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on the topic

“The Beatles and their impact on youth of the XX century”

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# Contest

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**Introduction**

We all know that music is the greatest thing which joins people over the world. It’s common human possession and it hasn’t got nationality. Everyone has got his own musical preferences. Today I want to tell you about my favorite music band. It is The Beatles.

Who were they? Despite they haven’t been as a creative group for more than 40 years, and two of them died, people all over the world dance, laugh and sing their music, as their art lives alongside with us. So who are they, the four young Englishmen called ”the fabulous four”? The answers may be numerous.

So, the aim of my work is to find out how the English music band the Beatles influenced on the youth of the XX century.

The main purposes are the following:

1. to find out the interesting literature and the information in Internet about the Beatles;

2. to understand how the band influenced on the mind of the youth in XX century;

3. to get experience of scientific research.

Well, some can say they are young hooligans singing rock’n’roll tunes like “Can’t buy me love”. The others can put them in the same rank with the greatest composers, such as Mozart, Beethoven and Bach, taking into account their album “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”. But the others can call them optimists and philosophers. I would like to try to find my own answer to this question.

They are: energetic, always fighting, romantic and fantastically talented, philosophical and bit religious, always smiling and friendly.

The practical value of the work is taking focus on four of The Beatles’ most popular songs and take a look at some grammar and language points that can be learned simply by studying the lyrics and singing along.

**Part I. Who were they?**

***The story of the band.***

The history of the Beatles includes the early years, the arrival of Beatlemania in America and the band breakup.

John Lennon, James Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Richard Starkey (also known as Ringo Starr) were born in the 1940s in Liverpool, England. During the post war period, Liverpool was a depressed town. Later, these four men took the world by storm in a phenomenon our culture refers to as Beatlemania.

John Lennon met Paul McCartney when they were both performing in Skiffle Groups, which were homespun bands that played a combination of folk, rock and jazz. John was in a group called The Quarrymen, which later became John and the Quarrymen. Paul introduced John to George Harrison, who was two years younger but showed extraordinary talent. John, Paul and George, with the addition of John's Friend from art college, Stu Sutcliffe and a guitarist named Pete Best, set out to work in German clubs, where musicians were able to make a paltry living playing strip clubs and low end establishments. Ringo was performing in many of the same establishments with the group Rory Storm and the Hurricanes. [4]

During their time in Germany, Stu Sutcliffe decided return to to his first love, art, and a new love, a woman he had met in Germany named Astrid. Stu later died of a brain hemorrhage, which some suspect was due to his previous involvement in a club fight. The remaining members, now called "The Silver Beatles to" returned Liverpool, where John dealt with feelings of failure and a pregnant girlfriend, whom he reluctantly married.

Their luck changed when a young record storeowner, named Epstein Brian, noticed the Beatles and thought they had something unique. After convincing the Beatles to clean up their tough image, they traded jackets leather for matching suits as Brian peddled their records from label to label with no success. Epstein never gave up on the Beatles and his business savvy, combined with Beatles raw the talent finally began to pay off.

Many of the groups from England, dubbed The Mersey Sound, were featured in Mersey Beat Magazine and played on the radio. The Beatles kept plugging away at fame. Meanwhile, a decision was made by the group to drop Pete Best as drummer. Although Pete had the classic looks good that drew female fans, the group wanted Ringo to be their drummer. By the time recorded the Beatles Love Me Do in 1962, Ringo was the official drummer, however, studio musicians were brought in for the drumming on Love Me Do. Fans of performances their live were disappointed about the change of drummers and for a long time a chant of "Pete Forever, Ringo Never" accompanied their act.

Despite controversy and frequent fighting between themselves, the Beatles began to become immensely popular in Europe. Their fame in Europe was small in proportion to that which they would experience in America. A great amount of hype surrounded the Beatles landing at Kennedy Airport in America in February 1964. DJ Murray the K announced the time as Beatle Time and Beatle news flashes built up the excitement leading to their famous appearance on Ed Sullivan. From then on, teenagers were caught up in a fan frenzy that sometimes included hysteria, with female fans fainting during performances. These live performances were short lived and the last American Concert was at Candlestick Park in 1966. The fans screamed so loud, few could really hear much of the concert, but had most teens a Beatle Album collection. The Beatles made two early films, Hard Day's Night and Help, which remain popular today. As much as teenagers loved them, many parents and religious leaders feared their influence. In particular controversy was the over John Lennon's mistaken remark that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. This resulted in some record burning and protests and the Beatles lost some of their sweet, manufactured media image, and began to deal with more serious subjects.

