

Read the title and guess what the text is about, what the content is.

### **Music in the Streets**

As you go home after a hard day's work, and you get off the metro train, you sometimes have to walk a long way to the exit or to change trains. Suddenly in the noise, some music is heard. Those are street musicians. You take out a coin from your pocket and throw it into their hat or instrument case. These musicians bring color and life to the city streets. Street musicians are aged between 17 and 30 years. Some of them are men, some women. They play classical music, pop or folk music, old and new songs. Many musicians are former university students or professional musicians.

Andrew Hain, for example, was once a music student, but he gave up music and became a painter. Now he plays in the underground because he doesn't want to forget how to play. His girlfriend is a painter, too. She helps him to collect the money. Another street musician, David MacNell, tells new players:

“Learn new songs all the time, or else you'll have fewer and fewer listeners. Wear bright clothes to attract attention. Make sure that the places where you choose to play are warm. The best places are bridges and certainly the underground.”

On Sundays, Hyde Park is the best place, as the speakers here address the people. The street musicians are doing their business with the many tourists who visit the park. The weather is one of the worst problems. It is not so easy to play the violin or the guitar on a rainy November day in London and try to smile.

A much worse problem is the police. From time to time, they come, and the musicians are moved to a different place. True, they are not often fined. One musician told me:

“The policeman asked me what I was doing. I said I was just practising. Some money just fell out of my pocket into the guitar case, and I was told to leave my place. I think it's not fair. People love street music. It makes the city more attractive.”

**Exercise 1.** Read the text «Music in the Streets» again and complete the sentences according to the text.

1. Street musicians are  
a) men b) women c) men and women
2. According to the text, street musicians  
a) bring color and life to city streets.

- b) make more noise in the streets.
- c) make traffic more difficult
- 3. Street musicians play
  - a) old songs b) new songs. c) old and new songs.
- 4. Andrew Hain plays in the streets because he
  - a) needs money.
  - b) does not want to forget how to play.
  - c) wants to become famous.
- 5. The worst problem for the musicians is
  - a) weather b) the police c)

**Exercise 2.** Say true or false.

1. Street musicians are aged between 17 and 30 years.
2. Andrew Hain, for example, was once a music professor.
3. On Mondays, Hyde Park is the best place for street musicians.
4. The weather is one of the worst problems for street musicians.
5. Street musicians are very often fined.

**Exercise 3.** Insert the missing words.

1. Andrew Hain gave up music and became a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The street musicians are doing their business with the many \_\_\_\_\_ who visit the Hyde Park.
3. It is not so easy to play the violin or the \_\_\_\_\_ on a rainy November day in London
4. Make sure that the places where you choose to play are \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 4.** Answer the questions.

1. Why should street musicians wear bright clothes?
2. What are the best places for street musicians?
3. Which is worse for street musicians – the weather or the police?
4. Why do street musicians need to learn new songs all the time?

**Exercise 5.** Say why street musicians like their job and what their problems are.