

Unit 9 The music in us

9a Genre

Language focus the adverb *just*

1 Replace the words in bold in these sentences with *just* and write it in the correct position in the sentence.

- 1 We got back from vacation **very recently**.
- 2 The new museum is **simply** stunning.
- 3 That's what I think **exactly**.
- 4 We **only** use bicycles; we don't own a car.
- 5 There are **a little** under three million people living in the city.
- 6 Can you wait a moment, **if that's OK**?

2 Look at the uses of *just* (1–6) and match each one to its meaning (a–f). You do not have to use all the meanings and one meaning may be used more than once.

- 1 My mom...taught me my first three chords, and I was **just** hooked.
- 2 I remember that feeling of **just** surprising people with doing different things.
- 3 I remember playing "More Than Words" by Extreme and everyone **just** freaked out!
- 4 It's a more intimate, deeper connection than **just** having a conversation with someone.
- 5 My grandmother **just** started playing it.
- 6 I believe **just** taking that step to give any kind of instrument a try, will bring people immense joy.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| a very recently | d exactly |
| b simply | e a little |
| c only | f no particular meaning |

3 Match these words (1–5) with their definitions (a–e).

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 recorder | a a melody |
| 2 chord | b a version of another's composition |
| 3 tune | c a single musical tone |
| 4 note | d a wind instrument |
| 5 cover song | e a group of single musical tones played together |

Vocabulary music

4 Complete the table with these words.

ballad busker eclectic folk soothing

Genres of music	dance _____ _____
Adjectives that describe music	melodic _____ _____
Musicians	solo artist _____ _____
Adjectives describing taste	sophisticated _____ _____
Compositions	instrumental _____ _____

5 Read the conversation. Then put the words in bold in the correct category in the table in Exercise 5.

A: I saw John Williams in concert last night. You know, the **composer** and guitarist?

B: Yes, I know. He plays **classical**, doesn't he? And some flamenco. I've heard some of the stuff he did with Segovia: it's very **uplifting**.

A: Yes, it is. Last night he played some West African **pieces**. I think people were surprised. They seemed quite a **conservative** audience and I think they had come expecting him to play his better known classical compositions. But I really liked it.

9b With a purpose

Language focus expressing purpose

1 Read the sentences. Then rewrite the phrases in bold using the words given.

- 1 The principle is to get participants actively involved **so that they will use** parts of their brains and bodies. (so as to)

The principle is to get participants actively involved _____ parts of their brains and bodies.

- 2 The idea here is to use music **in order to make the subject feel less stressed**. (to prevent)

The idea here is to use music _____ stressed.

- 3 It can also be used **for improvement of** concentration and memory. (to)

It can also be used _____ concentration and memory.

- 4 A lot of us use music **to lift our spirits**. (so that)

A lot of us use music _____

- 5 Doctors have been looking for alternative therapies **to avoid being** so dependent on drugs. (so as not to)

Doctors have been looking for alternative therapies _____ so dependent on drugs.

2 Match the actions (1–5) with the reasons for doing them (a–e). Then insert the correct expression of purpose to connect the two parts.

- 1 He left his job at the bank

- 2 We perform live sometimes, but just

- 3 Please turn any phones or music devices off

- 4 You have to practice

- 5 Singers drink a lot of water

a fun.

b getting throat problems.

c get better.

d concentrate on playing music.

e disturb other passengers.

Idioms music

3 Complete these idioms. The first letter of the missing words has been given for you.

- 1 Let's not go in with a particular strategy. Let's just p _____ it by ear.

- 2 I don't know why she made such a big song and d _____ about having to stay late.

- 3 You've changed your t _____. Yesterday you said you really wanted to go.

- 4 The news was music to my e _____.

- 5 I don't mean to blow my own h _____, but I think that went pretty well.

- 6 What he said about the importance of hard work really struck a c _____ with me.

- 7 Don't worry about briefing me. I think I know the s _____.

- 8 OK. It's time to f _____ the music. I hope she's not too angry.



9c Delta blues

Reading Sonny Boy Williamson II

- 1 Read an account of the life of blues musician Sonny Boy Williamson II. Look at the photo and then answer the questions.

Ask someone to name a famous blues artist and you'll get some different names: BB King, Ella Fitzgerald, John Lee Hooker, but very seldom will you hear the name of the harmonica or blues harp genius, Sonny Boy Williamson II.

Sonny Boy Williamson was born in 1912. He started playing the harp at a young age. He became so skilled at it that later he developed a technique where he could put the harmonica in his mouth and play without using his hands. Very little is known about his early life, but we know times were hard for black people in that era, and it's from tales of hard times that the blues draws its name.

