

## UNIT 8

Complete each conversation with the correct words.

audience	instruments	perform	stage
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1. A: What do you do?

B: I'm a musician. I can play several \_\_\_\_\_.

A: That's interesting. I'd love to see you on the \_\_\_\_\_.

B: I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ next Friday at the concert. You should come!

encourage	escape	traditional
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2. A: Did you enjoy the concert?

B: It was very \_\_\_\_\_. I prefer more modern music.

A: Oh no! So, it wasn't very good?

B: It was OK, but I was bored. I tried to \_\_\_\_\_ after an hour, but my friends wanted me to stay.

Choose the correct meaning of each word in bold.

3. She works for an **international** bank.

- a. for businesses, not people
- b. in more than one country
- c. online only

4. I watched an interesting **documentary** about animal communication last night.

- a. movie that gives information about a topic
- b. children's show where animals talk to each other
- c. TV program with the day's news

LEVEL 1 Assessment

5. My **disability** doesn't stop me from driving.
  - a. piece of paper from the police because you have done something wrong
  - b. feeling of being tired because of work
  - c. physical condition that may make it difficult to do some things
6. She was the first person of her **generation** to mix traditional music and modern pop.
  - a. group of people about the same age
  - b. group of people
  - c. group of people from the same country
7. I haven't heard any **recent** songs from them.
  - a. songs with instruments, but no people singing
  - b. very different from usual
  - c. happening a short time ago

**Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.**

8. Most public places aren't designed for people with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. dislikes
  - b. disadvantages
  - c. disabilities
9. It is my \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure the classroom is tidy at the end of the lesson.
  - a. similarity
  - b. responsibility
  - c. activity
10. His free-time \_\_\_\_\_ include cooking, reading, and football.
  - a. abilities
  - b. popularities
  - c. activities

**Complete each sentence with the word in parentheses in the correct form.  
Use *dis-*, *-ity*, or *-ility*.**

11. I can really see the \_\_\_\_\_ (similar) between you and your sister!

## LEVEL 1 Assessment

12. Why do I go camping? I \_\_\_\_\_ (like) hotels and I enjoy being outside.
13. I'm certain that the group's \_\_\_\_\_ (popular) is because they are good-looking, not because their music is good.

**Read the passage.****The Power of Music**

In 2004, a group of musicians was practicing in front of animals at the Kinshasa Zoo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—one of the poorest countries in the world. Six years later, they were playing concerts for thousands of people around the world.

**Extraordinary Performers**

These people were not ordinary musicians. Most of them had disabilities. This meant they performed in wheelchairs or on crutches.

The band was called Staff Benda Bilili. Ricky and Coco, the founders, had the idea for the band. Ricky sang and Coco wrote the music. Junana, the group's choreographer, designed the group's performances on stage. Coude was the band's bass player and a singer.

**The Message in the Music**

Staff Benda Bilili means "look beyond appearances" in Lingala, the local language. It describes the band's goal. Their first audiences were poor people who lived on the streets. The band wanted to tell the audience to be positive, even in difficult situations. "The message of our music is that if you want to do something with your life, you need to take things in your own hands."

The band members were examples of their message. In their minds, they were not people with disabilities—they were rock musicians. Their lively performances showed this.

The band often wrote songs about the life problems they faced. For example, "Polio" is about living with polio and getting around the city on crutches. It also tells parents the importance of vaccinations for their children.

**From the Streets to the World**

When two filmmakers saw the musicians performing in Kinshasa in 2004, they decided to make a documentary. They followed the band for the next five years. The city had been through many wars, which affected millions of people. The movie shows how the band's music helped people survive in a very difficult environment.

After the movie was made, the band became well known and successful. Over the next few years, they gave more than 400 concerts in many cities and recorded three albums. Band members were able to buy houses and cars, some for the first time. And what's more important, they gave hope to people around the world through their music.

