

English Songs as the Way of Learning a Foreign Language

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**English songs
are useful!**

**English songs
have
mistakes!**

The main aim of our research is to find out if listening to English pop songs is an effective way of learning a foreign language.

The object of our research is modern English hits.

The subject of this study is the language of the songs and typical mistakes of modern pop songs in the English language.



A grammatical norm

EXAMPLES OF SONGS:

He She it	Vs	Sia “Fire meet gasoline” Fire meet gasoline I'm burning alive
You We They	were	AC/DC “Let there be rock” Let there be drums and there was drums
If V2 were	, smb would V	Gwen Stefani «Rich Girl» See, I'd have all the money in the world, if I was a wealthy girl



1) Inappropriate usage of pronouns

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Lady Gaga «You and I»	Yeah something about Baby you and I	Yeah something about Baby you and me	a wrong pronoun



2) Inappropriate usage of the Subjunctive Mood

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Justin Bieber Boyfriend	If I was your boyfriend, ...	If I were your boyfriend, ...	the Subjunctive Mood



3) Inappropriate usage of irregular verbs

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Justin Timberlake «What Goes Around...C omes Around»	When you cheated, girl, my heart bled, girl'	When you cheated, girl, my heart bled, girl'	an irregular verb



4) Subject-verb agreement

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Sting «Shape Of My Heart»	He don't play for respect	He doesn't play for respect	subject- verb agreement



5) Double Negatives

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
The Rolling Stones «I Can't Get No Satisfacti on»	«I Can't Get No Satisfaction»	I Can't Get Satisfaction	double negatives



6) Inappropriate usage of transitive and intransitive verbs

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Eric Clapton, “Lay Down, Sally.”	Lay down, Sally, and rest you in my arms.	Lie down, Sally, and rest you in my arms	Lay- a transitive verb Lie- an intransitive verb



7) Spelling

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Fergie, “Fergalicio us”	“T to the A to the S-T-E-Y / Girl, you’re tasty.” (tastey)	“T to the A to the S-T-Y / Girl, you’re tasty.”	Wrong spelling



8) The usage of reductions

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Ed Sheeran & Justin Bieber "I Don't Care"	«I'm at a party I don't wanna be at...»	«I'm at a party I don't want to be at...»	The usage of reductions



9) Omissions of a letter (letters) in the word

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Ed Sheeran & Justin Bieber "I Don't Care"	'Cause I don't care	because I don't care	an omission of letters in the word



10) Strengthening the degree of comparison of adjectives with additional wrong forms

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Gwen Stefani – “Bubble Pop Electric”	I'm restless, can't you see I try my bestest	I'm restless, can't you see I try my best	the wrong form of degrees of comparison



11) Omissions of articles

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Gwen Stefani – “Bubble Pop Electric”	To be good girl , because it's just us	To be a good girl, because it's just us	the wrong usage of an article



12) Wrong word order

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Katy Perry Ft Juicy L Dark Horse	So you wanna play with magic?	Do you want to play with magic?	A general question



13) Inappropriate usage of tenses

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Black Strobe “I'm a man”	Now when I was a little boy at the age of five	Now when I am ...	You can omit the word “now”



