

The King

WORKSHEET A

16th August is the anniversary of the death of one of the most important singers in the history of popular music. He died in 1977, but his songs live on: *Jailhouse Rock*, *Can't Help Falling In Love With You* and *Suspicious Minds* are just a few of the hits that are known and loved by millions of people all in the world. One of his songs, *A Little Less Conversation*, even managed to reach the top of the charts in 22 countries in 2002, 25 years after his death.

Born in Mississippi in the southern United States in 1935, he is often remembered as “The King of Rock ’n’ Roll”, or simply “The King”. It is not an exaggeration to say that he revolutionized popular music in the 1950s, creating a sound and a style that directly influenced a lot of the other singers who became famous during the previous ten years, not just in the US but in Britain as well.

The singer we are talking about is, of course, Elvis Presley.

Many fans and music journalists suggest that the reason for Elvis' popularity is the fact that he was “authentic”. They say that the way he sang and the way he moved were expressions of his true self, and that, although he had great commercial success, he wasn't “pre-packaged” like many of today's singers: his style wasn't created by a record company in an attempt to make money.

Of course, good looks and great voice also helped Elvis become a musical icon, as did the fact that he managed to create a rock 'n' roll sound that was unique at the time.

Elvis became famous during the 1950s economic boom in the US, when American teenagers and young adults were just beginning to have enough money to buy records. They started to become more independent of their parents, and many of them were attracted by Elvis' rebellious image. The fact that Elvis was disliked by many conservative figures (for example a judge in Florida said he was a “savage”, and a religious radio station refused to play his “devil music”) only increased his popularity with young people.

Elvis somehow managed to become even more famous during two years of obligational service with the US army in Germany between 1958 to 1960, and when he returned home he expanded his career into cinema, acting in various films during the early and mid 60. Despite most critics said the films were terrible, they were all a success at the box office.

In the late 60s and early 70s Elvis performed live shows all around US, and these have provided some of the most memorable TV images from his career. Dressed by a white costume, we see him looking older and heavier than he did in his early year, but his confident smile suggests that he knows he is – and always will be – one of a kind.

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WORKSHEET B

16th August is the anniversary of the **death** of one of the most important singers in the history of popular music. He died in 1977, but his songs live on: *Jailhouse Rock*, *Can't Help Falling In Love With You* and *Suspicious Minds* are just a few of the hits that are **known** and loved by millions of people all **over** the world. One of his songs, *A Little Less Conversation*, even managed to reach the top of the charts in 22 countries in 2002, 25 years after his death.

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WORKSHEET C

A

The text on Worksheet A contains 25 mistakes. Can you find and then correct them?

B

Below are the titles of six more of Elvis' greatest hits. If we wanted to be strict we could say that two of the song titles are not written in correct modern English, either because they contain a grammatical mistake or they include a word that is no longer used. Can you find the two titles and say exactly what the problems are?

Wooden Heart

Love Me Tender

In The Ghetto

Don't Be Cruel

Are You Lonesome Tonight?

Always On My Mind