

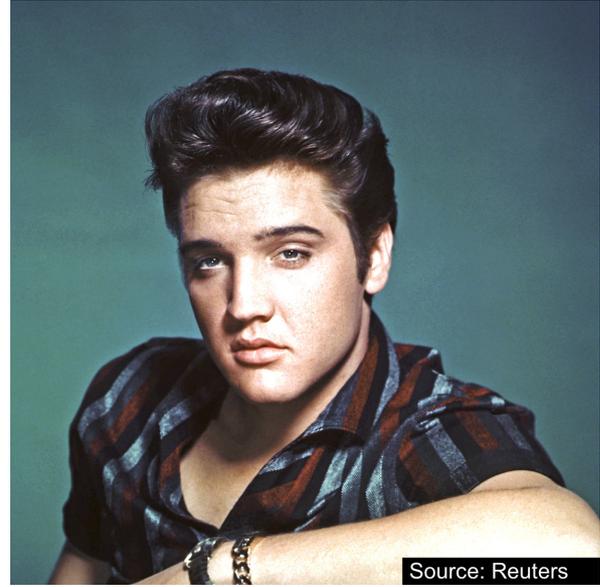


# ELVIS PRESLEY



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
1CN6-371A-GZ69



Source: Reuters

## 1 Warm up

Look at these pictures of Elvis Presley, a famous American performer, and decide which decade each one is from: the 1950s, the 1960s or the 1970s.



Source: Reuters

a. \_\_\_\_\_



Source: Reuters

b. \_\_\_\_\_



Source: Reuters

c. \_\_\_\_\_



Source: Reuters

d. \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do these pictures tell you about Elvis' life?
2. What else do you know about Elvis?



## 2 Vocabulary

Complete the gaps in the sentences with words from the box. Explain what the words mean.

addicted / controversial / distinctive / drafted / numerous / racially segregated

1. In some cultures, tattoos and body piercings are extremely \_\_\_\_\_ and must be hidden.
2. The man on the train was wearing a \_\_\_\_\_ red hat with a feather and a flower.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ reasons why people want to study English.
4. I'm completely \_\_\_\_\_ to chocolate - I have to have some every day!
5. South Africa was a \_\_\_\_\_ country until the 1990s.
6. My grandfather was \_\_\_\_\_ into the army when he was only eighteen and he served for five years.

Match the words/phrases with their meanings.

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. a large expensive house   | a. <u>audition</u>          |
| 2. cause something to increase or improve  | b. <u>boost</u>             |
| 3. musical genres which come from the south of the United States - they often have sad or difficult themes | c. <u>compose</u>           |
| 4. perform for someone in order to show you are suitable for a contract or job                             | d. <u>mansion</u>           |
| 5. write an original piece of music  | e. blues and <u>country</u> |

Find four words in the exercises that have a *consonant plus -i* spelling that is pronounced as a /j/ sound.

Read this sentence and say how the grammar and pronunciation of the words in bold are different:

Elvis **recorded** and sold more than one billion **records** worldwide!

## 3 Listening 1

Choose the best option to complete the sentences. Then listen to the recording and check.



1. Elvis came from a large family / was an only child / never knew his real parents.
2. A music producer at Sun Records recognised his talent **after he heard Elvis play an original composition** / after he saw Elvis performing in a bar / after Elvis sent him a letter and a recording he had made.
3. The musical style of Elvis' first hit is best described as **church music** / southern / rockabilly.
4. Elvis met Colonel Tom Parker, who became his manager, in **1958** / 1956 / 1957.
5. Elvis had to take a break from performing because **he was in the army** / sick from working too hard / didn't have a recording contract.
6. In the 1960s he appeared in over **forty-three** / thirty / twenty-three films.
7. In 1968, he found that he became more popular after he **announced a world tour** / appeared in advertisements for cars / made a television programme for the Christmas holiday.
8. When he wasn't performing, Elvis lived in his mansion **Graceland** / Gracefields / Gracewood.
9. Today, his home is **owned by Dolly Parton, the country music star** / popular with tourists / falling down.



## 4 Language in context

Read these sentences from the recording and explain the meaning of the words in bold.

1. The band had a big hit later that year with a **cover of a song** by Arthur Crudup called, "That's All Right"...

\_\_\_\_\_

2. However, in the 1970s, his career started to **go downhill**, partly because of his lifestyle.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In his early years, before he became a **mainstream celebrity**, Elvis was a controversial figure.

\_\_\_\_\_



## 5 Listening 2

Read the questions. Can you remember the answers? Listen again to check.

1. Describe Elvis' appearance as a teenager. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did Elvis and his first band learn the blues and country music songs that they played?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did people in the south of the US get to hear his music? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What important thing did Colonel Tom Parker do for Elvis? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What important personal events took place for Elvis in the 1960s? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where did Elvis put on a series of successful performances in the late 60s and early 70s?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the problem with his lifestyle in the 1970s? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Elvis do for black music? \_\_\_\_\_



## 6

## Language point

There are thousands of phrasal verbs in English, and we use them in everyday speaking. Read these sentences from the recording and choose the correct preposition to complete the phrasal verbs. The meanings of the items are given in brackets.