LEVEL 1 Assessment

**Choose the correct answers.**

14. Who were Staff Benda Bilili's first audience?
  - a. poor homeless people
  - b. the staff at Kinshasa Zoo
  - c. disabled people
  
15. The band includes which members?
  - a. Coco, Coude, Junana, and Ricky
  - b. Junana, Ricky, Benda, and Bilili
  - c. Ricky, Coco, Bilili, and Junana
  
16. What is one topic the band sing about, according to the passage?
  - a. dancing on your hands
  - b. life as rock musicians
  - c. the need to give children vaccinations
  
17. How long did the filmmakers film the band?
  - a. 2 years
  - b. 3 years
  - c. 5 years
  
18. What is one aspect of the band that the documentary shows?
  - a. their ability to help people
  - b. how members of the band escaped war
  - c. how successful they have become

**Read the passage.**

**The Secrets of Song Success**

- A** What makes a hit song? Why are some songs successful while others are not? This question may seem impossible to answer. After all, since the beginnings of modern pop music in the 1950s, thousands of very different songs have become hits. How can we identify the factors<sup>1</sup> that made those songs more popular than others? Well, recent developments in data analysis<sup>2</sup> mean it is possible to study every hit song and look for similarities. And it seems that many hit songs are surprisingly similar to one another.
- B** Analysis shows that many hits have a similar sound. In fact, they often use just four musical chords: C, G, A minor, and F. In hit songs, these four chords are played and repeated in various attractive patterns. Examples include "Let it Be" by The Beatles, "With or Without You" by U2, and "I Knew You Were Trouble" by Taylor Swift. Not every hit uses just these four chords, of course, but many do.

## LEVEL 1 Assessment

- C** Hit songs share other characteristics<sup>3</sup>. Generally speaking, successful songs are ones that people can dance to easily. The energy level of a song is important, too. In simple terms, songs that have more energy are more popular than those with less energy. Loudness also matters. Since the 1950s and 1960s, hits songs have become louder and louder. Finally, hit songs average almost 120 beats per minute. Some songs with a faster or slower rhythm have become hits, but 120bpm seems to be the perfect number.
- D** The lyrics—or words—of songs matter, too. Analysis from the last six decades shows that certain topics are common in hit songs. The most popular topics have changed over the years, but there are seven that have been the most common. These are loss, such as the loss of someone you love; romantic love; wanting to be better; breaking up with somebody; feeling pain; wanting to get inspiration<sup>4</sup>; and positive feelings about the past. In addition, the lyrics of hit songs often contain the same key words; in recent decades, these include *time*, *love*, *life*, *heart*, *night*, *dance*, and *baby*.

<sup>1</sup> A *factor* is something that affects the result of something else.

<sup>2</sup> *Data analysis* is the process of studying information, usually with a computer, to learn something.

<sup>3</sup> The *characteristics* of something are the things that you can notice about it.

<sup>4</sup> *Inspiration* is where musicians, writers and artists get their ideas from, or the ideas themselves.

**Which paragraph contains this information? Choose the correct answers.**

19. The average number of beats per minute that hit songs tend to have.
- Paragraph A
  - Paragraph B
  - Paragraph C
  - Paragraph D
20. Why it is now possible to find characteristics that many hit songs share.
- Paragraph A
  - Paragraph B
  - Paragraph C
  - Paragraph D
21. How the majority of hit songs are good to move your body to.
- Paragraph A
  - Paragraph B
  - Paragraph C
  - Paragraph D

## LEVEL 1 Assessment

22. The fact that the most popular songs share the same or similar topics.
- Paragraph A
  - Paragraph B
  - Paragraph C
  - Paragraph D
23. The four groups of notes that hit songs often repeat in different order.
- Paragraph A
  - Paragraph B
  - Paragraph C
  - Paragraph D

**Read the paragraph from the passage. Look at the notes. Complete each sentence with the correct word.**

Hit songs share other characteristics. Generally speaking, successful songs are ones that people can dance to easily. The energy level of a song is important, too. In simple terms, songs that have more energy are more popular than those with less energy. Loudness also matters. Since the 1950s and 1960s, hits songs have become louder and louder. Finally, hit songs average almost 120 beats per minute. Some songs with a faster or slower rhythm have become hits, but 120bpm seems to be the perfect number.

**Hits usu easy to dance to; > nrg = > popular**

**Loudness also impt: hits louder since 50s & 60s**

**Speed: songs w/ av. 120 bpm = perfect**

24. The abbreviation “usu” in the first line of the notes probably means “\_\_\_\_\_”.
25. The abbreviation “w/” in the last line of the notes probably means “\_\_\_\_\_”.

**Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.**

26. Gene Simmons, from the rock band Kiss, has set his hair on fire many times \_\_\_\_\_ performing on stage.
- while
  - during
  - in

LEVEL 1 Assessment

27. Lady Gaga released The Fame Monster album in 2009, just one year \_\_\_\_\_ The Fame album, which was released in 2008.
- a. when
  - b. after
  - c. before
28. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the most famous composers of classical music, died \_\_\_\_\_ 1791, just 35 years after he was born.
- a. in
  - b. after
  - c. while
29. Although electronic instruments were developed over 100 years ago, electronic music only became common \_\_\_\_\_ the 1960s and 1970s.
- a. while
  - b. before
  - c. during
30. The rapper Tupac Shakur released his album "All Eyez on Me" in 1996, just a year \_\_\_\_\_ his death.
- a. in
  - b. while
  - c. before
31. John Lennon and Paul McCartney of The Beatles started their first group \_\_\_\_\_ they were still at school.
- a. when
  - b. after
  - c. during

LEVEL 1 Assessment

**Read the paragraph. Answer the questions. Write 1–9.**

<sup>1</sup>Hargun Kaur is an Indian singer and songwriter, who is famous for singing in the reality shows *The Voice* and *Voice Of Punjab* on Indian TV. <sup>2</sup>She combines classical Indian music and modern styles of music. <sup>3</sup>She loved music of all kinds and her vocal skills quickly developed. <sup>4</sup>She was born in 1996 in Amritsar, northern India. <sup>5</sup>When she was just three years old, her mother and grandmother started teaching her music and singing. <sup>6</sup>In 2013, when she was just 17, she entered the popular reality *Voice Of Punjab* and reached the final. <sup>7</sup>A few years later, she again competed on *The Voice* and once again, she got all the way to the final. <sup>8</sup>The show was broadcast from February 2019 and was judged by famous musicians like Adnan Sami and Armaan Malik. <sup>9</sup>She currently lives in Mumbai and continues to work on her music career.

32. Which sentence is the topic sentence?

\_\_\_\_\_

33. Which sentence is not relevant to the narrative?

\_\_\_\_\_

34. Which sentence is in the wrong place?

\_\_\_\_\_

35. Where should the sentence that is in the wrong place go?

After sentence \_\_\_\_\_

36. Where should this new sentence go?

*Since then, she has won other awards, sung songs for the film industry and gained a Master's degree in Music from the University of Mumbai.*

After sentence \_\_\_\_\_

LEVEL 1 Assessment

**Complete the paragraph with the correct information. Write A–E.**

37.    **A**   after her first hit single, “Love and Affection”  
       **B**   during her career  
       **C**   in 1950  
       **D**   in the early 1970s  
       **E**   when she was just seven

Joan Armatrading is a British artist, whose singing and songwriting are respected throughout the music world. She was born on the island of Saint Kitts \_\_\_\_\_. She moved to England with her family \_\_\_\_\_. Armatrading’s musical career began \_\_\_\_\_, when she released her first album, *Whatever’s for Us*. In 1976, she became famous \_\_\_\_\_ was released. She has released 19 studio albums \_\_\_\_\_.

**You are going to write a paragraph on the following topic.**

38.    **Write about one of these two groups of people.**

**Topic 1:** Write a biography of a famous historical person from your country.

**Topic 2:** Write a biography of someone you admire from the world of acting, art, science or writing.

**A. OUTLINE Plan an outline for your paragraph.**

Choose your subject. Make notes about what you know about them. Draw a timeline of their life.

LEVEL 1 Assessment

Research other information, such as when they were born, etc. Make more notes.

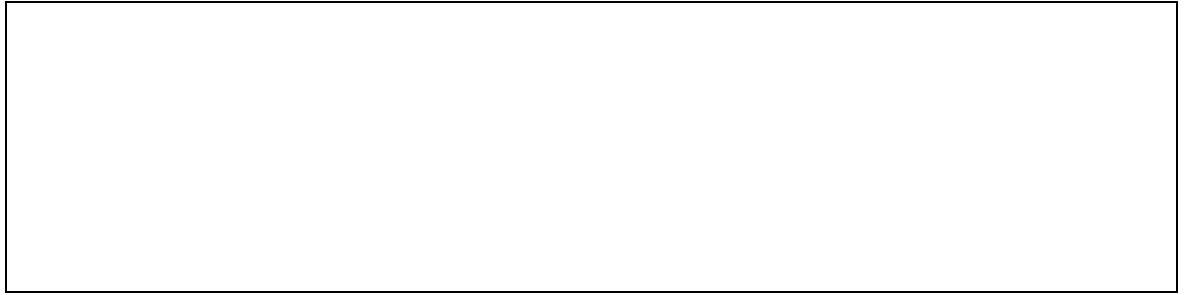
Write a topic sentence saying who they are and what they do or what they did.

