



# Going to a concert

This month, **DAGMAR TAYLOR** looks at the words and phrases people use when they talk about going to a concert. **medium plus**

## 1. Birthday plans

Olivia has met up with her friend Jules for lunch in a cafe.

Jules: You'll never guess who's **playing The O2** on your birthday.

Olivia: Oh, who? Justin Bieber? Miley Cyrus?

Jules: Wrong! I'll give you a clue. (*sings*) "Oh! oh! oh! oh! I've got a love that keeps me waiting."

Olivia: No! Really? The Black Keys. Oh, my God! Are there any tickets left?

Jules: (*laughs*) **I take it that** you'd like to go, then.

Olivia: Yes! Have you got tickets?

Jules: No, not yet. But there are some left, and we can book them right now if you want. Are you sure you're not doing anything else then? It *is* on a **school night**. It says the doors open at **half six**.

Olivia: I'm sure! I'll take **the afternoon off**. What about you?

Jules: I'll just leave work a bit earlier. I've got so much overtime anyway.

## 2. Best seats

Jules and Olivia are still in the cafe trying to book tickets on Jules's smartphone.

Jules: It looks like there aren't any **seated tickets** left near the **stage**. And it says here that level 4 is not recommended for people who are **afraid of heights**.

Olivia: What kind of seats did you have when you saw Paolo Nutini there?

Jules: We were standing.

Olivia: Could you see anything?

Jules: It wasn't too bad, actually. The arena's got a **sloping** floor.

Olivia: I wouldn't mind having a **comfy** seat. I'm not 16 any more.

Jules: Look! There are seats here in **block** 102. That's pretty close to the stage. And anyway, there are **ginormous** screens. You can watch everything on them.

Olivia: OK. See if there are two tickets there, then.

Jules: Hang on. Yes. £77 each.

- When a band or singer performs at a venue (*Veranstaltungsort*), you can say they are **playing** it / there.
- **The O2**, or The O2 arena, is an indoor stadium at the centre of The O2, a large entertainment complex in London. It is named after its main sponsor, the telecommunications company O2.
- When you assume (*annehmen*) something, based on another person's behaviour, you can say: **I take it that... It is another way of saying, "I suppose..." or "It sounds to me like..."**
- **School night** means "an evening during the week on which people wouldn't normally stay up late, because they have to go to work the next day".
- When talking about the time, speakers of British English often leave out "past" when they mean "half past". **Half six** means "half past six".
- If you need time away from work, you can ask for / ask to take "time off" or **the afternoon / day off**.

### Tips

- At most concerts, you can choose between "standing tickets" and **seated tickets**.
- The **stage** is the raised platform on which bands or soloists perform.
- Level 4 of The O2 arena is high up and very steep. People who are **afraid of heights** will feel nervous and uncomfortable watching a concert from the seats there.
- When a floor surface (*Oberfläche*) is higher at one end than the other, you can say it is **sloping**.
- **Comfy** (*ifml.*) is a shortened form of "comfortable".
- At concert venues, the seats are often organized in groups, called **blocks**.
- **Ginormous** [dʒɑː'nɔːməs] (*UK ifml.*) is another word for "very big" or "huge". It is a combination, or blend, of the words "gigantic" and "enormous".

### Tips

**mind sth.** [maɪnd] etw. gegen etw. haben  
**pretty** ['prɪti] *ifml.* hier: ziemlich





3. When and where?

It's the day of the concert. Jules calls Olivia from work to arrange a time and place to meet.

Jules: Hi, Olivia! It's Jules. Happy birthday!  
 Olivia: Thank you.  
 Jules: Did you get any good presents?  
 Olivia: Yeah, my best **mate** got me tickets to see my favourite band. I'm so excited about tonight.  
 Jules: (*laughs*) So, when should we **meet up**? **Do you want to** eat before or after the concert?  
 Olivia: Before. **Shall we** just eat there? A colleague was telling me about all the restaurants at The O2.  
 Jules: Yeah, that's right. I think there are about 30 **or something**.  
 Olivia: **How about** meeting at the main entrance at six? That should give us enough time to eat and find our seats.  
 Jules: OK. **I'd better** get back to work. See you there.

- **Mate** (UK, Aus.) is an informal word for "friend".
- When you **meet up** with a person, you meet him or her by arrangement.
- When you ask a friend what he or she would like to do, you can say: **Do you want to...?** "Would you like to...?" is the more polite alternative.
- **Shall we...?** or **How about + -ing?** are used to make suggestions.
- You can say **or something** when you are not sure that what you have said is correct: "I think she forgot her bag or something."
- **I'd better** is the short form of "I had better". You can use it to tell people what you think you should do.



4. Best ever

The concert is over. Jules and Olivia have gone to a bar to have a drink.

Jules: That wasn't bad, was it?  
 Olivia: Not bad? It was brilliant! It's the best concert **I've ever been to**.  
 Jules: Most bands aren't as good **live**, but The Black Keys are even better.  
 Olivia: I know. My feet hurt from dancing so much. I don't think there was anyone there who wasn't **on their feet**.  
 Jules: What did you think of the **support band**?  
 Olivia: Really great!  
 Jules: I know. Everything was so good: the lighting, the atmosphere, everything.  
 Olivia: The best bit was the **encore**, though. The crowd just went mad.  
 Jules: It was so cool. So, what do you want to drink?