Although married, he led a rootless existence. He took himself where his music led him, up to Detroit, to Tennessee, and in the 1950s to Chicago, where he made some of his greatest recordings.

What is it that sets Sonny Boy apart? His music is uncomplicated yet powerful, switching from a simple rhythm to an impassioned solo; his lyrics are moody and at the same time witty; his lyrics are delivered in a weary tone but without any sense of negativity.

In the 1960s he went to Europe to tour. He met various young British musicians who were influenced by American blues music. One of these was Jimmy Page, later of the rock band Led Zeppelin. After seeing him play, Page approached him and said how much he admired him and enjoyed his music. Sonny Boy gave him a withering look and told him to "get lost." Page says that he would never think of treating a fan like that himself, but there was something about Sonny Boy that made Page respect him even more.

Sonny Boy returned home but died in 1965 at the modest age of 53, when he was still at the peak of his powers.

- 1 What instrument did he play?

- 2 What kind of character was he?

- 3 How is he remembered by those who like the blues?



- 2 Choose the best option (a-c) for each question.

- 1 Why is it surprising that so few people have heard of Sonny Boy Williamson II?
 - a He was very famous in his own lifetime.
 - b His music has been played extensively on the radio.
 - c He was a very original musician.
- 2 What do we know about the time he had growing up?
 - a nothing
 - b that he worked on a plantation
 - c that he probably had a tough life
- 3 Which of these describes Sonny Boy's life in the 1930s to the 1950s?
 - a a family man
 - b a wanderer
 - c a man with a mission
- 4 What is it that sets Sonny Boy Williamson apart from other musicians?
 - a his individuality
 - b the consistency of his playing
 - c the truthfulness of his lyrics
- 5 How did Jimmy Page feel after his encounter with Sonny Boy?
 - a upset with him
 - b grateful to him
 - c admiring of him
- 6 Which of these statements about Sonny Boy's death is true?
 - a It came at a point in his career when he was playing his best.
 - b He was 70 when he died.
 - c He was in good shape for his age.

9d Desert Island Discs

Real life your favorite music

- 1 Read an interview with a young singer. Answer the questions.

I = Interviewer, A = Aleah

I: So you came from a very musical background. Your father was a musician and your aunt was a famous singer too. Was it obvious to you that you'd go into music as a profession?

A: No, I never really thought about it like that. I think people suppose that I'm part of some musical dynasty—that I was destined to be a musician. But my mother definitely had other ambitions for me. She wanted me to go to college and become a lawyer or a doctor or something.

I: Why?

A: That's a good question. I think she was like a lot of parents who want something stable and secure for their children. I don't think it had anything to do with being married to a musician herself.

I: The settled life she never had, maybe?

A: I honestly don't know. But I don't think so. Actually, she seemed to enjoy that aspect of her life—the lack of a strict routine, the unexpected visitors, late nights staying up playing music and chatting.

I: And you did go to college, but you left after a year. Was it the pull of the music world that made you leave?

A: Mmm, that's difficult to say. I don't think it was as simple as just wanting to get back to singing. I was feeling very restless at college—I wanted to travel and see more of the world.

I: And so you took off to India. Were your parents unhappy about that?

A: Do you know, I couldn't tell you really. They were very laid-back parents. Certainly in the sense that they weren't judgmental, or didn't want to be seen to be being judgmental about the things we did as kids.

I: So your first record ...

A: Yes, this dates back to the time when I was traveling in India and it's actually a bit of mass-produced pop. It's what they called *filmi*—songs that are adapted for use in Bollywood movies. It's

not musically brilliant or anything, but it always makes me feel happy when I hear it.

- 1 What is Aleah's family background?
- 2 What do you think her profession is?
- 3 How did her parents influence her choice of career?

2 Language skill responding to difficult questions

Complete the phrases that Aleah gave when she needed time to think before responding.

- 1 "Was it obvious to you that you'd go into music as a profession?"
"No, I never _____ that."
- 2 "Why?"
"That's a _____."
- 3 "The settled life she never had, maybe?"
"I _____ know. But I don't think so."
- 4 "Was it the pull of the music world that made you leave?"
"Mmm, _____ say. I don't think it was as simple ..."
- 5 "And so you took off to India. Were your parents unhappy about that?"
"Do you know, I couldn't _____."

