



Level: C1

Activity: Authentic listening

Length: 2 mins 30 secs

Focus: A music programme

## BLUES BAND

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In this lesson, students listen to *In & Around Spain*, in which Justin talking about a blues band who has recently visited Madrid and Barcelona. He tells us about the leader of the band, Stoneking; his style of music, the instruments he plays. He reviews the Spanish concerts and some of the songs on two albums.

The audio is divided into 4 sections. The key activities are:

- finding out about the programme – ex 1
- finding out about the topic – ex 2
- tuning into the speaker's voice –ex 3
- identifying noun phrases – exs 4,5,6
- listening for specific information exs 7,8
- remembering key facts while listening 9,11
- guessing the meaning of new words and phrases ex 10

The final section (*Thinking about Listening*), gives students the opportunity to review strategies and to listen to the complete text again. They should end the lesson feeling confident that they have understood most of the text, and can download the audio for extra listening practice outside class. There are many other music-related English language podcasts available on the Spanish national radio station.

Read the questions and options to check your students will understand the language on the page before you teach the lesson. You don't need to pre-teach vocabulary from the audio text - guessing meaning is integral to the listening activities. Check vocabulary after students have referred to the different sections of the audio script.

Remember to make sure students will be able to see the audio script at different points during the lesson.

Optional extra language focus: after ex 4, word order in noun phrases.

Answer key:

1 a. DS b. F c. F d. T

2 a. Blues b. Hokum c. Dixieland d. Calypso

3 ✓ Dixieland, Blues, Australian, American

4 articles – a, an; determiners – some, a few etc.; possessive pronouns – my our, etc.; demonstratives – this, that

5 1. c 2. b 3. a

6. a. He hopes they will return to Madrid with Stoneking. B. It was the venue for the Madrid concert. C. It was completely sold out.

7 a. Jungle Blues b. Stoneking c. Stoneking's wife d. Housebound Blues

8 1. a 2. b 3. a. 4. c 5. a

9 c

10 students' own answers

11 Yes, he describes Stonehouse as being 'talented'.

## BLUES BAND

### Audio 1

... the pre-war acoustic Hokum, Calypso and Dixieland and jazz-inflected blues of C.W. Stoneking, the Australian born son of American parents, who grew up, down-under, listening to his father's old blues albums of Mississippi Delta figures like Charlie Pattern.

### Audio 2

C.W. Stoneking visited Spain not long ago for his first two performances here, in Barcelona and in Madrid. The Madrid concert at the Wurlitzer Ballroom was completely sold out. So, it's to be hoped that Stoneking will return to Spain with his Primitive Horn Orchestra in the near future.

### Audio 3

After releasing *King Hokum*, in 2006, to critical acclaim, Stoneking released *Jungle Blues*, whose title track we've just been listening to, in 2008, on the King Hokum Records label. Many of the album's 10 tracks were penned by C.W. Stoneking, who is the main vocalist on all but one, *Housebound Blues*, in which his wife, Kirsty Frazer, sings about the plight of the mother forced to remain at home, with a crying baby, while her husband is out on the town, drinking and having a good old time.

(sound – baby crying, music)

Kirsty Frazer, singing those *Housebound Blues* for her husband C.W. Stoneking and the rest of the Primitive Horn Orchestra backing her up. On this, and his previous album, C.W. Stoneking plays the guitar, the tenor banjo and the washboard, as well as singing. That previous album, *King Hokum*, opens with an acoustic blues track called *Way Out in the World*.

### Audio 4

C.W. Stoneking with *Way Out in the World* from his debut album of original work, *King Hokum* released in 2006, and re-released in Europe in 2007 on Switzerland's Voodoo Rhythm label. C.W. Stoneking has already attracted a substantial following in Britain and other places, and his two recent concerts in Spain were great successes, so, he may well develop a strong following here as well. For more information on this talented and original artist whose voice and drawl transport his listeners back into the past, you can visit his website at [www.cwstoneking.com](http://www.cwstoneking.com). And we'll wrap up this edition of *In and Around Spain* with another track from *Jungle Blues*, Stoneking's latest album, a tune about an encounter with a talking lion, his *Talking Lion Blues*.

Audio 5 = complete podcast

# BLUES BAND

## A PREPARING TO LISTEN

1. You are going to listen to part of an English language radio programme called *In & Around Spain* about a musician and his music. Read the information below and write T (*true*), F (*false*) or DS (*doesn't say*) after statements a – d.

