

1. The Rolling Stones

The subject this week's lesson is the Rolling Stones, regarded by many people as the greatest band in the history of popular music. Bill Wyman, who played bass guitar in the band for more than 30 years before leaving in 1993, was born on 24 October 1936.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of the Rolling Stones. What do the students know about them? Do they think any younger pop groups will stand the test of time in the same way?
2. Give your students between five and ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. When the time is up, give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together. In Part A they have to find synonyms, in Part B they must answer the true/false/doesn't say questions, and in Part C they have to decide whether or not the excerpts from the text have been written correctly. Whereas Parts A and B require the students to refer back to the text, you should obviously ask them *not* to do so while completing Part C.
4. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Part A (synonyms)

1. worldwide 2. rebellious 3. brief 4. mixture 5. in the eyes of 6. associated
7. retire 8. incident 9. outrageous 10. outsider

Part B (true/false/doesn't say)

1. D 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T 6. T 7. F 8. D

Part C (correct/incorrect excerpts)

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|---|---|
| 1. Incorrect. Nowadays , however, the Stones are a great British institution ... | 5. Correct |
| 2. Correct. | 6. Incorrect. ... although despite their age there is no sign that they are ready for a quieter life ... |
| 3. Incorrect. Since their formation in 1962, in London, they have sold more than 200 million albums ... | 7. Incorrect. ... 'one of the great rock stars of the last century ...' |
| 4. Correct | 8. Correct |

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/7022163.stm>

From the BBC website, the transcript of a recent question-and-answer session with Mick Jagger. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.rollingstones.com/home.php>

The band's official website. Intermediate level and above.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/music/2045793.stm>

BBC article from 2002 on Mick Jagger's receipt of a knighthood. Challenging for intermediate level.