This was reflected in their 1966 album "Revolver," where their music and lyrics took on a more somber, mystical tone. George Harrison began experimenting with the Sitar, and Eastern Philosophy and all of the Beatles began experimenting with drugs. Their next film was not a lighthearted romp like the previous two; instead "Yellow Submarine" was a psychedelic cartoon full of political references. In 1967, the "Summer of Love" was kicked off by the release of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." The album featured many references to death, drugs, and rebellion. The album provided the perfect soundtrack for the mood of a world, which was immersed in controversy over the Vietnam War, drugs and rebellion. These themes were also present in Magical Mystery Tour, although the latter album (and televisions special aired in the UK) had a more hopeful tone and the song "All You Need is Love" was the first world satellite broadcast to reach the entire world.

1968 saw the release a two set volume entitled the "White Album", with a completely white cover, with photos of the Beatles and a pictorial spread inside. Around the same time, a hoax began saying Paul McCartney had secretly died in a car accident and that clues imbedded were in the White Album as well as previous albums. At this time, John Lennon (now divorced) and Yoko Ono became close and she began to have a great influence on the Beatles, not to pleasure of everyone. Much of the fighting, particularly between the song-writing duo of Lennon and McCartney, was said to have stemmed from Yoko's participation in the group's decisions.

Although they made a few more albums, most notably "Abbey Road", Beatlemania was coming clearly to an end. In 1970 Paul officially announced he was leaving the Beatles, and despite legal arguments, the Beatles went to pursue musical careers and separate lives. John married Yoko, Paul married Linda photographer McCartney, George Harrison lost his wife to fellow guitarist, Eric Clapton and later remarried, and Ringo was also later divorced, started acting an career, and married former James Bond girl Barbara Bach. The relationships remained strained and although fans hoped they would reconcile, the came reunion too late after John Lennon was shot in 1980. The popular Anthology CD sets have John's voice electronically blended with the others and have been immensely popular, yet a sad reminder of an era past forever known as Beatlemania.

***The story of success.***

Every story gets mythologized, especially when it comes to the history of popular music groups and performers. The history of the most popular band of all times The Beatles also became a subject of this mandatory mythologizing.

Many sites on the Internet say that Beatlemania started on September 17th, 1963. They count from the first recording of songs of the famous Fab Four was created. This happened in the U.S. at the recording Swan studio. This record, according to researchers, became the launching of the careers of the musicians, and opened a New Age of Beatles in the pop culture.

But to tell the truth, that record was not the first in the history of the band.

Their really first recording was made at the Hamburg studio Polydor in 1961. The album was called My Bonnie. At the time they called themselves The Beat Brothers. [6]

The band released their first single Love Me Do in September 1962 at the EMI studio. By September 1963, The Beatles released four singles, two mini-albums and one full album in Britain at the label Parlophone, owned by the giant of the recording industry EMI.

The very first edition of the Beatles songs in the United States was. released in 1963. The songs Please Please Me and From Me To You, as well as the album Introducing The Beatles were not successful and did not get even into the regional charts.

The first rush of Beatlemania appeared in America in December of 1963, when they released I Want To Hold Your Hand. The official start of Beatlemania is the concert in London Palladium on October 13, 1963. The event was broadcast in the program Sunday Night.

Thousands of young fans and admirers have filled the streets to the building of the concert hall, waiting for the musicians. After the concert the band had to escape into the car surrounded by a police patrol - an event very, very rare in those years. Even Elvis Presley was not "torn to pieces" in his time.

What causes such mythologization of the history of the Beatles? Probably, the attempts to somehow explain the phenomenon of their extraordinary popularity. However, the authors of all the myths are making the same fundamental error - they believe that such a complex and multifaceted thing as popularity may be the result of only one event. It is not true.

It should be noted that the puzzle is yet to be solved.

Those who have been studying the phenomenon of The Beatles usually say that their success is explained by the simplicity and openness of songs performed by the Fab Four. But in Britain in the late 1950s - early 1960s there were dozens of bands playing similar music, and The Beatles are the only band known around the world. Why were they the only ones to become super popular?

