

Unit 11 Entertainment

ACADEMIC SKILLS PLUS

Cultural studies/Music: Hip-hop and rap

Reading skills: Understanding main points;
Understanding similarities and differences

Writing skills: Expanding notes into a paragraph;
Drafting

1 SPEAKING



a Look at the different kinds of music in the box. Do you know what they all are?

Which do you ... ?

- often listen to
- never listen to
- like most

Compare with other students.

pop	classical	rock	world music	jazz	rap
reggae	heavy metal	techno	hip-hop	folk	

2 READING

a Check the meaning of these words in a dictionary. Complete the gaps in the sentences below.

fashion	rhythm	poetry	visual	rhyme
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- 1 Paintings and films are examples of ____ art, because you look at them.
- 2 African music is good for dancing because it has a strong ____.
- 3 The words 'true' and 'blue' ____ . They have the same sound.
- 4 Shakespeare, Dante and Pushkin all wrote ____.
- 5 She loves clothes and she always knows what clothes are in ____.

b You are going to read an article about hip-hop and rap in 2c. Do you think these two kinds of music are ... ?

- 1 exactly the same
- 2 similar but a bit different
- 3 completely different

Tell your partner what you know about what's the same and what's different.

c Read the article on page 28. What's the answer to b? Does the article include the ideas you talked about?

d Read the article again. What does the article say about the topics below? Make brief notes (just a few words) on each topic.

- 1 KRS-One
- 2 the four 'elements' of hip-hop
- 3 three important things about rap music
- 4 the beginnings of rap music
- 5 rap music now

e Compare your answers with other students. Did you note down the same points?

f CRITICAL THINKING

EXPANDING YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE

When you read, you can use information in the text to think about new ideas. You can use what you know about the world to help you do this. In groups, discuss these questions.

- 1 What topics do you think hip-hop singers sing about?
- 2 What do DJs do?
- 3 How do you think hip-hop 'combines dance, technology and speech'?

MUSIC BLOG



When people talk about 'rap music' and 'hip-hop music', they often mean the same thing. So is rap the same as hip-hop, and if it isn't, how is it different?

People call music by, for example, Jay Z or Kanye West, both 'rap' or 'hip-hop', so clearly the two terms are similar. The main difference is that the word 'rap' describes a kind of music, but 'hip-hop' is more than that: it's a complete culture which includes music but also fashion, art, dance and lifestyle. The well-known New York hip-hop artist KRS-One described the difference between them like this: 'Rap is something you do. Hip-hop is something you are.'

In fact, people say that hip-hop includes four 'elements': the first is a style of dancing (break-dancing), the second is a kind of visual art (street art and graffiti), the third is a way of making music by sampling and mixing tracks (in other words, what DJs do), and the fourth is mixing together dance, technology and speech to make a particular kind of music.

Rap, on the other hand, is different from this – it just means a particular kind of singing (called 'rapping') which is used in hip-hop. It consists of two parts: a particular rhythm (called a 'breakbeat') and rhyming words, which often tell a story. The rapper speaks the words of the song instead of singing them, but with a strong beat. Rap music has more words in one song than any other kind of music, so in some ways it is more like poetry than singing.

Rap music comes from hip-hop culture in cities in the USA, but it has now become international. You can hear rap in commercial pop music and there are rap artists in many parts of the world, for example, France, Germany, Turkey, South Africa and South Korea.

3 LANGUAGE FOCUS Similarities and differences

- a Cover the article. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

difference (x2)	different (x2)	like
same (x2)	similar	

- 1 People talk about 'rap music' and 'hip-hop music'; they often mean the _____ thing.
- 2 So, is rap the _____ as hip-hop, and if it isn't, how is it _____?
- 3 You can call music by, for example, Jay Z or Kanye West, either 'rap' or 'hip-hop', so clearly the two terms are _____.
- 4 The main _____ is that the word 'rap' describes a kind of music, but 'hip-hop' is more than that.
- 5 KRS-One described the _____ between them like this: 'Rap is something you do. Hip-hop is something you are'.
- 6 Rap, on the other hand, is _____ from this – it just means a particular kind of singing.
- 7 Rap music has more words in one song than any other kind of music, so in some ways it is more _____ poetry than singing.

- b Uncover the article and check your answers. Then answer the questions below.

- 1 'Different' is an adjective. What is the noun form?
- 2 Which adjective means 'nearly the same'?
- 3 What words follow: (a) the same _____ (b) different _____ (c) the difference _____
- 4 What word means 'similar to'?

- c Look at the sentences about other kinds of music. Add one word in each gap to complete them.