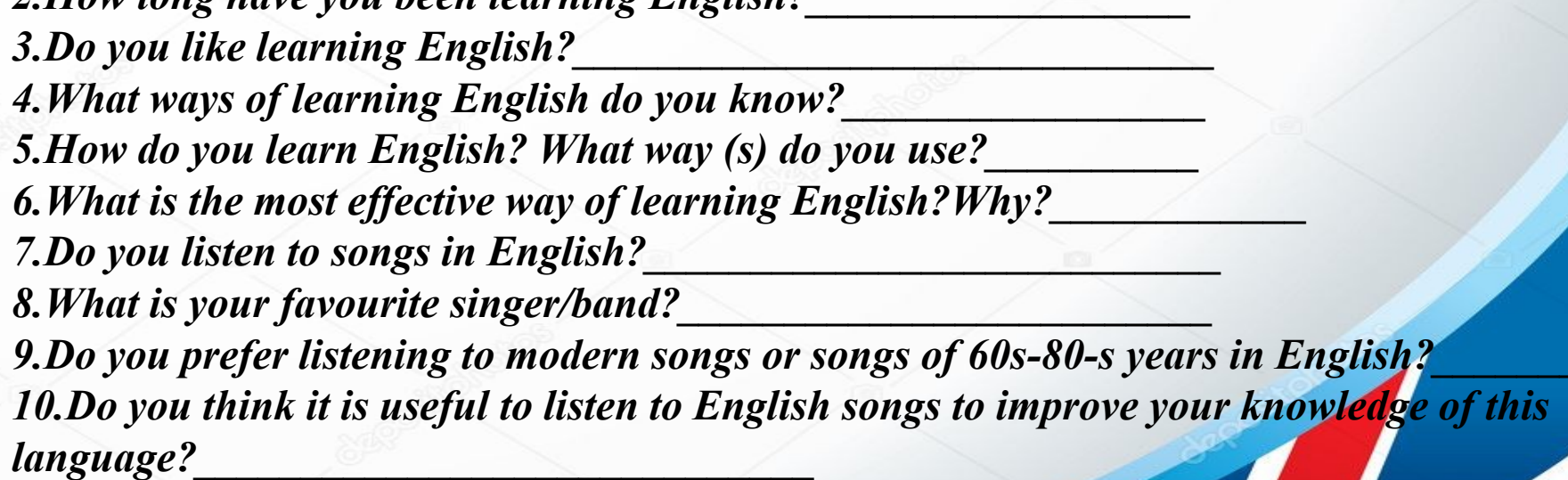
14) The omission of a predicate or a part of it

a singer/a band; the title of a song	wrong lines	correct lines	notes (the mistakes)
Rainbow “Since you been gone”	Since you been gone	Since you have been gone	the omission of a predicate or a part of it

