

UNIT 3 >>> My music

Aim: To explore the importance of language in music in the following ways:

- through a comparison of music in English with music in other languages.
- by focusing on artists from different parts of the world who sing in more than one language.

1

- Get students to discuss the first question in pairs before sharing their opinions with the rest of the class.
- Elicit some different kinds of music from students and write them on the board (eg *pop, rap, jazz, rock*). Then ask them for some examples of songs in English and in other languages that belong in the different categories.
- Ask if they can name some well-known artists who sing in English as well as their own language (eg Shakira) or even songs where the artist sings in two different languages.
- Take a vote on the third question, asking students whether they think it's *very important, important* or *not important* to be able to understand the lyrics of a song. Get them to justify their answers.

2

- Get students to skim-read the texts as quickly as possible for the names of the singers. When you check answers, you could ask which two languages each one sings in.

Answer

Abraham Mateo (Spanish and English) and Tarkan Tevetoglu (Turkish and English)

3

- Before students begin reading, check they understand or remember the following words:
Text A: *awesome, beat*
Text B: *poet*
Text C: *guest performance*
- Ask students to work in pairs to find the answers to the questions. To check the answers, nominate one pair to answer question 1, then ask them to nominate the next pair to answer question 2 and so on.

Answers

- 1 Abraham Mateo and Lorde
- 2 Lorde
- 3 the (Turkish) Prince of Pop
- 4 dance
- 5 Lorde's
- 6 It's in English.
- 7 Lorde

4

- Ask students to work in small groups and write down as many reasons as they can why artists might record music in English (eg *to attract a bigger audience; to sell more music; because of their preferred genre of music, eg rap, which comes from the USA*). Each group should then report back to the class on their answers.
- To follow up, find out from students if there are any singers from their own country/countries who sing in English, and if so, what they think of their music.
- For homework, ask students to do the task below. Encourage them to find reviews of songs on the internet and to use these to help them with the structure and wording of their own review.

Homework

Write a short review of a song (recorded in English or another language) that you like. Include the following information: the name of the singer, the country he/she's from, the language of the song and the type of music it is.