
The Glastonbury Festival

WORKSHEET A

One of the world's biggest outdoor pop music festivals takes place every June on a farm in the countryside in the south-west of England. The Glastonbury Festival, which first took place in 1970, lasts three days and attracts around 140,000 people. The festival has many different kinds of music, including rock, dance, folk, jazz and, in the last few years, hip-hop. Among the most famous performers at the 2009 festival were Bruce Springsteen, Blur, Black Eyed Peas and The Prodigy. Other big names in recent years include Oasis, The Killers, Björk, Radiohead, Coldplay, Kings of Leon and Jay-Z.

The festival isn't only about music, though, as there are also theatre and comedy performances, a circus, and many other events. The festival is so popular that the 140,000 tickets, which people mostly buy online and this year cost 175 pounds (about 290 US dollars), often sell out in only a few hours. In some years there have been problems with lots of people getting in without paying by climbing over the fence around the fields where the festival takes place, but this hasn't happened recently because security has improved.

You probably wouldn't expect to find many families at most pop festivals, but there are lots of them at Glastonbury – in fact there is even a field with activities especially for young children. However, the organiser of the festival, Michael Eavis, says he is worried it is becoming too 'middle-aged' and wants to see more teenagers in the crowd.

Almost all the people who go to the festival stay for all three days and sleep in tents in the fields. This means there have to be hundreds of portable toilets and also some places where people can have a shower (usually with a very long queue).

If there is a lot of rain during the festival many of the fields become very muddy, which is why many people take rubber boots (in Britain people call them Wellington boots or 'wellies') – they wouldn't look cool normally, but at Glastonbury, for three days only, they are very fashionable.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Match the words (1-14) from the text on Worksheet A with the definitions (A-N).

1 queue	A someone who performs in front of an audience, for example a musician or an actor
2 big name	B on the internet
3 crowd	C something similar to a wall (but often made of wood or wire) that goes around a piece of land, or separates one piece of land from another.
4 portable	D a thing made of cloth that people put up and then sleep inside when they go camping
5 fence	E a line of people waiting for something
6 field	F (informal) fashionable, good, attractive
7 improve	G a large group of people in the same place, e.g. for a sports event
8 performer	H Someone who is _____ is not young any more but not old yet.
9 cool	I (informal) a famous person or group of people
10 tent	J happen
11 middle-aged	K use your hands and feet to move up or over something
12 take place	L an area of land for keeping animals or growing food
13 climb	M get better
14 online	N If something is _____ it is easy to move, so you can take it from place to place.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Team A

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. It is an outdoor pop music festival.
2. In 1970.
3. Around 140,000.
4. Three of the kinds of music at the festival are rock, dance and folk (or jazz, or hip-hop).
5. In tents in the fields.
6. He is the organizer of the Glastonbury Festival.
7. Many of the fields become very muddy.
8. They take rubber boots.

Team B

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. In the south-west of England.
2. In June.
3. Three days.
4. They cost 175 pounds.
5. Because security has improved.
6. Portable toilets.
7. He wants to see more teenagers.
8. Wellington boots or 'wellies'.