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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/04/13

David Bowie at the V & A

Today let's talk about a new exhibition that you can see at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. It features the work of the legendary pop star David Bowie.

The David Bowie exhibition at the V & A features many things about the singer; including original costumes, fashion, handwritten lyrics, music, photography, music videos alongside some of 66-year-old Bowie's own instruments.

The exhibition at the V & A displays more than 60 Bowie stage costumes, including original Ziggy Stardust bodysuits from 1972, as well as outfits designed for his Aladdin Sane and Thin White Duke characters.

It is the first time a museum has been given access to the David Bowie Archive. The exhibition also features his early years when he was known as David Robert Jones. He adopted the name David Bowie in 1965. Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called the Konrads.

Bowie's best known creation was the fictional Ziggy Stardust who performed with the Spiders from Mars. Recently the world could once again see a previously thought lost piece of TV history of him performing his hit *Jean Genie* in January 1973 on the BBC's 'Top of the Pops' TV show.

The exhibition at the V & A will explore the broad range of Bowie's collaborations with artists and designers in the fields of fashion, sound, graphics, theatre, art and film.

The reclusive pop star hit the headlines recently with the release of his new album *The Next Day*, the first in 10 years. Naturally, the new album went straight to number one in many countries.

David Bowie at the V&A in London is on between 23rd March and 11th August 2013.

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about David Bowie. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the new album
- 2) Name the dates of the exhibition.
- 3) Name the TV show.
- 4) Name the song that was performed on the TV show.
- 5) What will visitors see at the museum about this pop star?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the museum.
- 2) Name the famous pop star.
- 3) What is the pop stars real name?
- 4) Name two of his fictional characters.
- 5) Name one of his early bands.

Category: Music / David Bowie / V & A
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

David Bowie at the V & A – 5th April 2013

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**David Bowie**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

David Bowie at the V & A - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Write down three things you know about *David Bowie in the 70s, 80s and one other decade*. Discuss together.

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you got any David Bowie albums or singles?
- 3) What is Bowie's greatest song?
- 4) What is Bowie's finest album?
- 5) What do you think of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars?
- 6) Why is David Bowie such an icon today?
- 7) Will you be visiting the V & A to see this exhibition? Explain.
- 8) Why is this exhibition proving such a hit?
- 9) Did you know David Bowie used to be in the Konrads?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is: *David Bowie at the V & A*.

- 1) Boss of the V & A Museum
- 2) A music journalist
- 3) A David Bowie fan
- 4) A tourist

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a coffee shop at the V & A. Start a conversation about: '*The David Bowie exhibition*'. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME

Group – form a circle. *I went to the V & A and I saw...* Go round in a clockwise direction. Repeat the previous words then add one more. Forget any and you are eliminated! *10 mins.* *The teacher* will choose some groups to hear their discussions in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Artists and groups who are Rock and Pop legends

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Name someone David Bowie has sung with.
- 3) What do you think of David Bowie's new album?
- 4) What inspires David Bowie?
- 5) Will you be buying David Bowie's new album?
- 6) What makes David Bowie a musical living legend today?
- 7) What do you think of Bowie's outrageous costumes?
- 8) Would you like to dress up as Ziggy Stardust?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

David Bowie at the V & A

Today let's talk about a new exhibition that you can see at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. It features the work of the legendary pop star David Bowie.

The David Bowie exhibition at the V & A features many things about the singer; including original costumes, (1)__, handwritten (2)__, music, photography, music videos alongside some of 66-year-old Bowie's own (3)__.

The exhibition at the V & A (4)__ more than 60 Bowie stage costumes, including original Ziggy Stardust bodysuits from 1972, as well as (5)__ designed for his Aladdin Sane and Thin White Duke characters.

