Music ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper intermediate) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- Tell me about the best concert you have ever been to.
- Which song reminds you of a special time in your life?
- How has your taste in music changed since you were a teenager?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
virtuoso	a person who is extremely skilled at playing music	She's a piano virtuoso.
acoustic	not using electric instruments	They played an acoustic set.
harmony	a pleasant combination of different notes sung or played together	The choir sang in perfect harmony.
improvise	to play or perform without preparing	Jazz musicians often improvise.
anthem	a song that is very important for a group or country	It became the anthem of a generation.
debut album	the first album an artist releases	Her debut album went straight to number one.
chart-topping	reaching number one in the charts	It was their third chart-topping single.
one-hit wonder	an artist who has only one successful song	The band was a one-hit wonder.
royalties	money paid to artists each time their work is used	Streaming pays very low royalties.
record label	a company that produces and sells music	They signed with a big record label.

Speaking (15 min): The soundtrack of your life

The learner chooses three songs for three moments of their life and explains each choice: where they were, who they were with and how they felt. You guess the decade before they tell you.

Useful language

- I'm a big fan of… / I can't stand…
- It's catchy. / It gets stuck in my head.
- I grew up listening to…
- It reminds me of…
- the lyrics · the chorus · a gig · a playlist
- It puts me in a good mood.

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about music using at least six words from the lesson.
- Self-study: the B2 music vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Music (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

lip-syncing · haunting · blow my own trumpet · music to my ears · tone-deaf · mainstream · face the music · underground

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. He has to _____ now.
2. I don't like to _____, but I won.
3. The singer was accused of _____.
4. I'm completely _____.
5. He's a legend of the _____ scene.
6. A day off? That's _____.
7. It's a _____ melody.
8. Their sound became more _____.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Do you listen to the words or the music first?
2. What music do you play when you want to concentrate?
3. Have you ever learned English from a song? Which one?
4. What music is typical of your country, and do you like it?
5. If you could see any artist live, living or dead, who would it be?

Write

Write 80–120 words about music. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 face the music · 2 blow my own trumpet · 3 lip-syncing · 4 tone-deaf · 5 underground · 6 music to my ears · 7 haunting · 8 mainstream