

Summer festivals

Language

Arts vocabulary, adjectives

Level

Elementary; (equivalent to CEF level A2)

Comment

This lesson is about some of Europe's most important arts festivals. After completing the activity students can organise their own imaginary summer arts festival as a project.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write *the arts* on the board. Explain that there are different types of arts. On the board write *performing arts*, *visual arts* and *literature*. Can the students give you any examples of the different types? Help them by writing *novels* under the *literature* heading. If they need help understanding the difference between performing and visual arts, tell them that performing arts are performed in front of an audience while visual arts are made for people to look at. Give students copies of the worksheet and ask them to do exercise 1 in pairs. Check answers.
- 2 Explain that they are going to read about some festivals taking place during the months of July to September. Do the students know the names of any famous festivals? Write the names on the board and then ask the students to quickly read the article to find the names of the different festivals. Students then complete exercise 2. Check through the answers and encourage students to practise reading out the dates.
- 3 Students read through the sentences in exercise 3 and decide if they apply to the Proms or to the Edinburgh Festival. They then refer to the article to check their answers.
- 4 Read through the questions in exercise 4 and help with any comprehension problems. Students read the article and answer the questions. They can check their answers with another student before checking them in open class. Ask students to write 3 more questions based on the article. Student pairs then ask each other their questions and try to answer them.
- 5 Students work in pairs to complete exercise 5. They write the opposites of the adjectives and then search the article to find their adjectives in the article. Make sure they realise that there might be more than one possible opposite for some of the adjectives so they should try to think of alternatives. Invite some students to read their answers to the rest of the class.
- 6 Divide the class into small groups and ask them to read through the questions in exercise 6 together. The students should first discuss the answers in their groups and then share their answers with the rest of the class.
- 7 Focus on the final question in exercise 7. What kind of festival would the students most like to organise? Set the students the task of organising their imaginary festival in the place they live or are studying. They can either do this in their groups or you can assign different tasks to each group to help create one single festival. The areas to consider can include: dates, venues, artists, productions, accommodation, and promotion. Students can create a poster or programme for their festival.

Answer key

- 1 Performing arts: dance, film, juggling, magic, music, opera, theatre
 Visual arts: drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, video
 Literature: poetry, short stories

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Country	Festival name	Type	Dates
France	Festival d'Avignon	theatre	7–27 July
Switzerland	Montreux Jazz Festival	jazz music	2–17 July
Germany	Bayreuth	Wagner operas	25 July–28 August
England (London)	Proms	classical music	16 July–11 September
Scotland (Edinburgh)	Edinburgh Festival	all the arts	13 August–5 September

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- 1 P 2 E 3 P 4 E 5 E 6 P

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- 1 Robert Newman
- 2 He wanted to attract people who didn't usually go to classical concerts.
- 3 You could eat, drink, and smoke.
- 4 Some theatre companies staged their own unofficial productions.
- 5 It's the name of the unofficial festival.
- 6 Because the city is very busy at festival time.

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|---------|-------------------|
| 1 cheap | 4 modern |
| 2 low | 5 busy |
| 3 first | 6 large/big/great |

- 6 Students' own answers.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms/2010> (BBC Proms 2010)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms/2010/about/history.shtml> (history of the Proms)

<http://www.eif.co.uk> (Edinburgh International Festival)

<http://www.edfringe.com> (Edinburgh Festival Fringe)