The Kooks.

Activity One - Read between the Lines.

- **ADVICE - When you read an article in English you have to look for KEY WORDS and try to understand the MAIN POINTS. Don't try to translate everything.Read the text once to get the general meaning. Then again to underline some new words and then look them up in the dictionary. Then read and answer the comprehension questions.**

- **ARTICLE**

  The Kooks are a British rock band formed in Brighton, East Sussex, in 2004. The band currently consists of Luke Pritchard (vocals/guitar), Hugh Harris (lead guitar/synth), Alexis Nunez (drums), and Peter Denton (bass guitar). The original bassist was Max Rafferty. The lineup of the band remained constant until the departure of Rafferty in 2008. Dan Logan was as a temporary replacement, until Peter Denton joined the band permanently in October 2008. Early in 2010, Pritchard announced the departure of drummer Paul Garred, due to a nerve problem in his arm.

A self-described "pop" band, their music is mainly influenced by the 1960s British Invasion movement and post-punk revival of the new millennium. The Kooks have experimented in several genres including rock, Britpop, pop, reggae, ska, and more recently,funk and hip-hop.

The original members of The Kooks all met as students at the Brighton Institute of Modern Music in 2002. The inspiration to form a band came to Pritchard as he and Garred were out shopping for clothes one day in Primark as a joke. Speaking to MTV Garred said, "we had a vision on how we wanted the band to look so we bought some clothes and these hats, it was fun." Sharing a love of The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, The Police, and David Bowie Pritchard got Harris and Rafferty involved as of a school music project. Pritchard himself said "We got together just on a whim, really." With a strong demo of their material Garred and Pritchard went in search of a gig, and according to Garred, they were able to book their first show simply because the landlord liked their hats. "So we went in to get a gig, we don't have a demo cd burnt, and this guy told us, 'Well, you can't get a gig if you don't have a demo, but I like your hats, so I'm going to give you a gig'", said Garred. However, the band was unable to make the performance as they were finishing off their demo at the time.



Taking their name from the famous David Bowie song with the same title, Pritchard revealed the first song they ever played as a group was a cover version of The Strokes' song "Reptilia". The Kooks recorded an EP demo, sending it out in search of gigs, they instead received offers from managers and record companies. The band had only been together as a group for four months when they signed with Virgin Records, after being spotted by several label scouts at the Brighton Free Butt Festival in 2005. In an interview with musicomh.com, Pritchard revealed "It was really quick how it all happened, we did a demo with a mate of ours in London, which we sent off to one guy to get some gigs, and he turned out to be a manager. He rung us up and it kind of went from there." The members of the band have since revealed that they felt they weren't ready at the time, "We were way too early to sign a record deal ... We were really young, we'd been together like two or three

months, so we really didn't want to sign. But then we thought it's a really good opportunity and Virgin seemed like really cool people - they just seemed to really understand where we were coming from.," said Pritchard, who has also complimented the space the record label allowed for the band to grow, "They were patient with us and let us develop our style, whatever it was."

QUESTIONS :

1) Who was the original bassist of the band ?

2) Where did they meet each other ?

3) Which bands/artists do they love most ?

4) How long did he take for them to sign with a record company ?

5) Why did they have their first gig ?

Activity Two - **Read the Lyrics and listen to the songs** and then say what you think the songs are about and which you prefer.

Naive :

I'm not saying its your fault
Although you could have done more
Oh you're so naive yet so
How could this been done
By such a smiling sweetheart.
Ohh and your sweet and pretty face
In such an ugly world
Something so beautiful.
Ohh that every time I look inside

I know, she knows that i'm not fond of asking
True or false, it may be... Well, she's still out to get me.
And I know, she knows that i'm not fond of asking
True or false, it may be... She's still out to get me!

I may say it was your fault
Because i know you could have done more
Oh you're so naive yet so
How could this be done
By such a smiling sweetheart.
Ohh and your sweet and pretty face
In such an ugly world
Something so beautiful.
That every time I look inside

I know, she knows that i'm not fond of asking
True or false, it may be... Well, she's still out to get me.
And I know, she knows that i'm not fond of asking
True or false, it may be... She's still out to get me!

So how could this be done
By such a smiling sweetheart
You're so naive yet so
You're such an ugly thing
For someone so beautiful
That every time you're on his side

I know, she knows that i'm not fond of asking

True or false, it may be... Well, she's still out to get me.
And I know, she knows that i'm not fond of asking
True or false, it may be... She's still out to get me!

