
The Rolling Stones

WORKSHEET A

The four members of the Rolling Stones now have a combined age of over 250, but in the eyes of their fans they still deserve the title given them by their manager back in the late 1960s: 'The Greatest Rock and Roll Band in the World'.

It's certainly difficult to think of another group that has been so popular for such a long time. Since their formation in 1962, in London, they have sold more than 200 million albums worldwide, and songs such as *(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction* (1965), *Sympathy for the Devil* (1968) and *Brown Sugar* (1971) are among the most well known in the history of popular music.

The Stones developed an original musical style that was a mixture of rhythm and blues ('R&B') – associated with black musicians in the United States – and rock and roll. They had a huge influence on many other bands that came after them, not only through their music but also through their rebellious image. Because of incidents such as the brief imprisonment of lead singer Mick Jagger and guitarist Keith Richards for drug possession, in 1967, many people saw the Stones as outrageous, even slightly dangerous, in contrast to the softer, 'boy next door' image of the Beatles.

Jagger and Richards have always been responsible for creating most of the band's new music. Brian Jones was also a very important figure during the first few years, but he died in 1969. Since Bill Wyman dropped out in 1993, the line-up has been Jagger and Richards plus Ron Wood (guitar) and Charlie Watts (drums).

The Stones have completed dozens of tours, often playing sell-out concerts to crowds in big stadiums, and despite their age there is no sign that they are ready for a quieter life. Jagger recently said 'I'm not going to retire', while Richards said he planned to 'live to 100 and go down in history'.

Nowadays, however, the Stones are a great British institution rather than a group of rebellious outsiders – a fact illustrated in 2002 when Jagger received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II, becoming Sir Mick Jagger. According to an official statement, the knighthood was in recognition of the fact that Jagger was 'one of the great rock stars of the last century, who continues to bring a lot of pleasure'. Millions of people all around the world would agree.

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WORKSHEET B

A

Can you find the words or expressions in the text that mean the same as the following?

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| 1. all over the world | 6. connected |
| 2. non-conformist | 7. stop working (usually permanently) |
| 3. not lasting a long time | 8. event |
| 4. combination | 9. shocking, offensive |
| 5. in the opinion of | 10. someone who is not a member of a certain group |

B

Now decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Mick Jagger is more than 65 years old.
2. The Stones' image was different from that of the Beatles.
3. Bill Wyman joined the band in 1994.
4. Brian Jones used to be responsible for creating all the band's new music.
5. Richards wants people to remember him in future.
6. Many other groups were influenced by the Rolling Stones' music and image.
7. Keith Richards was in prison for a long time in 1967.
8. Jagger and Richards think the Stones really are the greatest rock and roll band in the world.

C

Below are some excerpts from the text, but not all of them have been copied correctly. Can you identify which of them now contain mistakes, and then make the necessary corrections?

1. Now days, however, the Stones are a great British institution ...
2. Millions of people all around the world would agree.
3. Since their formation in 1962, in London, they sold more than 200 million albums ...
4. The Stones developed an original musical style ...
5. ... many people saw the Stones as outrageous ...
6. ... although their age there is no sign that they are ready for a quieter life ...
7. ... 'one of the great rock stars of last century ...'
8. ' ... who continues to bring a lot of pleasure'.