

Summer festivals in Britain

Topic

Summer festivals in Britain

Aims

- To practise speaking skills through discussion
- To practise reading skills
- To practise skimming texts for information
- To plan a festival in a group

Age group

12- adult

Level

B1 / B2

Time

60 –90 minutes

Materials

1. Summer festivals in Britain Student worksheet and Fact Files
2. Internet links: <http://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/information/> - Glastonbury homepage with an information guide to be used in Task 4
<http://womad.co.uk/> - WOMAD festival UK
<http://isleofwightfestival.com/> - Isle of Wight festival
<http://www.ukrockfestivals.com/> - T in the Park
<http://www.wakestock.co.uk/> - Wakestock

Introduction

This lesson is all about some of the many summer festivals in the UK. Thanks to all the assistants who wrote to me with their ideas for which festivals to include. I have chosen the most popular ones here but you can easily add more festivals of your choice to the lesson. Students will want to know about the festivals you have been to and the ones that are specific to your hometown so do adapt and add as much as you can to the lesson. You could also use a song from one of the bands playing at this summer's festivals, or bring in some photographs of the festivals in question so your students can really see what they're like. Some of the websites mentioned below have video clips of festival action too. This lesson could also be used as a starting point for asking students to tell you about their local festivals.

Task 1 asks students to think about the ingredients of a good festival and Task 2 is a 'find somebody who...' speaking task about festivals. Task 3 is based on short readings about five of the most popular British summer festivals. Task 4 focuses on Glastonbury Festival and uses information from an on-line guide to the festival and Task 5 is more creative and asks students to plan a festival in their area.

Procedure

1. Task 1 - What are the ingredients of a good festival?	This is a simple introduction to the theme of festivals and a perfect opportunity for you to find out about local festivals where you are living. Encourage the students to tell you as much as they can about festivals they've been to
2. Task 2 - Festival find someone who...	Use the two blank spaces in the table to personalise the task for your students. Include local festivals depending on where you are living. Then check that students know how to construct the questions correctly and write the most difficult on the board if necessary. For example, number five is, 'Do you know anything about a British festival?' Ask students to stand up so they walk around the class speaking to as many people as possible. Make sure they only use the same classmate once in their chart. Encourage students to ask a follow on question in order to find out some extra information and when the set time is up, have some group feedback to share their findings.
3. Task 3 – Summer festivals in Britain: The big five – fact files	Cut up the fact files about five of the major festivals in the UK from the separate worksheet. If you want to include other festivals that you consider should have made it into the 'big five' write up a fact file for them too. You can easily find the information you need on the internet. Put students into groups of five and give each student a different festival to read about. Give the stronger students the longer texts. When students have read and understood their text they should tell their group about it. If you have time and the equipment to do so, print off some photos of each festival and give out to students with the texts. This will help to give them a real idea of what the festival is like. Once students have heard about all the festivals, they should decide, as a group, which one they would most like to go to. They have to all agree and should give reasons for their preferences. You can monitor here and help with any language. When groups have finished they can compare their choice with the other groups in the class.
4. Task 4 – You're going to Glastonbury Festival	This is a task for higher levels. Put students into groups of four or five. Tell them they are going to Glastonbury Festival this year. Before the class you will need to print off ten pages from an on-line guide to Glastonbury. Here's the link:

<http://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/> Give each student in the group a couple of areas and ask them to skim read the text and find out the most important information on their area. Alternatively, you can get students to do this online if you have internet access. Searching for information on websites and selecting the most useful information is a skill your students will no doubt need in the future. Help students with challenging vocabulary and make sure dictionaries are available. When each student has researched their areas they should tell the whole group about their findings. Then use the information they have found out to have a group discussion about Glastonbury Festival. Is it like any festivals they have been to? Why / why not? Would they like to go? Why / why not? etc.

5. Task 5- Plan a festival

Put students into pairs or small groups to work together to design a festival. They can decide if their festival will be held within their town or city, or in an open space outside their hometown. Monitor the groups carefully and encourage them to consider as many aspects of festival organising as you think they can manage. If you like, ask each group to draw up a plan of the festival area with the stages, camping areas etc, or if it's a city festival they should think of appropriate venues for all the events. If you want to, you could ask students to produce a poster and do a mini-presentation of their festival to the rest of the class.

Contributed by

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