *recognise* this song, I've heard it a million times, but I don't know who it's by.
- Some researchers believe there is a *gene* which makes people more likely to like rock music, so taste in music could be in your DNA.
- I think the 90's were the *peak* of music, I love grunge and rock.
- One experiment is not enough to prove anything. You have to do the same experiment again and again to see if you can *replicate* the results.
- After years of research, we came to the *conclusion* that the problem cannot be fixed with money alone.
- We can see there is a *pattern* of children from poor families receiving less help in the classroom.



7. Watch the video "Where does your Music Taste come from?"<sup>1</sup> and answer the questions.

- Memories from which period of our lives stay detailed, even as we age? *Young adult*
- What 3 questions did the researchers ask about songs from 1935-1994? *Have they heard the song before? Do they have any memories related to it? Do they like it?*
- Why were the tastes of younger people surprising? *Because they often liked music from before they were born*
- Why did the researchers originally believe that the 60's were "the golden age" of music? *Because both the older and the younger generation liked it.*
- What happened when the researchers conducted the same survey a decade later? *They found the "golden age" of music had moved.*
- The survey found that people often like music from a couple of decades before they were born. Why is this? *Because their parents had played their music around them, often music from when the parents were teenagers or young adults.*
- What is the "mere exposure effect"? *An effect that says you like something the more you are exposed to it.*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93ydAz6y-Ck&ab\\_channel=SciShow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93ydAz6y-Ck&ab_channel=SciShow)