It is the first time a (6)__ has been given (7)__ to the David Bowie Archive. The (8)__ also features his early years when he was known as David Robert Jones. He adopted the name David Bowie in 1965. Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called the Konrads.

lyrics / exhibition / instruments / displays / outfits / fashion / access / museum

Bowie's best known (1)__ was the fictional Ziggy Stardust who performed with the Spiders from Mars. Recently the world could once again see a (2)__ thought lost piece of TV history of him performing his hit *Jean Genie* in January 1973 on the BBC's 'Top of the Pops' TV show.

The exhibition at the V & A will explore the broad range of Bowie's (3)__ with artists and designers in the fields of fashion, sound, (4)__, theatre, art and film.

The (5)__ (6)__ hit the headlines recently with the release of his new (7)__ *The Next Day*, the first in 10 years. (8)__, the new album went straight to number one in many countries.

collaborations / album / naturally / graphics / creation / pop star / reclusive / previously

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

David Bowie at the V & A

Today let's talk about a new exhibition that (1)__ can see at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. It features the work of the legendary pop star David Bowie.

The David Bowie exhibition at the V & A features (2)__ things about the singer; including original costumes, fashion, handwritten lyrics, music, photography, music videos alongside (3)__ of 66-year-old Bowie's own instruments.

The exhibition at the V & A displays more than 60 Bowie stage costumes, including original Ziggy Stardust bodysuits from 1972, as well as outfits designed (4)__ (5)__ Aladdin Sane (6)__ Thin White Duke characters.

It is the first time a museum has been given access to the David Bowie Archive. The exhibition also features his early years (7)__ he was known as David Robert Jones. He adopted the name David Bowie in 1965. Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called (8)__ Konrads.

the / you / and / his / for / many / when / some

Bowie's best known creation was the fictional Ziggy Stardust who performed with the Spiders from Mars. Recently the world (1)__ once again see a previously thought lost piece (2)__ TV history of (3)__ performing his hit *Jean Genie* in January 1973 (4)__ the BBC's 'Top of the Pops' TV show.

The exhibition (5)__ the V & A will explore the broad range of Bowie's collaborations (6)__ artists and designers (7)__ the fields of fashion, sound, graphics, theatre, art and film.

The reclusive pop star hit the headlines recently with the release of his new album *The Next Day*, the first in 10 years. Naturally, the new album went straight to number one in (8)__ countries.

of / at / in / on / could / many / with / him

David Bowie at the V & A – 5th April 2013



GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

David Bowie at the V & A

Today let's talk about a _____ you can see at the _____ Museum in London. It features the work of the legendary pop star David Bowie.

The David Bowie exhibition at the V & A features many things about the singer; including original costumes, fashion, _____, music, photography, music videos alongside some of 66-year-old Bowie's own instruments.

The exhibition at the V & A _____ 60 Bowie stage costumes, including original Ziggy Stardust bodysuits from 1972, as well as outfits designed for his Aladdin Sane and Thin White Duke characters.

It is the first time a museum has been given access to the David Bowie Archive. The exhibition also features his early years when he was known as _____. He adopted the name David Bowie in 1965.

Pre-Bowie in 1963, he was in a band called the Konrads. Bowie's best known creation was the fictional _____ performed with the Spiders from Mars. Recently the world could once again see a previously thought _____ of him performing his hit *Jean Genie* in January 1973 on the BBC's 'Top of the Pops' TV show.

The exhibition at the V & A will explore the broad range of Bowie's collaborations with artists and designers in the _____, sound, graphics, theatre, art and film. _____ hit the headlines recently with the release of his new album *The Next Day*, the first in 10 years. Naturally, the new album went straight to number one _____.

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/small groups – list five David Bowie hits. Talk about each of them. 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) His music _____
- 2) The V & A _____
- 3) David Bowie _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *David Bowie*. Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *David Bowie*. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) exhibition
- 2) museum
- 3) legendary
- 4) fashion
- 5) lyrics
- 6) photography
- 7) instruments
- 8) costumes
- 9) bodysuits
- 10) outfits

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) characters
- 12) access
- 13) archive
- 14) creation
- 15) fictional
- 16) previously
- 17) collaborations
- 18) graphics
- 19) reclusive
- 20) naturally

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