

Music would not be the same without the guitar

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- What is the best sounding instrument?
- What do you know about the guitar?
- What kinds of music do you enjoy most (blues, jazz...)
- Which do you prefer, electric or acoustic guitar?

Section A: Vocabulary

Match the words to their meanings. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space below.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--|
| 1. _____ | Instrument | (a) very old |
| 2. _____ | Guess | (b) create something new |
| 3. _____ | Musician | (c) expand; change into |
| 4. _____ | Expert | (d) enduring; lasting |
| 5. _____ | Ancient | (e) musical tool |
| 6. _____ | Ancestor | (f) pressure, persuade |
| 7. _____ | Invent | (g) try to form an opinion about something |
| 8. _____ | Influence | (h) predecessor |
| 9. _____ | Develop | (i) instrumentalist |
| 10. _____ | Permanent | (j) specialist; someone skilled |

Section B: Phrasal Verbs

One of the following phrasal verbs means to *become*. Can you guess which one? You may need to change the verb form.

- (a) turn into (b) turn up (c) turn over (d) turn off

Now try to put the above phrasal verbs into the sentences below. You will need to think about what the phrasal verb means, and how it fits within the sentence. Good luck...

1. It was cold and rainy this morning, but it _____ a nice day.
2. When one side of a steak is cooked, _____ it _____ and cook the other side.
3. Would you , _____ the light _____? I want to go to bed.
4. Will you _____ the TV? I can't hear it.

Section C: Transcript

Read along as you listen to the VOA report.

Music would not be the same without the guitar

- 1 I'm Steve Ember.
 And I'm Phoebe Zimmermann with EXPLORATIONS in VOA Special English. Today we tell about a very popular musical **instrument**. Listen and see if you can guess what it is.
 (MUSIC)
- 2 If you **guessed** it was a guitar, you are correct. Probably no other musical instrument is as popular around the world as the guitar. **Musicians** use the guitar for almost every kind of music. Country and western music would not be the same without a guitar. The traditional Spanish folk music called flamenco could not exist without a guitar. The sound of American blues music would not be the same without the sad cry of the guitar. And rock and roll music would almost be impossible without this instrument.

- 3 Music **experts** do not agree about where the guitar first was played. Most agree it is **ancient**. Some experts say an instrument very much like a guitar was played in Egypt more than one thousand years ago.
- 4 Some other experts say that the **ancestor** of the modern guitar was brought to Spain from Persia sometime in the twelfth **century**. The guitar continued to develop in Spain. In the seventeenth century it became similar to the instrument we know today.
- 5 Many famous musicians played the instrument. The famous Italian violinist Niccolò Paganini played and wrote music for the guitar in the early eighteenth century. Franz Schubert used the guitar to write some of his famous works. In modern times
Carlos Montoya
Carlos Montoya
Spanish guitarist Andres Segovia helped make the instrument **extremely** popular.
- 6 One kind of music for the guitar developed in the southern area of Spain called Andalusia. It will always be **strongly** linked with the Spanish guitar. It is called flamenco. Carlos Montoya was a Spanish Gypsy. Listen as he plays a flamenco song called “Jerez.”

(MUSIC)

- 7 In the nineteenth century, Les Paul began experimenting with ways to make an electric guitar. He **invented** the solid body electric guitar in nineteen forty-six. The Gibson Guitar Company began producing its famous Les Paul Guitar in nineteen fifty-two. It
Les Paul
Les Paul
became a powerful **influence** in popular music. The instrument has the same shape and the same six strings as the traditional guitar, but it sounds very different.

- 8 Les Paul produced a series of extremely popular recordings that introduced the public to his music. They included Paul playing as many as six musical parts at the same time. Listen to this Les Paul **recording**. It was the fifth most popular song in the United States in nineteen fifty-two. It is called “Meet Mister Callaghan.”

(MUSIC)

- 9 B.B. King

B.B. King

The guitar has always been important to blues music. The electric guitar Les Paul helped **develop**; made modern blues music possible. There have been many great blues guitarists. Yet, music experts say all blues guitar players are **measured** against one man and his famous guitar. That man is B.B. King. Every blues fan knows that years ago B.B. King named his guitar Lucille. Here B.B. King plays Lucille on his famous recording of “The Thrill Is Gone”.

(MUSIC)

- 10 Lucille, B.B. King’s large, beautiful black guitar, is important to American music. Visitors can see King’s very first guitar at the Rock and Soul Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The museum is the only **permanent exhibit** organized by the Smithsonian Institution outside Washington, D.C., and New York City.

- 11 Another famous guitar in American music also has a name. It belongs to country music star Willie Nelson. His guitar is as famous in country music as Lucille is in blues music. Its name is Trigger.

Willie Nelson and Trigger

Willie Nelson and Trigger

Trigger is really a very **ugly** guitar. It looks like an old, broken instrument someone threw away. Several famous people have written their names on it. A **huge** hole was torn in the front of it a long time ago. It looks severely damaged. But the huge hole, the names and other marks seem to add to its sound. Listen while Willie Nelson plays “Angel Flying Too Close To the Ground.”

(MUSIC)

12 Many rock and roll performers are very good with a guitar. One of the best is Chuck Berry. Berry's **method** of playing the guitar very fast was extremely popular when rock music began. He still is an important influence on rock and roll music. Listen as Chuck Berry plays and sings one of his hit songs. He recorded it in nineteen fifty-seven. The song is about a guitar player named "Johnny B. Goode."

(MUSIC)

13 There are almost as many different kinds of guitar music as there are musicians. We cannot play them all in one program. So we leave you with one guitar player who often **mixes** several kinds of music.

14 His name is Jose Feliciano. Here he plays a song that is based on **traditional** Spanish guitar music. He mixes this with a little jazz and a little blues and adds a Latin sound. Here is "Bamboleo."

(MUSIC)

15 This program was written by Paul Thompson. It was produced by Mario Ritter. I'm Phoebe Zimmermann. And I'm Steve Ember. Join us again next week for another EXPLORATIONS in VOA Special English.