

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210128-space-bubble-concert.html>

A band has played what is being called the 'World's First Space Bubble Concert'. The psychedelic-rock group the Flaming Lips played to an audience who were all in giant, inflatable plastic bubbles. The bubbles are called Zorb balls. The band played two concerts in their native city of Oklahoma. All band members were also inside their own Zorb bubble. There were 100 bubbles at the shows. Some of the bubbles contained three people. The bubbles may be one way for concerts to go ahead during the pandemic. Each bubble has a special speaker, a water bottle, a battery-operated fan, a towel and an "I gotta go pee/hot in here" sign. Workers refill the bubble with cool air if it gets too hot.

The idea for the bubble concerts came from the band's lead singer Wayne Coyne. He often uses a Zorb ball to roll over the crowd during his concerts. He decided that concerts would be COVID-safe if everyone was in a Zorb. He said attending a space bubble concert is "safer than going to the grocery store". He told the Rolling Stone magazine: "It's a very restricted, weird event, but the weirdness is so we can enjoy a concert before putting our families and everybody at risk." He added: "You see people excited, people being happy, and people really having fun....I think it's a bit of a 'new normal'. You might go to a show, you might not, but I think we're going to be able to work it out."

Sources: <https://www.loudersound.com/news/the-flaming-lips-bubble-concert-could-be-a-blueprint-to-revolutionise-the-live-music-circuit>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-55794674>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/flaming-lips-concert-perform-inflatable-bubbles-oklahoma/>

WARM-UPS

1. CONCERTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about concerts. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

band / bubble / concert / rock / lips / concerts / pandemic / speaker / water bottle /
lead singer / crowd / grocery store / magazine / weirdness / risk / excited / normal

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BUBBLES: Students A **strongly** believe we all need a bubble to keep COVID-19 away; Students B **strongly** believe we don't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CONCERTS: What are the good and bad things about watching concerts? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
Live		
On YouTube		
On the TV		
On the radio		
As a band member		
On a smart watch		

5. BAND: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "band". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. MUSIC: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Psychedelic
- Opera
- Folk
- Hip-Hop
- Classical
- K-Pop
- Heavy metal
- Jazz

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. psychedelic | a. Being able to be filled with air. |
| 2. audience | b. Something with rotating blades that makes the air cooler. |
| 3. inflatable | c. About a style of rock music from the mid 1960s, that is experimental. |
| 4. native | d. All of the people at a public event, such as a play, movie, concert, or meeting. |
| 5. member | e. About the country, region or city you were born in. |
| 6. fan | f. One person in a group. |
| 7. pee | g. Go to the toilet; urinate. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. lead | h. A situation that has danger. |
| 9. attending | i. The main, top or most important. |
| 10. grocery store | j. Very strange. |
| 11. weird | k. A changed kind of life that is now usual. |
| 12. risk | l. Being present at an event, meeting, or function. |
| 13. new normal | m. Think about something and find an answer. |
| 14. work it out | n. A shop that sells food and small household goods. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210128-space-bubble-concert.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A solo rock singer performed the world's first space bubble concert. **T / F**
- b. The singer was not in a space bubble. **T / F**
- c. There were 100 space bubbles at the concert. **T / F**
- d. Each bubble had a towel and a fan. **T / F**
- e. The idea for the concert came from an expert in diseases. **T / F**
- f. The singer said the concert was safer than going to a grocery store. **T / F**
- g. The singer said the concert was a wired event. **T / F**
- h. The singer said the concert was kind of like the 'new normal'. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. band | a. going to |
| 2. audience | b. take place |
| 3. giant | c. concert |
| 4. go ahead | d. concept |
| 5. pee | e. crowd |
| 6. idea | f. strange |
| 7. attending | g. in danger |
| 8. weird | h. group |
| 9. at risk | i. huge |
| 10. show | j. urinate |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. in giant, inflatable plastic | a. at risk |
| 2. Some of the bubbles contained | b. with cool air |
| 3. a battery-operated | c. fan |
| 4. Workers refill the bubble | d. normal |
| 5. if it gets too | e. bubbles |
| 6. roll | f. to work it out |
| 7. safer than going to | g. three people |
| 8. putting our families and everybody | h. the grocery store |
| 9. I think it's a bit of a new | i. hot |
| 10. we're going to be able | j. over the crowd |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210128-space-bubble-concert.html>

1. What kind of music does the band play?
2. What are the space bubbles called?
3. How many of the bubbles were at the concert?
4. What kinds of fans were in the bubbles?
5. What do workers fill the bubbles with?
6. Who came up with the idea for the space bubbles?
7. What did the lead singer roll over in his space bubble?
8. Where did the lead singer say the concert was safer than?
9. What is the name of the magazine the singer spoke to?
10. What did the lead singer think he's going to be able to do?

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210128-space-bubble-concert.html>

Role A – Heavy Metal

You think heavy metal is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the least pleasurable of these (and why): opera, hip-hop or jazz.

Role B – Opera

You think opera is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the least pleasurable of these (and why): heavy metal, hip-hop or jazz.

Role C – Hip-Hop

You think hip-hop is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the least pleasurable of these (and why): opera, heavy metal or jazz.

Role D – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the least pleasurable of these (and why): opera, hip-hop or heavy metal.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210128-space-bubble-concert.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'space' and 'bubble'.

space	bubble

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• band• giant• inside• three• ahead• cool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• idea• decided• store• event• fun• able
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CONCERTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'space'?
3. What do you think of rock concerts?
4. How safe is it to attend concerts today?
5. What kinds of concerts do you like?
6. What do you think of the plastic bubble idea?
7. Would you go to a concert in a bubble?
8. Do you think the bubbles have other uses?
9. Do you think a concert in a bubble would be fun?
10. How has the pandemic affected your life?

Fans get inside space bubbles for rock concert – 28th January, 2021
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CONCERTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'bubble'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of the activity of Zorbing?
15. What are the risks of going to a grocery store?
16. How 'weird' is attending a concert in a Zorb ball?
17. What's the best concert you have ever seen?
18. Is it better to see a concert live or on YouTube?
19. Why do people enjoy going to concerts?
20. What questions would you like to ask the band's leader?