



ENGLISH SPEAKING CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT

1. *Spark up: Indoor activities*

CARD GAMES

Having a deck of playing cards can bring hours of entertainment! We can learn some new card games to kill the time, including 'President', 'Cheat' or even 'UNO'. Perhaps you know these games by other names or with slightly different rules



BAKING

Indoor days are the perfect time to try and get creative in the kitchen. Whip up some kind of make-your-own dessert bar by putting out toppings (frosting, sprinkles, M&Ms, etc.) that kids can add to either a cupcake or ice cream sundae.



KARAOKE SINGING

It doesn't matter if you have an official karaoke machine or not. All that matters is you can hit the high notes when it counts. So, what's your go-to, belt-it-out-to-the-rafters song?



READING BOOKS

We think of reading as a solitary pursuit, but the truth is people never get too old to find pleasure in being. Whether it's the Runaway Bunny or Lord of the Rings, snuggle up on the couch together for a read-a-thon.



WATCHING MOVIES

Sure, if you're worried about screen time, movies and TV shows are always a last resort. But if you're stuck indoors for an extended period of time, at point you're going to want to get something accomplished. Make every second of screen time count by making sure you're choosing the best kids' TV shows and movies available.

2. Language exposure



Has the music industry in the UK been harmed by the negative effects of TV talent shows like The X Factor?

The X Factor is a British TV programme which works as a singing talent competition. Members of the public face weeks of auditions before the winner is finally decided by a public vote. Since it began in 2004, the show has been the subject of increasing criticism and controversy, mostly in reference to its negative effects on the quality and reputation of the British music industry.

Many see The X Factor as a money-making machine, instead of a search for real talent. In other words, they believe that the show's producers strive for financial gain, through high TV ratings and expensive voting calls. These people claim that most of what we see on The X Factor is staged for entertainment value and lacks originality. Instead, it forces contestants to conform to stereotypes to appeal to a mass audience. A few previous contestants have admitted that they had limited freedom over their song choices or image whilst on the show. There has also been speculation over miming and voice manipulation, suggesting that the show's main focus is not musical talent. If we include the increase of "novelty acts", we can see why people say the show has lost its integrity.

The X Factor also has a hold over the UK charts. This issue is brought up every year with the announcement of the UK Christmas number one single, which usually goes to the recent X Factor winner. In past years campaigns have been launched to try stopping this rising tradition by encouraging people to buy different (and often unlikely) songs. A similar debate is that the show overshadows new artists who are trying to break through based on real singing and song-writing ability. Many established artists and musicians have spoken out against the show because of this result. Similar complaints include the false impression given to young hopefuls that anyone can become a "popstar" and that it happens overnight, which does not reflect reality.

Although many continue to defend the show as a source of entertainment, it seems that this year the public have finally grown tired of the same recycled content, and TV ratings have dropped dramatically. Perhaps it has become clear that the show rarely produces important or lasting musicians, and that winners and runners-up generally have a limited shelf-life. Maybe it's this decline in public support which has led to the rise of so-called "publicity stunts" by both contestants and judges. Many people seem to audition for the show to seek fame and fortune, rather than a platform for their musical talents. In this year's series in particular, The X Factor has gained most of its media publicity from the contestants' often scandalous off-screen behaviour, as well as from reported backstage arguments between members of the judging panel.

Countries from Colombia to Romania have begun to adopt the popular TV talent show, meaning that the issue now also applies to music industries across the world. Perhaps we must accept that this is the future of music...?

3. Vocabulary

New words	Spelling	Meaning
Admit (v)	/əd'mɪt/	thừa nhận
Appeal to (v)	/ə'pi:l/	hấp dẫn
Bake (v)	/beɪk/	nướng
Card game	/'kɑ:d ,geɪm/	chơi bài thẻ
Complaint (n)	/kəm'pleɪnt/	lời phàn nàn
Conform to (v)	/kən'fɔ:m/	tuân thủ
Contestant (n)	/kən'tes.tənt/	thí sinh
Controversy (n)	/'kɒn.trə.vɜ:si/	mâu thuẫn
Criticism (n)	/'krɪt.ɪ.sɪ.zəm/	sự chỉ trích
Debate (v/n)	/dɪ'beɪt/	tranh cãi
Defend (v)	/dɪ'fend/	bảo vệ, biện hộ
Dramatically (adv)	/drə'mæt.ɪ.kəl.i/	một cách bất chợt, hiển nhiên
Entertainment (n)	/en.tə'teɪn.mənt/	sự giải trí
Face (v)	/feɪs/	đối diện với
Financial (a)	/faɪ'næn.ʃəl/	tài chính, liên quan đến tiền
Gain (n)	/geɪn/	đạt được
Grow tired of	/grəʊ taɪəd əv/	chán điều gì
In reference to	/'ref.ər.əns/	có liên quan đến việc gì
Industry (n)	/'ɪn.də.stri/	nền công nghiệp
Integrity (n)	/'ɪn'teg.rə.ti/	sự trung thực
Lasting (a)	/'lɑ:.stɪŋ/	lâu dài
Launch a campaign	/lɔ:ntʃ ə kæm'peɪn/	bắt đầu chiến dịch
Limited (a)	/'lɪm.ɪ.tɪd/	ít, có hạn
Manipulation (n)	/mə'nɪp.jə'leɪ.ʃən/	sự thao túng
Mime (v/n)	/maɪm/	kịch câm
Money-making (a)	/'mʌn.i 'meɪ.kɪŋ/	có lợi nhuận, làm ra tiền
Musical (a)	/'mju:zɪ.kəl/	liên quan đến âm nhạc
Originality (n)	/ə'ɹɪdʒ.ən'æɪ.ə.ti/	sự đặc biệt, thú vị
Overshadow (v)	/'əʊ.və'ʃæd.əʊ/	làm lu mờ cái gì
Previous (a)	/'pri:v.i.əs/	trước đó
Rating (n)	/'reɪ.tɪŋ/	tỷ suất người xem đài
Reputation (n)	/'rep.jə'teɪ.ʃən/	danh tiếng
Runner-up (n)	/'rʌn.ə'rʌp/	người về nhì trong cuộc thi
Scandalous (a)	/'skænd.ləs/	có tai tiếng
Shelf-life (n)	/'ʃelf ,laɪf/	thời hạn sử dụng thời gian nổi tiếng
Speculation (n)	/'spek.jə'leɪ.ʃən/	sự phỏng đoán
Stage (v)	/'steɪdʒ/	tổ chức, sắp xếp một chương trình
Stereotype (n)	/'ster.i.ə.taɪp/	khuôn mẫu
Strive for (v)	/'straɪv/	nỗ lực làm điều gì mặc khó khăn
Subject of sth	/'sʌb.dʒekt/	chủ đề bàn tán



4. Discussion

PART 1

Music

1. Do you like music?
2. What kind of music do you like?
3. Do you play any musical instruments?
4. Do you like to sing along to your favorite songs?

Movies

1. Do you like watching films?
2. Do you prefer foreign films or films made in your country?
3. How often do you go to watch a movie?
4. Do you like to watch movies alone or with your friends?

PART 2

Describe a fun indoor game you have played recently.

You should say

what the name of the game was

what the aim of the game was

who do you played with

and explain why it was such fun for you.

PART 3

1. Do you often go to live concerts or watch them at home?
2. How does music influence different cultures?
3. Do you think humans are the only ones to make music?
4. Are there a lot of places in your country for young people to go out?
5. What forms of online entertainment have become popular these days?
6. Is entertainment these days better than in the past because of technology?