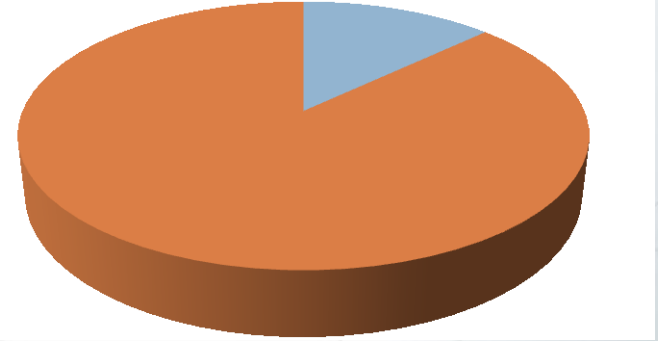


A survey among 50 teenagers aged 13-18 of our gymnasium

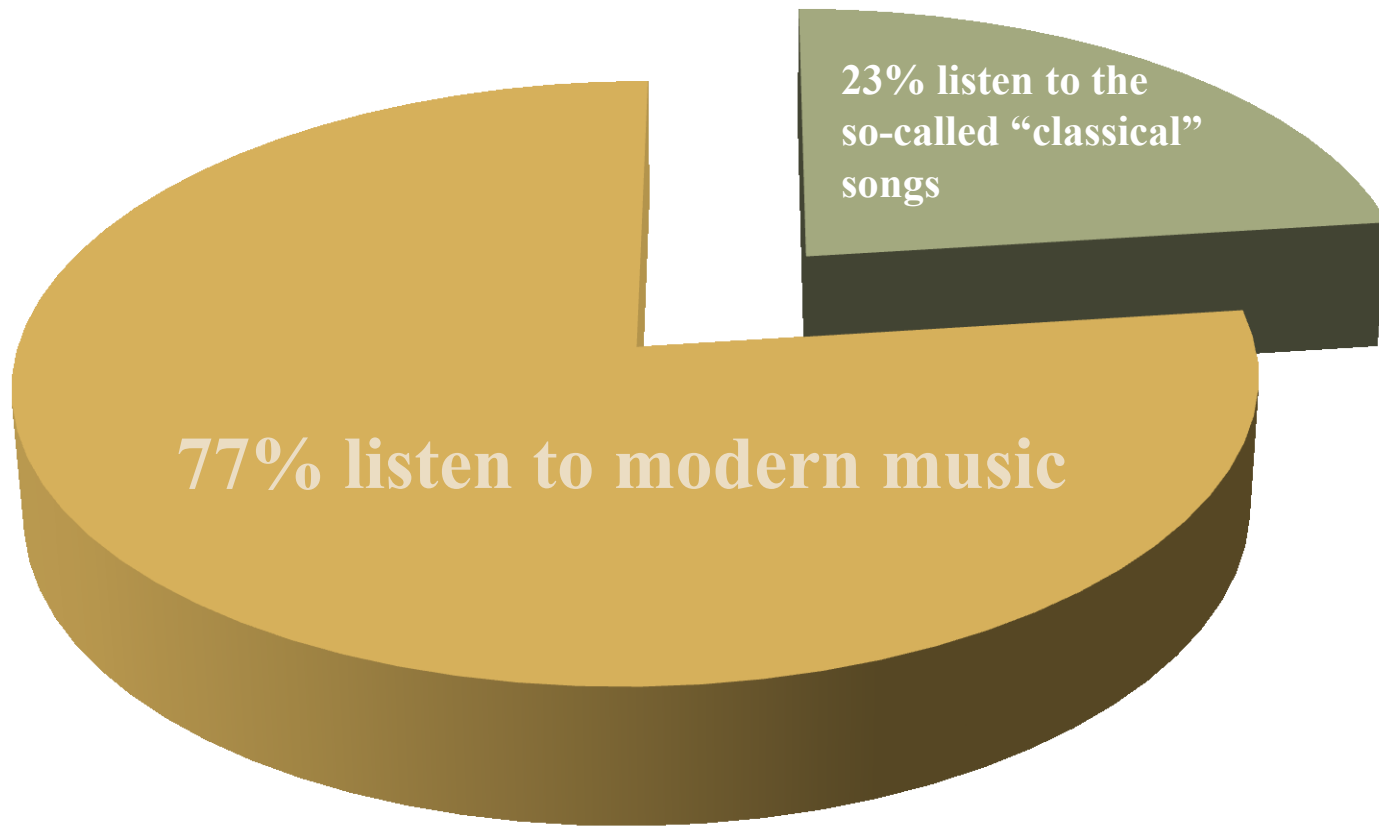
A survey

- 1. Your age _____*
 - 2. How long have you been learning English? _____*
 - 3. Do you like learning English? _____*
 - 4. What ways of learning English do you know? _____*
 - 5. How do you learn English? What way (s) do you use? _____*
 - 6. What is the most effective way of learning English? Why? _____*
 - 7. Do you listen to songs in English? _____*
 - 8. What is your favourite singer/band? _____*
 - 9. Do you prefer listening to modern songs or songs of 60s-80-s years in English? _____*
 - 10. Do you think it is useful to listen to English songs to improve your knowledge of this language? _____*
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87 % of respondents listen to music and consider this way of learning a foreign language the most effective.



- one can listen to pop music everywhere and anywhere
- the texts are so easy to understand that one can remember them at once
- it is the easiest way to enlarge your vocabulary
- to learn new grammar structures
- to understand the intonation
- to study idioms
- to study the culture of English-speaking countries
- to learn and to understand different accents
- to learn slang words and phrases instead of Standard English, etc.



Songs of 1960s-1980s



■ songs without mistakes

■ songs with mistakes

Modern songs



■ songs without mistakes

■ songs with mistakes

Conclusion

English songs are good for learning a foreign language but it is also true that you should know the English grammar well enough to avoid the risks of learning an incorrect way of speaking in modern songs. It is better to listen to singers and bands of 60s-80s.

The practical value:

we hope that our research paper will have a practical significance for students who want to improve knowledge of English. This work can be of use for pupils and students and all those who are interested in the English language and its peculiarities. Besides, the research data can be used at the lessons of practical and theoretical grammar at schools and other educational institutions.



The perspective:

to study grammatical violations not only in English songs but in Russian songs as well to compare them.

