

What Are Your Musical Tastes?

12th March 2020

In the first of two WEP articles about musical tastes, ECP coach John chats with his colleague Ali about his tastes.

Below is a summary of the chat, listen to the audio for the full interview. Why not compare the two? What differences are there?

What was your first concert?

Hard to remember, probably [Thin Lizzy](#) or [Eric Clapton](#) **back in the day**.

What was the last concert you went to? [Alison Keable](#).

Best ever concerts? So many....

[The Clash](#), the first time. [Frank Sinatra](#), both times. [The Pogues](#). All the times I've seen the Buzzcocks and [The Fall](#). The [Smiths](#), the [Ramones](#) (1,2,3,4!).

Loudest concert? [The Stranglers](#). Jean-Jacques Burnel's bass was always at maximum volume.

Which group have you seen the most? My beloved Buzzcocks.

Most surprising? [Bob Dylan](#) at Bilbao Bullring in the 1990s. No **jingly jangly** folk music. This was a heavy rock concert!

Next concert? Hopefully [Bryan Ferry](#) but probably Alison Keable.

Which band or artist do you wish you could have seen?

The Sex Pistols were **banned** from playing in Newcastle so I missed them. A big regret.

What are you listening to right now? I'm rediscovering Basque radical rock. I am enjoying the songs of La Polla Records, Eskorbuto and Hertzainak amongst others. I am also listening to a bit of jazz. [A Kind of Blue](#) by Miles Davis and [Scenery](#) by Ryo Fukui are never off my **turntable**.

Before you read the article, find this vocabulary in the text:

back in the day: In the past

beloved: Something you really love

jingly jangly: typical sound of traditional folk music

banned prohibited

turntable: circular revolving plate on which vinyl records are played

drum roll: a rapid succession of drum beats played on a drum

riff: a short repeated musical phrase in popular music and jazz

What is your favourite song?

That's a difficult question. I have lots of favourites and they tend to change according to how I feel.

Politically, it has to be [Anarchy in the UK](#) by the Pistols, the song which sums up my philosophy. When it comes to love, it is either [Shake Some Action](#) by the Flaming Groovies or [Another Girl](#) [Another Planet](#) by The Only Ones, the song with the best **drum roll** intro and lead guitar break in the universe. This is an actual fact!

Do you have any favourite genres?

I grew up listening to my dad's Frank Sinatra and rock and roll records. The first **riff** I learned on the guitar was [Badge](#) by the heavy rock super group Cream. Later I became a punk. I love Irish traditional music and all folk. I have become more open and less tribal in my musical tastes living in the Basque Country. [Volando Voy](#) is my ringtone.

Have you got any 'guilty pleasure' bands or songs?

When I was a punk rocker I would never have admitted to liking Frank Sinatra but I love his music. I am also partial to [Dolly Parton](#) and [Abba](#).

Are there any songs that can or have made you cry?

Obviously, [Boys Don't Cry](#)! But being honest, music is all about emotion. You can cry from both sadness and happiness and also pride. Joy Division's [Atmosphere](#) always gets me, as does [What Do I Get?](#) by the Buzzcocks. The Beatle's [Here Comes the Sun](#) stirs the emotions with its simple message that although things have been bad they can and will get better. I always cry when I sing [The Internationale](#), every bloody time!

Can you sing us a song now? Are you sure you really want me to? [Fog on the Tyne](#)



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John playing in his band back in the day

Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Are you surprised by John's musical tastes?

How would you describe his musical tastes?

Do you know of and like any of the artists and groups he mentions?

How important is music to you? Could you live without it?

Answer the questions in bold about your own musical tastes

Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



Practical English Stuff

Real Language to Express Yourself Better

Dates for your diary!

Coffee Saturdays:

5th Oct ✓
2nd Nov ✓
7th Dec ✓
11th Jan ✓
1st Feb ✓
7th Mar ✓
4th Apr
2nd May
6th Jun

Cinema Nights:

25th Oct ✓
29th Nov ✓
20th Dec ✓
31st Jan ✓
28th Feb ✓
27th Mar
24th Apr
29th May
26th Jun

Listening to music in English helps you learn. Look at these tips.

IMPROVE YOUR VOCABULARY

You will pick up new words you have not heard before or notice some words that are being used in a different context with a different meaning. If you listened to one new song per week, it would expose you to lots of new vocabulary and phrases that are difficult to forget. The music helps you remember the lyrics. **Song suggestion:** The Cure's [Friday I'm in Love](#) is a good song to remember the days of the week.

GET BETTER AT LISTENING

Music can help your brain be more receptive to hearing English through repetition. How many adjectives can you recognise in this song by Supertramp? [Logical Song](#)

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CINEMA NIGHTS!

Come and socialise in English!

SPEAK LIKE A NATIVE

Song lyrics contain slang, figures of speech, symbolism, and metaphors that you may not use in your everyday language. They also contain abbreviations in the written language that you can learn and use in an informal situation. The Proclaimers sing in a Scottish accent. If you want to learn some Scottish slang, sing along with this! [500 Miles](#)

THERE ARE NO LIMITS

If music is your passion it can really help you get better at English. Why not try a Dylan song? Once you understand Bob you can be sure you have a high level of English! [Mr. Tambourine Man](#) "Play a song for me, In the jingle jangle morning I'll come following you..."

PERFECT YOUR PRONUNCIATION

When you learn a new language, there are lots of unusual sounds your mouth is not used to making. Singing helps our mouths to form the right shapes and make these sounds loudly and clearly. Singing also helps us learn how stronger and weaker sounds are pronounced differently in English.

Google the lyrics of your favourite songs in English. Once you have learned the lyrics, you can practice your pronunciation and explore different accents. Accents depend on the country but also on the area the singer comes from. Singing will help you to learn the correct pronunciation of the words and will also help you to remember the new vocabulary you have learned. Sing along to the [Wedding Present](#) from Leeds.