

What's it like to be at one of Britain's many summer music festivals? Amandeep hangs around backstage with band British Sea Power, experiences festival life first-hand, and talks to festival goers about what it's like for them.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises to check your understanding. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation: matching

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1..... the height of the season | a. to practise for a public performance |
| 2..... to rehearse | b. enthusiastic, willing to participate |
| 3..... to hang around | c. the busiest time of year |
| 4..... to perform | d. natural scenery or countryside |
| 5..... up for it | e. to play music for an audience |
| 6..... to come in handy | f. to pass time waiting for something or with no particular objective (informal) |
| 7..... landscape | g. waterproof boots |
| 8 wellies | h. to be useful |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. Reading Festival is ...
 - a. a huge, open-air festival.
 - b. a small, open-air festival.
 - c. an indoor music festival.
2. British Sea Power are ...
 - a. a new band.
 - b. one of Britain's most popular bands.
 - c. from the United States.
3. British Sea Power are influenced by ...
 - a. poetry and the English countryside.
 - b. literature and music from the 80s.
 - c. music they hear at festivals.

4. Scott Wilkinson says Reading is traditionally ...
a. the biggest festival.
b. the festival with the best atmosphere.
c. the festival where you can see the most rock bands.
5. While they're waiting for their concert, the band ...
a. play cards.
b. play ping-pong.
c. listen to other bands.
6. Amandeep says it's a good idea to take ...
a. warm clothes and water.
c. an umbrella and suncream.
d. water and an umbrella.
7. It's easy to forget where your tent is because ...
a. there are thousands of them.
c. they all look the same.
d. the festival is very big.
8. Martin Noble says playing at a festival is exciting because ...
a. it sounds really good.
c. you can play to your audience.
d. you realise how famous you are.

2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

season	around	handy	crowds
wellies	perform	rehearse	up for it

1. It's the height of the music festival _____ here in the UK.
2. Some of the biggest bands in the world are performing to huge _____ in the open air.
3. For the band, there's lots of hanging _____ before their concert later tonight.
4. There's a few things you need to bring with you. After dark, a torch comes in _____.
5. If it rains, of course, you need waterproofs, an umbrella and the all-important _____.

6. Martin, what's it like to _____ at a music festival?
7. It's really exciting. You know, you _____ all the time in a small dark room, and this is your chance to play to your audience.
8. If you can see the crowd are _____, there's nothing to worry about.

Discussion

Would you like to go to a music festival? Why?/Why not?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.