

PRE-READING

Task 1. Match pairs of words. Find synonyms.

1. Broke up	a) active
2. Led	b) begin
3. Functioning	c) melody
4. Last	d) spectators
5. Incredible	e) except
6. Tune	f) seamen, people who work on ships
7. Owe a lot to	g) for the last time
8. But	h) congress; symposium
9. Audiences	i) boring, uninspired
10. Convention	j) hard to believe
11. Found	k) separated
12. Dull	l) are strongly influenced by
13. Sailors	m) were at the front of

Task 2. Match the English words and expressions with their Russian equivalents.

1. Change things	a) собственные песни
2. At the time	b) вид музыки
3. Caught the spirit	c) самый оригинальный
4. Own songs	d) подростки 50-ых годов
5. Most original	e) делаю новые вещи
6. Rather dull fifties	f) изменять вещи
7. Type of music	g) поймать дух
8. From fifties teenagers	h) все также популярный
9. Doing new things	i) очень популярный в 60-ые годы
10. So popular in the sixties	j) в то время
11. Still so popular today	k) самый лучший
12. Best	l) скучные 50-ые

Task 3. Fill in the expressions. All the expressions have been removed from this extract from the text. Put them all back into the text.

change things; at the time; caught the spirit; own songs; most original; rather dull fifties; type of music; from fifties teenagers; doing new things; so popular in the sixties; still so popular today; best

So why did the Beatles become _____, and why are they _____? They became popular because they _____ of a

generation. Sixties teenagers were very different _____; they wanted to _____, and escape from the _____. The Beatles came along, offering a new _____, with new instruments. They were not the only group, of course; but they were the _____, the _____. At first they copied rock `n' roll songs from America. These were not well-known in England _____, but it was easy to get rock `n' roll records in Liverpool, a busy port city. Then the Beatles began writing their _____ - and people liked them.

When they became popular, they did not stop _____; instead, they pushed back the frontiers of pop/rock music in all directions. And where they went, others followed.

WHILE-READING

The Beatles

Amazing! Over fifty years after they last played together (August 1969), the Beatles are still one of the most popular rock groups in the world! During the six years of their existence, they led a revolution in music. Over half a century later, their records still sell in millions every year.

- In November 2021, Disney screens a new documentary about the Beatles, called *Get Back*. The three-part documentary is about the Beatles' final album, *Let It Be*, made in 1970

- In 2019, the Beatles' *Abbey Road* was (again) the top-selling vinyl album in the USA, with 246,000 sales.

- In 2014, Hollywood made a big new documentary film about the Beatles.... almost 50 years after they broke up !

- In 2013, a "new" Beatles album, "On air live at the BBC - part 2" was the group's 31st top ten album in the USA !

- In 1996, six million Beatles albums were sold during the year. That would be a good score for a functioning band or group; but for a group that last played together in 1969, it was incredible!

- In Britain, a study recently showed that the Beatles are still one of the most popular groups with people over 15 years old; and they are still popular with teenagers too.

All over the world, teenagers know the tunes, and often some of the words too, of the Beatles' most famous songs. *Yesterday*, *Penny Lane*, *Hey Jude* and *When I am Sixty Four* are among the best known.

Among more recent pop groups, many big names - such as Oasis, Blur or Foo Fighters - owe a lot to the Beatles, and they say so! In their album *the Masterplan*, Oasis did a new version of the Beatles' song *I am the Walrus*.

However there are also dozens of bands all over the world which do nothing but copy the Beatles. There is a band in England called the *Bootleg Beatles*, a

band in America called the *Fab Four*, a Norwegian band called *Det Betales*, and even a band called *Museum* in Kazakhstan; and there are many more too!

The *Bootleg Beatles* now do over 100 shows a year, and they always bring in big audiences! Once, they filled the 10,000 seat Budokan stadium in Japan!

There are also dozens of Beatles conventions and Beatles weekends every year, in different parts of the world. The annual BeatleFest in America (founded in 1974) takes place twice each year, and attracts up to 20,000 fans!

In Britain, the Beatles are still a big tourist attraction. Thousands of people go to Liverpool every year, to see where it all began. In Liverpool, they can visit the Beatles' museum, take a "Beatles' Tour of the city (seeing places like Penny Lane), or visit the house where Paul McCartney lived as a teenager.

So why did the Beatles become so popular in the sixties, and why are they still so popular today?

They became popular because they caught the spirit of a generation. Sixties teenagers were very different from fifties teenagers; they wanted to change things, and escape from the rather dull fifties. The Beatles came along, offering a new type of music, with new instruments (electric guitars). They were not the only group, of course; but they were the best, the most original. At first they copied rock 'n' roll songs from America. These were not well-known in England at the time, but it was easy to get rock 'n' roll records in Liverpool, a busy port city at the time. Sailors brought the most popular records from America, and these became popular with young musicians in Liverpool. Then the Beatles began writing their own songs - and people liked them.

When they became popular, they did not stop doing new things; instead, they pushed back the frontiers of pop/rock music in all directions. And where they went, others followed.

Today people are still following them; and probably they will continue following for a long time to come.

Task 4. Read the text and prove whether the given statements are true.

1. The Beatles are more popular today than ever.
2. Oasis have recently copied a Beatles' song.
3. The Beatles once filled Japan's Budokan stadium .
4. There is a Beatles Festival every year in the USA.
5. Paul McCartney lived in Penny Lane when he was a teenager.
6. Penny Lane is in Liverpool.
7. The Beatles always wrote their own songs.

Task 5. Read the text and divide it into parts. Give each a title. Make the plan of the text.

Task 6. Make questions to each part of the text. Then give full answers (work in pairs or in groups).

POST-READING

Task 7. Speak about the Beatles in 8-10 sentences. Use giving questions as a plan.

1. Who were the Beatles?
2. When did they exist? Where did they live?
3. What happened to John Lennon? And to the others?
4. Which Beatles are still alive today?
5. Do you know any Beatles' songs? The titles? The words? What do the titles and words mean?