Some believe that the phenomenon of The Beatles created was not by the musicians but their Brian Epstein manager and producer George Martin. However, it is unlikely. Epstein, according to people who personally knew him, was a very mediocre organizer and businessman.

Others believe that the reason for the success of The Beatles was not their music, but topical and original lyrics., The Beatles never tried to appeale the tastes and preferences of the public and be fashionable. They preferred to do what they liked themselves.

The tunes of even the earliest songs were astonishingly unconventional. The Beatles felt there was not enough room for them within the frame of "classic" rock-n-roll, and they kept trying to remake creating their own rhythm, harmony and tone. That caused a strange effect where the song turned out both "common" and at the same time unique. As a result, even in the first albums you will not find two similar compositions.

The same happened with the lyrics. Lennon, McCartney and Harrison seemed to be writing about things everyone knows of, but always put some hidden extra subtext in their poetry. The result was a song that you wanted to listen to time and again, discovering something new every time. Such works of art never get old.

As a result, the Fab Four created their own, unique and original world of The Beatles. In this world there were wonderful things, people lived in "nowhere," yellow submarines were abundant, guitars were crying, and octopus invited you to its garden, Lucy soared into the heavens, and so on. This magical space was open to anyone who wanted to visit.

There were many those willing, because people were tired of war ruins and everyday burdens of life, and wanted to find themselves in the sweet and gentle tale for a moment. This tale was offered by The Beatles to the fans (it was offered, not imposed).

But nothing lasts forever. Over time, the members of the band got bored of the "fairy tale," and The Beatles ceased to exist. But the magical world they created seems to have remained attractive for the fans of modern pop music. When in 2004 Rolling Stone magazine published a list of top 500 songs of all time, it included 23 songs of the legendary Fab Four.

It is unlikely that the musicians would be able to create their own magical world, if they have not tried to remain true to themselves. Then, probably after 1-2 popular albums and dozens of concerts people would have completely lost interest in their work (except, perhaps, a couple of hundred loyal fans). The saddest thing is that most modern pop artists do just that. As a result, the popularity of the Beatles has not been surpassed by anyone.

***The influence of the Beatles***

During many years there have been many bands that were considered great, and to have impacted the world. However, none of these groups can compare to the Beatles. Influence is defined as the capacity to produce effects on the actions, behavior, and opinions of others. Because of the effect on music, fashion, culture, and the society in general, The Beatles are the most influential British music group of all time.

The Beatles influenced popular music and the lives of all who heard them in deep and fundamental ways”.

They igniited the lattent energy of youtth on both sides of the Atlantic. They helped confer self-identity upon a youthful, music-based culture that flexed its muscle in myriad ways – not just as music connsumers, but also as a force for political expression, social commentary and contemporary lifestyles.

Although the Beatles were a sensation in Britain, they did not stop their success in music there. Even after moving to America, the Beatles dominated the charts by creating 3 more number one singles than the legendary Elvis Presley with tweenty. The Beatles haad such an impact by music in the sense that they set a standard for popular music, and brought an massive amount of popularity to the genre of rock and roll music. The Beatles have inspired counttless bandsmen to imitate their unique style and sound, and continue to inspire the public, and sell millions of allbums, even though the band broke up in 1970, and George Harrison died from cancer in 2001, and Johnn Lennon was **knocked off** in 1980. They even changed what rock music means to many people. The Beatles evidently are immensely influential to music because of the fact that they are still effecting people 40 after the band broke up, with only two living participants.

Next, the Beatles enormously influenced fashion. Although “no single person can be credited with dressing the Beatles,” they began a fashion trend. In fact, the Beatles influenced fashion to an extent where their outfits and looks were basically being copied by boutiques and other clothing stores. The reason set the Beatles such a trend in fashion is because of their music. They run the charts and are performing all the most popular songs. “They [the Beatles] transformed the look, sound, and style of not only their generation, but also of the ones that followed”[4]. When the Beatles began their band, they actually had what could be categorized as a greaser look. They were decked in leather clothes and had greasy hair. Eventually the band made the evolution from greasy leather wearing musicians to a group that wore nice custom-tailored suits that all matched. The hair was so popular that “the Beatle wig became the hottest novelty since the hula hoop”. Again their look transformed. They moved from the well-tailored suits to matching turtle necks. And again the Beatles gave this look enormous popularity. Whatever the band wore, the public wanted to wear. The Beatles continued to set fashion trends, and still do. Even though the bad developed differences and split up, and most of the members are dead now, the Beatles are still influencing fashion. They sell more records now than they did when they were together, and people constantly attempt to capture the look that the Beatles inspired.