Word focus *hit*

- 3 Complete the sentences using expressions with *hit*.

miss nerve note record road

- 1 Come on, it's late. Let's hit the _____.
- 2 It's a bit of a hit or _____ approach, but it seems to work.
- 3 I'm sorry. Did I hit a _____ when I said that?
- 4 Great speech! You hit just the right _____.
- 5 "Born Blind" wasn't his first hit _____.

9e Filmi

Writing a description

- 1 Read the description of a style of music from India called *filmi* and answer the questions.
 - 1 Who sings these songs and where can you hear them?

 - 2 Does the writer recommend listening to this type of music?

- 2 Read the description again and find examples of the following.

- 1 two powerful adjectives (para 1)

- 2 a simile (para 1)

- 3 a description of the atmosphere (para 1)

- 4 a description of how the listener feels listening to this music (para 3)

- 5 the writer speaking directly to the reader (para 3)

- 6 a parallel structure (para 3)

3 Writing skill parallel structures

Complete these parallel structures using your own words. Make sure that the elements of each half of the sentence balance.

- 1 Wherever you go in India, you are greeted with warm smiles and _____.
- 2 The songs are not only rich in Hindi folk tradition, but also _____.
- 3 Filmi songs vary in type. Some are gentle ballads, others _____.
- 4 Filmi represent both India's traditional side _____.
- 5 On a visit to the Bollywood studios I was captivated by the performance of the actors and actresses: singing along to the music, _____ and _____.
- 6 While most movie studios make a variety of movie types, _____.



Produced in the thousands every year, *filmi* songs are a genre unlike any other. Go nearly anywhere in India, and you will be accompanied by the latest *filmi* hit blaring out from radios in taxicabs and roadside vendors' stalls. The songs fill the air like a throng of happy voices adding to the already hectic nature of Indian city life, an environment which threatens to overwhelm your senses with its vibrant colors, rich smells, and deafening traffic.

Filmi are essentially movie soundtrack songs. In mass-market Indian movies, the action is frequently interrupted by spectacular song-and-dance sequences, in which the actors lip-sync music sung by Indian pop stars. It's a simple commercial formula: match the prettiest faces on screen with the best voices around. The best-known *filmi* come from the Bollywood movie industry. "Bollywood," based in Mumbai, is the Los Angeles of India.

The music, a fusion of traditional Hindu folk music and a variety of other Western styles such as pop and hip hop, is joyous and infectious. You can't help tapping your foot along to the rhythm. It's not great music, it's feel-good music, made to be danced to, both on and off the screen. It's not really my kind of music and it may not be yours. But I'd be surprised if you weren't carried along in its happy wake.

Wordbuilding negative prefixes

- 1 Add the correct negative prefix (*a-*, *dys-*, *dis-*, or *non-*) to each of the words given and then write the word in the space in the sentence.
 - 1 They decided to _____ production of their electric car, because sales were disappointing. (CONTINUE)
 - 2 I experienced a little _____ after the operation, but it only lasted a couple of days. (COMFORT)
 - 3 The music you will hear at the concert is actually _____ of the music which is normally played in this region. (TYPICAL)
 - 4 To say that only young people listen to this music is _____. It's popular with a whole range of generations. (SENSE)
 - 5 I felt very _____ when I arrived in India. Nothing was familiar. (ORIENTED)
 - 6 How do you deal with _____ of bills? Do you chase people? (PAYMENT)
 - 7 I think for someone who came from quite a _____ family, she is a very well-balanced person. (FUNCTIONAL)
 - 8 Although the left and right side of the face are usually a mirror image of each other, people's facial features are sometimes _____. (SYMMETRICAL)
 - 9 How do you explain her _____? (ATTENDANCE)
 - 10 Dwarfism isn't a _____. It's just a condition where people do not grow to a normal, average height. (ABILITY)

Check!

- 2 Do this music quiz. All the answers are in Student Book Unit 9.

- 1 What two similar words describe a) a tool for playing music and b) a piece of music without singing?
 - a an _____
 - b an _____
- 2 What word describes a) an artist who plays by himself/herself and b) a part of a piece of music where a musician plays by himself/herself?
 - a a _____ artist
 - b a _____
- 3 What word is used a) as a noun to describe a successful record and b) as a verb in a phrase that means to "have a good effect"?
 - a _____
 - b to _____ the right note
- 4 What two different words beginning with "f" describe a) a melancholy style of song native to Portugal and b) local, traditional music anywhere in the world?
 - a _____
 - b _____ music
- 5 What similar sounding words describe a) the opposite of an acoustic guitar and b) varied taste in music?
 - a an _____ guitar
 - b _____ tastes
- 6 What word sums up Bob Marley's message of unity to the world and is also one of the most used words in popular music?

"One _____"