1. Sam Phillips ... asked Elvis to **come in / to** for an audition. (attend a meeting after being invited)
2. He offered Elvis a contract and **put up / together** a three-piece band for him. (organised)
3. Their popularity **took out / off** in the southern states ... (became very popular quite quickly)
4. As the hits **kept on / up** coming, he changed over to a more rock and roll sound ... (continued without stopping)
5. However, in 1958, Elvis was drafted into the army and **gave out / up** performing for a couple of years. (stopped doing something completely)
6. Between 1969 and 1976, he also **put on / over** hundreds of shows in Las Vegas, with tickets regularly **selling off / out**. (performed in / selling until none were left)
7. His diet was poor, and he **put on / up** weight. (gained, increased in)
8. He **passed away / out** from a heart attack at home in 1977. (died)
9. Many people all over the world were very sad and found it difficult to **take up / in** the news of his death. (understand)
10. Stories that he hadn't really died **carried on / out** in the media for years. (continued)

Phrasal verbs can sometimes have more than one meaning. Which phrasal verb is repeated in the sentences above?

Complete the gaps with five more phrasal verbs from the sentences above. The meaning you need is given in brackets, and you may need to change the verb to fit the sentence.

1. Can you help me \_\_\_\_\_ this flat-pack furniture from IKEA \_\_\_\_\_? It needs four hands! (assemble from pieces)
2. Our flight was delayed, and we didn't \_\_\_\_\_ until after midnight. (leave the ground)
3. My parents love cats, and they often \_\_\_\_\_ homeless kittens \_\_\_\_\_ from the street. (bring home to look after)
4. I don't know the answer and I can't guess. I \_\_\_\_\_ - tell me! (stop trying to guess)
5. My boss is in a relationship with one of our customers, but they've had to \_\_\_\_\_ in secret for years. (have a relationship)



When you learn a phrasal verb, you also need to know its grammar. How do the five phrasal verbs with more than one meaning fit into this table? Record the information as in the example. Sometimes the two meanings have different grammars.

type 1: no object	type 2: takes an object, can't separate	type 3: takes an object, can separate
		<i>example: put something on</i>





## 7

**Talking point**

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups.

1. What would you ask Elvis if you could meet him?
2. Why do you think there were so many stories that said Elvis hadn't really died? Why did people believe them?
3. The blues is a style of traditional African American music best described as slow and sad songs about luck and love. Is there a similar style of traditional music from your country?
4. Elvis impersonators, or people who dress up as Elvis and pretend to be him, are still popular around the world. You can even have one at your wedding in Las Vegas! What do you think the attraction is? Do you know of any other celebrities that people impersonate?



Read these quotes about Elvis and say which you like best and why.

"...it was like he came along and whispered some dream in everybody's ear, and somehow we all dreamed it." - Bruce Springsteen

"It was the finest music of his life. If ever there was music that bleeds, this was it." - Greil Marcus, remembering the 1968 TV Special

"Before Elvis, there was nothing." - John Lennon



## 8

## Optional extension

Elvis made almost fifty movies during his career. Work in A/B/C groups. Read about one of Elvis' films and decide what the phrase in bold means. Cover the paper and remember the information to tell your group about your film. Use the words in bold and explain what they mean if necessary.

Listen and match the pictures to the descriptions you heard. Then say which film you would enjoy most and why.

## Student A

Elvis perfected his classic dance moves in his third film. Set in a prison, Elvis' character is serving a one-year sentence for accidentally killing a man in a fight. He shares a room with a singer and bank robber, who teaches him to play the guitar and gets him interested in the music business, where he eventually finds success. The story may be a bit unbelievable but the **dance sequence** to the film's title song has been described as "Presley's greatest moment on screen."

## Student B

Upon his return from military service, Elvis actually made three films in this beautiful location. This was the first and tells the story of a young man, just out of the army, who returns to his family and has to make some difficult decisions about his future job and relationship. The film includes lots of beautiful views and traditionally styled musical numbers and the **big finish** features an exotic local wedding ceremony.

## Student C

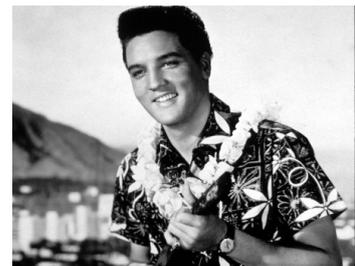
This is probably the best film Elvis made after his time in the army. The story centres around a racing driver who is trying to make money to buy a new engine for his car so he can prepare for a big race. Ann-Margret stars opposite Elvis as his love interest and the critics praised their **onscreen chemistry**. The movie is fast and fun, with some excellent dancing numbers.



Viva Las Vegas (1964)



Jailhouse Rock (1957)



Blue Hawaii (1961)