**B. Think of some words and phrases you can use in your paragraph. Write them in the box.**

The words and phrases below can be useful when writing about social media, technology, and entertainment.

- *... is one of the most popular/famous/interesting ...*
- *first became popular when ...*
- *... his ability to*
- *Her first opportunity to ... was in ...*
- *After his/her appearance in ...*
- *In 1985, he ...*
- *While she was ...*
- *During the 2000s, ...*
- *After that, ...*

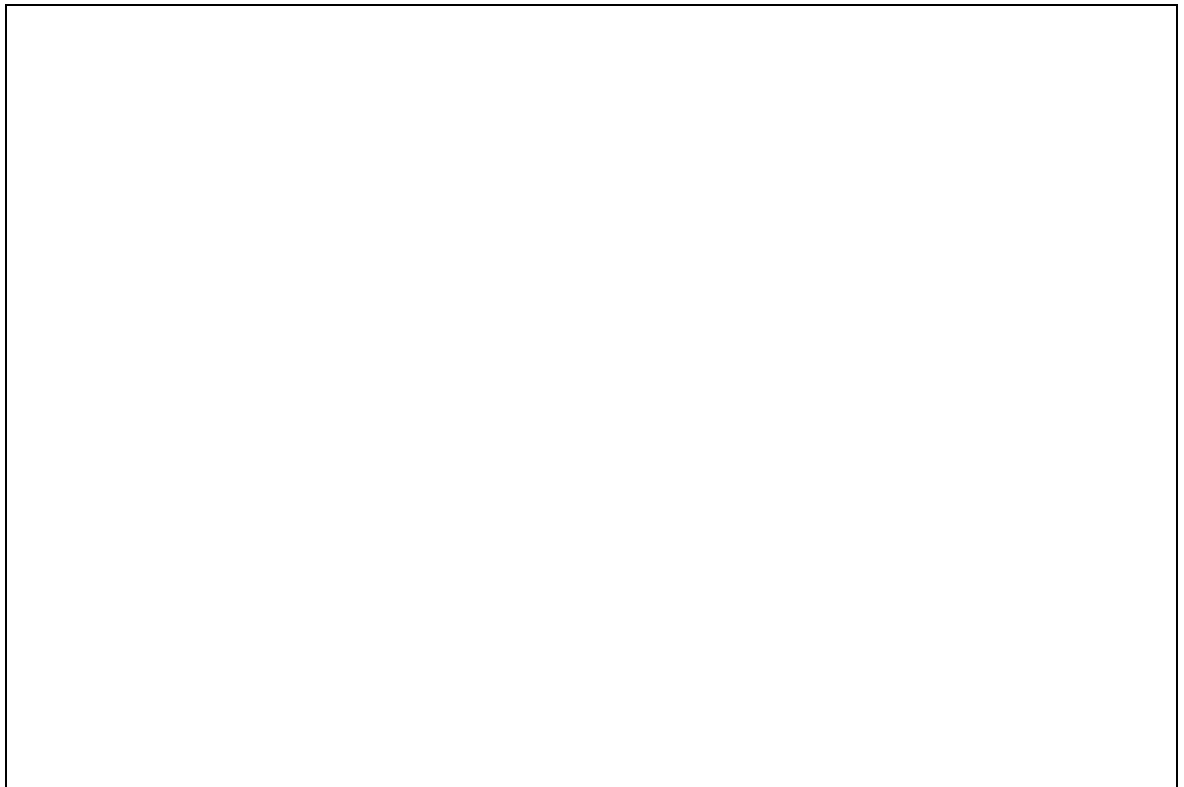
## LEVEL 1 Assessment



- C. Write your paragraph based on your outline. Use the model to help you. Remember to use the vocabulary you wrote down.

**Model:**

*Alexander von Humboldt is one of the most interesting scientists of the nineteenth century. Humboldt was born in Berlin in 1769. During his childhood, he liked to collect animals and plants. Humboldt's father died when Alexander was only ten, so after that, his mother took care of his education. In 1799, Humboldt had a fantastic opportunity to study biology when he travelled to Latin America. He was the first scientist to write about it. While he was there, he realized that similar animals and plants live in similar places, even if they are thousands of kilometers apart. He was one of the first people who said that South America and Africa were once one continent. These days, many places and species are named after him.*



(12 points)