Just don't let me down
Just don't let me down
Hold on to your kite
Just don't let me down
Just don't let me down
Hold on to your kite
Just don't let me down
Just don't let me down
Hold on to this kite
Just don't let me down

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Around Town :

You can get yourself into a fight
If that's the way you wanna live your life
You can get yourself connected
To the world that we are thrown to, yeah

But all I need is somewhere to lay
Somewhere to lay my hat up
I need someone to love in the middle of the day
I want someone to be, and someone to drive around town
I need someone to love when the chips are down
Love me when the chips are down
Will you love me when the chips are down?
Love me when the chips are down
Could you love me when the world is crashing all around?

You can try and be someone you're not
If that's the river that you want to cross
You can choose the life of a bohemian
Or you can choose the material world

But all I need is somewhere to lay
Somewhere to lay my hat up
I need someone to love in the middle of the day
I need someone to be, someone to drive around town
I need someone to love when the chips are down
Oh yeah
Love me when the chips are down, oh
Love me when the chips are down
Love me when the chips are down
Could you love me when the world is crashing all around?
All around

All I need is somewhere to lay
Somewhere to lay my hat up
I need someone to love in the middle of the day
I want someone to be, and someone to drive around town
I need someone to love, one to love, one to love
Love me when the chips are down
Yeah
Will you love me when the chips are down
Oh oh
Love me when the chips are down
Love me when the chips are down
Could you love me when the world is crashing all around?

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ACTIVITIES : 1)Sketch a new album cover for The Kooks.



2) **Role play** with a group of two or three : One of you is a music journalist who wants to know how Brighton influenced the band.
One of you is Luke Pritchard and as Brighton student you absolutely love the town
One of you is Alexis Nunez and you like the town but also have some complains about it and disagree with what Luke is saying sometimes.

3) **Style a band.**

1. Now in a new team create a new band.
2. Find a name for a band and a style for the band.
3. Then write a press release about the band - What is their style of music? How did they meet? What style of clothes do they wear? What's the story behind the name of the band?
4. Then use your telephones to record a video of the band being interviewed on TV.
5. At the end of this activity each group will play their videos.

4) KOOKY

Listen to the David Bowie song and say what you think it's talking about. What kind of advice does it give? Do you like this song? Why do you think it inspired the band The Kooks? (The word **kook** means **eccentric**).





"Kooks"

Will you stay in our Lovers' Story
If you stay you won't be sorry
'Cause we **believe in** you
Soon you'll grow so take a chance
With a couple of Kooks
Hung up on romancing

We bought a lot of things
to keep you warm and dry
And a funny old crib on which the paint won't dry
I bought you a pair of shoes
A trumpet you can blow
And a book of rules
On what to say to people
when they **pick on** you
'Cause if you stay with us you're gonna be pretty Kookie too



And if you ever have to go to school
Remember how they **messed up**
this old fool
Don't pick fights with the bullies
or the cads
'Cause I'm not much cop at punching other people's Dads
And if the homework **brings you down**
Then we'll **throw it on** the fire
And take the car downtown

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verb is the name given to an English verb which is composed of two or three words. One verb is combined with a preposition (like on, in, under) or an adverb (like up, down, away). Sometimes a phrasal verb can have a meaning that is very different to the meaning of at least one of those two or three words separately. Some text books call these verbs multi-word verbs. Phrasal verbs are used more frequently in everyday speech than in formal, official writing or speaking.

Here are some examples:

Maria didn't know the word, so she looked it up in the dictionary.

Oh no, we've run out of milk! I'll have to buy some more.

Farmers have to get up early in the morning.

The plane took off with a loud noise.

Often these phrasal verbs have a one-word equivalent in other languages.

Many students of English as a foreign language panic when they hear the term "phrasal verbs", but in fact phrasal verbs are just vocabulary to memorise, and not some strange, secret grammatical formula. In fact many native speakers of English do not know the term "phrasal verb" at all, even though they probably use them very often!

Types of phrasal verbs - There are four different types of phrasal verbs. These are:

Phrasal verbs which take objects and are separable

Phrasal verbs which take objects and are inseparable

Phrasal verbs which do not take objects (these are always inseparable)

Three-word phrasal verbs



New Words

Today you have listened to three songs. Which new words have you learned? Which expressions were idiomatic? Which expressions were phrasal verbs? Which new verbs did you learn? Which words did you need to look up in the dictionary just so that you could understand the meaning of the text? Which words do you think you will use a lot and which do you think are not very important to learn now? Make a list of the new words you learned today:



ADVICE - With your partner prepare some advice to give to someone learning English about how to understand something you are reading or listening to in English.