Finally, the Beatles had an influence on society and culture. The British rock band known as the Beatles came to America in 1964. When they got here, they “stood the world of pop culture on its head, setting the musical agenda for the remainder of the decade” (The Beatles 4). The Beatles were impacting society and culture by combining their effects with music, and with fashion. By changing and influencing both of those, they were impacting society as a whole. The Beatles have had this lasting and ongoing effect on the world :

Though popular music has changed considerably in the decades since the Beatles’ demise, their music continues to reach and inspire new generations of listeners. Half a century after their humble origins in Liverpool, the Beatles remain the most enduring phenomenon in the history of popular music.

This effect clear shows that the Beatles have impacted society in a way that can never be forgotten.

Many groups have points of view that influence some of the public for some time. Or songs that are popular for a certain amount of time. But no bad, let alone a British band, has even inspired people’s music, opinions, fashion, and society in the way the Beatles have. The Beatles have influenced prominent feature, and simply influenced life in a way that is immeasurable. The Beatles ended 40 years ago, however; their music, their fashion, and their impact on culture live on and go on to strive like no other music group has ever done. The Beatles are unsuitable the most impactful British music group of all time, because of the undeniable and lasting effect they have had on society, trand, and music.

**Part II. Practical part.**

***Learn English With The Beatles***

Everyone loves *The Beatles*. The band from Liverpool, England proceed to superstardom in the 1960s on the back of dozens of splashy hit songs. The ‘Fab Four’ (as they were informally known) are still as popular today with fans in all corners of the globe.

Not only is their music good for a party, but it can also help improve your English. Songs by The Beatles are especially useful for learners for a number of reasons. First of all, the lyrics are often sung clearly and slowly, allowing for even beginner level learners of English to understand them. The lyrics are quite simple, with basic structures repeated throughout the songs. In fact, they’re so splashy songs that you really can’t help singing along and practicing the words!

In this article, I’m going to focus on four of The Beatles’ most popular songs and take a look at some grammar and language points that can be learned simply by studying the lyrics and singing along. So let’s help ourselves with the Beatles.

***Hard Day’s Night*: Written by John Lennon**

Let’s work with the song called *Hard Day’s Night*: Written by John Lennon. The song is a great introduction to the present perfect tense, both in the simple and continuous forms, as well as some idiomatic language.

**Grammar points:** present perfect simple, present perfect continuous, idiomatic expressions.

**Focus on lyrics:**

***It’s been a hard day’s night,***

***And I’ve been working like a dog.***

***It’s been a hard day’s night,***

***I should be sleeping like a log.***

We can notice some interesting grammar and language moments. Firstly, let’s take a look at the idioms:

* ***To work like a dog***: to work extremely hard, particularly in a job which requires some sort of physical labour.
* ***To sleep like a log***: to sleep deeply and silently.

**Examples:**

* ***He’s been working like a dog recently so he really deserves this holiday.***
* ***I slept like a log last night so I didn’t hear you get in late.***

  The present perfect simple tense (***It’s been a hard day’s night***) is used to talk about an fact which began in the past and has continued up to the present time. By using this tense, we know that the time period has not yet finished.

In the second line, he continues to use the present perfect, but this time changing it to the present perfect continuous (***I’ve been working like a dog***). Again, this indicates that the time period began in the past and has continued up to the present. However, it also indicates that it was an action which involved repetition or duration.

**Example:**

***I’ve been given a pay rise because I’ve been working such long hours over the past few months.***

***Yesterday*: Written by Paul McCartney**

This melancholic song is one of *The Beatles*’ greatest hits, and is also one of the most famouse songs in the history of pop music. Performed by Paul McCartney, *Yesterday* is the end of a romantic relationship and compares the singer’s privet situation with what had happened before. It’s great for comparing several forms related to the present and the past.