- 1 Heavy metal is _____ rock music, but it's usually louder.
- 2 How is blues _____ from jazz?
- 3 House music and disco are _____ in many ways, but they're not exactly the _____.
- 4 What's the _____ between country music and folk music?
- 5 New wave music is the _____ as post-punk. There's no _____ between them.

4 WRITING

- a Choose one of the topics below (they should be things you already know something about):

- two kinds of music
- two languages
- two dishes
- two cities
- two countries
- two things from your own area of study

Think about how the two items are similar and how they are different. Make some brief notes under two headings: *Differences* and *Similarities*.

- b Show your notes to another student. Tell him/her what you want to write about, and get some more ideas. Add them to your notes.

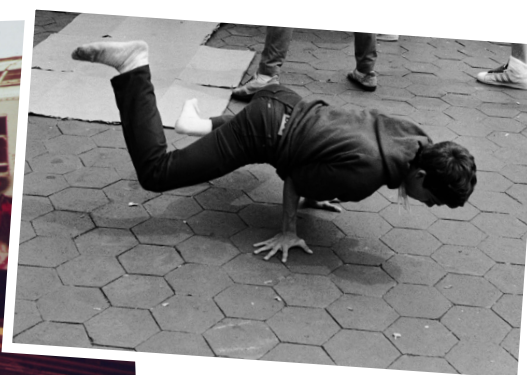
STUDY SKILLS: HELPING WITH WRITING IDEAS

Even if other students are writing alone, it's useful to help them with finding ideas for writing. Here are some tips:

- listen carefully
- be positive about your partner's ideas
- don't push your own opinion – let your partner decide what to do
- don't talk too much – let your partner speak!
- give clear, practical suggestions

Think about how you gave ideas in 4b just now. How well did you do the things in the tips? Did you get some useful ideas from your partner?

- c** Write a paragraph, using your notes. Try to use expressions from 3.
- d** Work in groups of four. Read all the paragraphs from your group. Choose the most interesting one and tell the class about it.

**5 EXTENDED READING**

- a** You are going to read an article about how hip-hop began in the 1970s. What do you already know about this from the article in 2c? Note down any ideas.
- b** Read the article. Here are some important events that happened in the hip-hop scene. Which happened at the beginning (in the 1970s) and which happened later (in the 1980s and 90s)?
- 1 You could listen to women hip-hop artists.
 - 2 You could watch teenagers breakdancing in public places.
 - 3 DJs started playing at parties.
 - 4 Hip-hop artists played a mixture of rap and rock music.
 - 5 Graffiti appeared in New York City.
 - 6 Rap music became popular in New York City.
- c** Read the article again. What does it tell us about the topics below? Make brief notes.
- 1 Taki
 - 2 New York subway
 - 3 breakdancing and money
 - 4 Kool Herc
 - 5 where rapping came from
 - 6 'Rapper's Delight'
 - 7 Queen Latifah
 - 8 Snoop Dogg

THE ORIGINS OF HIP-HOP

Hip-hop became popular in the 1980s and 90s, together with rap music, but it started in poor African-American areas of New York City in the late 1970s. Hip-hop began with music, but also with painting graffiti and with breakdancing. People say that the graffiti movement started when a Greek American teenager wrote 'Taki 183' (his name and street, 183rd Street) on walls in the New York subway. During the 1970s, teenagers in New York started painting their names and pictures on the sides of subway trains. At around the same time, kids started playing hip-hop music and breakdancing on the pavement, often collecting money from people.

Two other important elements of hip-hop were DJ-ing and rapping. The first well-known hip-hop DJ was a Jamaican called Kool Herc, who played Jamaican music at large parties in New York City. He used two turntables and mixed bits of older music with popular dance songs. He also spoke over the music, and some people say this was

the beginning of rapping, but in fact rapping is probably much older than that and came from West Africa. The first rap song to become popular was in 1979, when the Sugarhill Gang made a song called 'Rapper's Delight'. After a few weeks it reached Number 1 and it gave its name to a new kind of pop music.

In the 1980s, a new wave of rappers appeared, including Run-D.M.C., a group of three singers who mixed rap with rock music. This made rap music popular with a wider number of people. During this period, there were also (for the first time) a few female rappers, such as Queen Latifah. In the 1970s and 80s, the centre of hip-hop was New York City, but in the 1990s, a lot of new rap music came from Los Angeles, with artists such as Snoop Dogg, who helped to make hip-hop popular with a much wider audience. Since then, hip-hop and rap music have become more and more widely known and it is now popular with people all over the world.