- When Olivia says it's the best concert **she's ever been to**, she uses the present perfect because she is talking about her experience up to now.
- A **live** performance is one in which musicians perform before an audience. Here, "live" [laɪv] is an adjective.
- Another way of saying that people are standing is to say that they are **on their feet**.
- The **support band** or support act (N. Am. opening act) at a concert is the band (or group) that performs before the main act.
- An **encore** [ˈɛŋkɔː] is an additional short piece performed at the end of a concert.



EXERCISES

1. True or false?

- Jules has got tickets to see The Black Keys. \_\_\_\_\_
- The tickets cost £77 each. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jules and Olivia decide to eat something before the concert. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jules thinks the encore was the best bit. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did they say?

- The doors open at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Look! There are seats here in \_\_\_\_\_ 102.
- How about meeting at the \_\_\_\_\_ at six?
- What did you think of the \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answers:** 1. a) false; b) true; c) true; d) false (It is Olivia who thinks the encore was the best bit.); 2. a) half six; b) block; c) main entrance; d) support band; 3. a) playing; b) comfy; c) mate; d) crowd; 4. a) off; b) to; c) about; d) from

3. Replace the words in bold with phrases from the scenes.

- You'll never guess who's **performing at** The O2 on your birthday. \_\_\_\_\_
- I wouldn't mind having a **comfortable** seat. \_\_\_\_\_
- My best **friend** got me tickets to see my favourite band. \_\_\_\_\_
- The **audience** just went mad. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Add the missing words.

- I'll take the afternoon \_\_\_\_.
- That's pretty close \_\_\_\_ the stage.
- I'm so excited \_\_\_\_ tonight.
- My feet hurt \_\_\_\_ dancing so much.



This month in Everyday English (pages 55–56), we visit a Black Keys **CONCERT**. Here, you can practise talking about this topic.

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**1. Book your tickets now!** medium

Read the following text from an online booking website. Then decide if the statements below (a–h) are true or false.



6. - 7. JUNI 2015  
FLUGPLATZ MÜNCHEN/VULKANHEFEL
FOOD & DRINK  
RISE AGAIN
FRÜHBUCHER-RABATT  
BIS 10. NOVEMBER
LIPINKOT  
MOTORHEAD
ROCK am PARK

Spandau Ballet is playing The O2 arena in London on Tuesday, 17 March 2015

Buy your tickets here!

**► Venue information**

Doors open at 6.30 p.m.  
 No under-16s are allowed in the standing area.  
 Under-15s must be accompanied by an adult.  
 Wheelchair-accessible seats must be booked by phone.  
 Seats located on level 4 are not recommended for those with a fear of heights.

**► Booking information**

No refunds are given for incorrectly booked tickets. There is a limit of six tickets per cardholder. Ticket prices range from £45 to £72.50 (concessions: £40–£65). Ticket prices include a service charge.

In response to popular demand, Spandau Ballet has announced a second show at The O2 arena on Wednesday, 18 March 2015.

- |   |                          | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Spandau Ballet is giving two concerts at The O2 arena.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The show starts at half past six in the evening.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) No one under 16 may enter The O2 arena.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) People who use a wheelchair cannot book their tickets online.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) If you make a mistake while booking your ticket, you will not get your money back. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) If you already have a ticket, you can buy six more.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Certain people, such as pensioners, may be able to get a cheaper ticket.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) A service charge will be added to the cost of the ticket.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## 2. Best seats

easy

Complete the following sentences with words from the list.

**backstage** • **box office** • **floor** • **loudspeakers** • **row** • **stage**

- Guess what! I've managed to get tickets in the front \_\_\_\_\_.
- I think you get a better view if you sit further away from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- You can see quite well from the back because of the sloping \_\_\_\_\_.
- Remember to wear earplugs if you sit right by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The show was sold out almost as soon as the \_\_\_\_\_ opened.
- I've won VIP tickets to see Rihanna live and go \_\_\_\_\_ to meet her in person.

## 3. Musical heroes

medium

Underline the correct words to complete the sentences below.

- When Amy Winehouse **played / performed** Belgrade in June 2011, nobody realized this would be her last concert.
- Tom Jones, who is still making great music at 74, **acted / opened** for Morrissey at two shows in the US last summer.
- In August 2014, Paul McCartney gave a **life / live** concert at Candlestick Park in San Francisco — the same place where the Beatles appeared for their final full concert in 1966.
- Hours before Lady Gaga's **gig / gag** at the Roundhouse in London, the queues of waiting fans stretched far into the distance down Camden High Street.
- The **set list / song sheet** on the Rolling Stones' 2014 European tour consisted mostly of classics such as "Let's Spend the Night Together" and "Sympathy for the Devil".
- Van Morrison rarely gives his audience an **encore / ovation** and often walks off stage without even saying goodbye.

## 4. After the show

advanced

Put the sentences below into the correct order to recreate the dialogue. Start with sentence (c).

- Alex: I agree. They're a great live band, aren't they?
- Lucy: They were. Everyone seemed to know the lyrics to all their songs.
- Alex: Wow! Wasn't that brilliant?
- Lucy: And how many encores did they play? Four?
- Alex: Yeah. He had the whole audience on its feet within minutes.
- Lucy: It was fantastic — the best concert I've ever been to.
- Alex: Five, I think. And everyone was singing along.
- Lucy: Yeah, especially the frontman. He really knows how to get the crowd moving.