**Grammar points:** Present simple, past simple, the verb “will” in the past, “used to” + verb.

**Focus lyrics:**

***Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away***

***Now it looks as though they’re here to stay***

McCartney compares the past and present with these two lines using the past simple (***my troubles seemed***) and the present simple (***it looks as though they are here to stay***) tenses. The time expressions (***yesterday/now***) also make clear the transition from the past to the present.

**Focus lyrics:**

***Suddenly, I’m not the man I used to be***

  McCartney uses the present simple again (***I am not***) and the ***used to + verb*** form (***I used to be***) to contrast a situation with a past fact or summes up that is no longer actual.

**Example:**

***I used to eat meat, but now I’m vegetarian.***

**Focus lyrics:**

***Why she had to go, I don’t know, she wouldn’t say***

With this line, McCartney uses the simple past of ***have to*** (***she had to go***) in order to indicate an obligation in the past. We can also see the past form of the auxiliary verb ***will*** in the negative (***she wouldn’t say***), which is used to tell us that she didn’t want to give the answer.

**Examples:**

* ***I had to get up early this morning because I had an exam.***
* ***They wouldn’t let me extend my visa.***

***With a Little Help from My Friends*: Written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney**

This song is unusual for the *The Beatles* in that is was actually written for the drummer Ringo Starr to sing. It features on the album *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* and deals with themes of love, friendship and loneliness. The lyrics use some interesting constructions to ask real questions about what the singer ***would do*** or ***does do.***

**Grammar points:** Second conditional, zero conditional.

**Focus lyrics:**

***What would you think if I sang out of tune?***

***Would you stand up and walk out on me?***

This second conditional form is asking a question about an unreal present. It uses an *if clause* (***if I sang out of tune***) and a *result clause* (***what would you think?***). We can construct this form by using the structure below:

(If) + (subject) + (past simple) + (would) + (subject) + (base verb)

***If I sang out of tune, would you stand up and walk out on me?***

**Focus lyrics:**

***What do I do when my love is away?***

In the second verse, the second conditional changes to the zero conditional. Unlike the second conditional above, is asking about how the singer responds in real life when faced with this situation. We can say that the zero conditional is used to talk about things which are usually or generally true. Take a look at the structure below:

(when) + (subject) + (present simple) + (what) + (do) + (subject) + (base verb)

***When my love is away, what do I do?***

***All My Loving*: Written by Paul McCartney**

This early *Beatles*’ song (released in 1963) is typical of the upbeat pop music which made them stars around the world. Like so many pop songs, it focuses on romance and uses the future simple tense throughout to express future intentions.

**Grammar points:** Future simple with contractions and the imperative form of the verb.

**Focus lyrics:**

***Close your eyes and I’ll kiss you***

***Tomorrow I’ll miss you***

***Remember I’ll always be true***

  The first three lines of the first verse use two interesting grammar points: the future simple tense (***I’ll kiss you/I’ll miss you***) and the imperative form of the verb (***Close your eyes/Remember***). The future simple forms both use contractions (***I will > I’ll***) to reflect spoken, informal English and to fit better with the rhythm of the melody. The imperative forms are used to give direct orders or instructions in English. They are made simply by using the verb in its base form.

**Examples:**

* ***Do the dishes.***
* ***Watch your head.***
* ***Remember to post that letter.***

**Focus lyrics:**

***I’ll pretend that I’m kissing***

***The lips I am missing***

 Here we see the future simple again (***I’ll pretend***) used with the present continuous tenses (***I’m kissing/I am missing***) to indicate an action happening at the moment of speaking. So, is the singer kissing and missing at the time of the song? No. By using this form with the future simple, he is talking about a future intention to do this action.  **Example:** ***I’ll pretend that I’m doing my homework but, in reality, I’ll be playing video games.***

**Conclusion**

"The Beatles" had changed the state of rock and pop music. They had introduced sounds and rhythms, and they had influenced types of musical instruments. They had recorded thousands of songs and they had sold lots of records. They had made many films and many awards for their music. Today, Beatles songs are still very popular all over the world.  Many people all over the world love Beatles. So I can say with sure that they are still existing because their music will never die! A lot of us choose the Beatles, because we choose light, life, happiness and hope.

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