

THE POWER OF MUSIC

Warm-up

Look at these pictures of Indian musical instruments. Read their names. How many of these have you seen?



DHOL



SANTOOR



HARMONIUM



MRIDANGAM



SHENAI



SITAR



TABLA



BANSURI OR FLUTE



VEENA



GHATAM

A string instrument has strings, for example: a sitar.

Woodwind instruments are those that a player blows into, and makes the air vibrate, for example: a flute.

Do you know what percussion instruments are? Any instrument that makes a sound when it is hit, shaken, or scraped is called a percussion instrument, for example, a dhol or tabla.

Vocabulary

impact: the force of one object hitting another; to have a strong effect on someone or something

react: act in response to something

alert: watching/listening with full attention

tempo: the speed at which a piece of music is, or should be played

soothing: having a gently calming effect

jazz: a type of music

melodies: tunes

connects: brings together

grumpy: bad-tempered

The Power of Music

Music can have a big impact on how we feel and how our bodies react. It is important to choose music that you enjoy.

Different types of music have different kinds of effects on our emotions and help us in various ways. Fast-paced music can make us feel more alert. Upbeat music can boost our mood and make us feel happier about life. Slower music with a gentle tempo can calm our minds and relax our muscles, helping us release the stress of the day.

When it comes to choosing the right music for relaxation, different kinds have shown positive effects. Folk songs, bhajans, instrumental music, and flutes, are soothing. Music should never be very loud. Sounds of nature like rain, waves in the ocean, or songs of birds, when combined with light jazz, classical music, or easy-listening tunes create a soothing atmosphere.

Here is a story about Maya and her music.

Once upon a time, in a small village there lived a young girl named Maya. Maya loved music more

than anything else in the world. She believed that music had a special kind of magic that could touch hearts and change lives.

Every morning, Maya would sit by the old banyan tree near her house. She would close her eyes and listen to the birds singing their sweet melodies. The wind would carry the soft notes of their songs, and Maya felt as if she could fly with them.

One day, a travelling musician arrived in the village. His name was Ravi, and he played the flute like no one else. Maya watched as Ravi's fingers danced on the wooden instrument, creating tunes that seemed to come from another world. The villagers gathered around and listened to Ravi. Ravi explained, "Music has a magical power. It can make you smile when you're sad, dance when you're happy, and dream when you're awake. It connects us all, no matter where we come from."

Maya bought a flute and learned how to play it. She noticed that when she played the flute, flowers bloomed brighter, and animals gathered around her to listen. Even the grumpy old man who lived next door would tap his foot to keep

time to the beat. She understood that music was not just about melodies and rhythms. It is about the hope and dreams it carries. So, the next time you hear a song, close your eyes and let its magic touch your heart.

A. Answer these questions with a Yes or a No.

1. The sitar is a string instrument.
2. We can blow on percussion instruments to make sounds.
3. Our bodies react to music.
4. All musical instruments have the same effect on us.
5. Listening to any kind of music can relax us.

B. Choose the most appropriate opinion to complete the sentences.

1. We should listen to fast-paced music when we want to be
 - a. lazy
 - b. sad
 - c. alert
 - d. idle
2. Slow music is good when we want to

- a. relax
 - b. be happy
 - c. dance
 - d. focussed
3. Instrumental music has
- a. a dull effect on us
 - b. a melancholy effect on us
 - c. a calming effect on us
 - d. an annoying effect on us
4. Maya was a
- a. an old woman
 - b. a young girl
 - c. a silly girl
 - d. a foolish girl
5. Maya learned how to play
- a. the sitar
 - b. the sarod
 - c. the banjo
 - d. the flute

C. Answer the following questions:

1. Which kinds of sounds have a calming effect on our minds?
2. Who did Maya think she could fly with?
3. Who was Ravi?

4. What effect did the flute have on the Grumpy old man?

D. In your own words tell us how music affects you?

E. We use 'make' when we create or construct something.

For example:

She made a chart.

They made noise in class.

We use 'do' for general activities. In this case, 'do' is often used with 'something', 'nothing', 'anything' or 'everything':

What did you do at the weekend?

I didn't do anything yesterday.

Use make/makes/made OR do/did to complete these sentences.

1. Music _____ us happy.
2. We _____ mistakes.
3. We _____ our homework.
4. The teacher _____ us do our class work quietly.
5. I will _____ the housework.
6. Let me _____ these sums now.

F. Use words from vocabulary to complete these sentences.

For example: Jazz is most commonly played on the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums, and guitar.

1. The _____ of the story could be seen on all the faces.
2. The lady did not _____ when we told her the good news.
3. You must be _____ when you are crossing the road.
4. We began tapping our feet to the _____ of the music.
5. The _____ sound of water calmed our spirits.
6. The _____ we heard in the hills remained with us long after we had left the area.
7. The _____ old man is always bad tempered.
8. What _____ us all is our love for music.

G. Use each word from the vocabulary list to make a sentence.