

THE FLATMATES

Language point:
Music vocabulary



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BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

The Flatmates – Music vocabulary

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When Matron told Alice that someone was "singing" her "praises" she meant that someone was complimenting Alice and saying good things about her.

Here are some common expressions and idioms about singing, music and musical instruments.

Idioms about music

face the music

accept criticism for or the consequences of something you have done
When the corruption scandal broke the prime minister had to face the music and resign.

be music to someone's ears

be something that someone is very pleased to hear
After 18 hours in labour, the first cry of my first-born was music to my ears.

change your tune

change your mind completely, especially because you know it will bring you an advantage
She **changed her tune** as soon as she heard the boss's new plan for global business. So much for her ideals of keeping the company small, local and specialised!

make a song and dance about something

make something seem more important than it really is so that everyone takes notice of it
There's no need to **make a song and dance about it**. I only asked you to stay a little bit later this evening to help me finish the report.

and all that jazz

(informal) and other similar things, and things like that
The beach is great there. They have sunbeds, tennis courts, boats for hire and **all that jazz**.

strike a chord

when something affects people because they understand it or have experience of it or can imagine what it's like to have that experience
In the middle of this economic crisis, this feel-good film **has struck a chord** with almost everyone. When times are tough, we all want a bit of escapism in the cinema.

it ain't / it's not over till the fat lady sings

don't assume you know the outcome of an activity until it has actually finished
With only 15 minutes to go, the Blues are in front, four goals to one. So I think we know who's going to win here. But **it's not over till the fat lady sings**. So stayed tuned till the final whistle goes.

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Musical instruments

fiddle

(informal) violin, a wooden musical instrument with four strings, which is played by moving a bow across the strings

trumpet

a brass musical instrument with a metal tube with one narrow end, into which the player blows, and one wide end. Three buttons are pressed in order to change notes

Idioms about musical instruments

be as fit as a fiddle

be very healthy and strong

Two weeks after the operation, my grandma was back out playing golf. She's really amazing. She's 75 and as fit as a fiddle.

blow your own trumpet

tell everyone proudly about your achievements

We all know she got a first-class honours degree. I just wish she'd stop **blowing her own trumpet** about it.

Vocabulary:

feedback

information about how well someone is performing in a job (or not)

be off the phone

finish a phone conversation

put it into the mix

if you put something in the mix, you think about it or consider it

revisiting your application

thinking about your request again

stretched

understaffed, not having enough nurses to do all the work in the ward

synchronicity

the chance happening of two or more related or similar events at the same time (here, Alice coming to see the Matron and Matron unexpectedly getting a very good report about Alice)

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