The programme *In & Around Spain* on Radio Exterior de España regularly features interviews with and information on interesting people who have visited Spain. In this programme, Justin Coe talks about the music of bluesman C.W. Stoneking, who has visited Spain for the first time and performed concerts in Madrid and Barcelona. The presenter reviews two albums, *King Hokum* and *Jungle Blues*, released in 2006 and 2008, respectively. It is music that incorporates Blues, Hokum, Calypso, and Dixieland Jazz. Even though the sound is clearly rooted in the 1920s, there is nothing archaic or anachronistic about Stoneking's music. It is becoming very popular around the world, and Justin tells us that both Spanish concerts were very successful.

- a. C.W. Stoneking is American.
- b. The album *Jungle Blues* was on sale in 2006.
- c. Stoneking's music is very old-fashioned.
- d. The Spanish audiences enjoyed Stoneking's music.

2. What do you know about the different types of music mentioned in text 1? Match the types of music to the definitions a-d below. Check in a dictionary or find more information on the internet.

Hokum   Calypso   Dixieland   Blues

- a. a sad sounding music which came from the Deep South of the United States
- b. a type of American blues music with amusing words
- c. an early style of jazz music developed in New Orleans
- d. an Afro-Caribbean style of music that began in Trinidad and Tobago



## B TUNING IN

3. **Audio 1** Listen to the first part of the programme and tick the words you hear.

Dixieland	Blues	Spain	Madrid
Australian	African	American	

4. Listen again. Use one word to complete the gaps at the beginning of the noun phrases a – c below. What other words often introduce noun phrases?

- a. \_\_\_\_ pre-war acoustic Hokum
- b. \_\_\_\_ Australian born son of American parents
- c. \_\_\_\_ father's old blues albums

5. **Audio 2**. Listen to the next part of the programme. Put the phrases in the order you hear them.

- a. the Primitive Horn Orchestra
- b. the Wurlitzer Ballroom
- c. the Madrid concert

6. Listen again. What does Justin say about a – c in exercise 5?

## C LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

7. **Audio 3.** Listen to the next part of the programme and answer questions a-d. Listen again and check.

- What's the name of the track the radio audience has just listened to?
- Who wrote many of the tracks on the album?
- Who is Kirsty Frazer?
- What's the name of the song she sings?

8. Listen again to Audio 3. Choose the best answer to complete sentences 1-4.

- Stoneking is the main vocalist on ..... of the tracks on *Jungle Blues*.
  - most
  - one
  - none
- The woman in *Housebound Blues* is ...
  - out with her baby.
  - in town.
  - at home.
- Her husband ...
  - has gone shopping.
  - is enjoying himself.
  - is travelling to town
- Stoneking plays ... instrument(s) on his albums.
  - one
  - two
  - three
- The first track on *King Hokum* is called *Way out in the ...*
  - World*.
  - Field*.
  - Fold*.

## D LISTENING FOR DETAIL

9. **Audio 4.** Listen to the final part of the programme and choose the **best** summary. The presenter talks about ....

- the track the audience has just listened to, and how to find out more about Stoneking.
- Stoneking's popularity, and his latest concert in Switzerland.
- Stoneking's two albums, his popularity and how to find out more about his music.

10. Read and listen again to phrases 1-3 from Audio 4. Did you understand the words or phrases xxxx? Are they key words? Can you guess, more or less, what they mean? Look at the audio script and use your dictionary to help.

- ... from his xxxx album of original work ...
- ... whose voice and xxxx transport his listeners back ...
- ... we'll xxxx xxxx this edition of *In & Around Spain* with another track ...

11. Listen to Audio 4 again. Do you think Justin enjoys Stonehouse's music? Why? Why not?

## E THINKING ABOUT LISTENING

12. Which activities helped you understand the programme?

- Finding out about the programme before listening.
- Thinking about what you know about the topic before listening.
- Listening for word in groups (noun phrases).
- Remembering key facts while you listen.
- Guessing the meaning of new words.

13. **Audio 5.** Listen again to the whole audio. Would you buy an album by C.W. Stoneking? Why? Why not?

14. Do you listening to radio programmes about music in English? Make a list of the words you would expect to hear about music and musicians you like. Use your dictionary to help.

If you want to listen to more programmes about different styles of music from the English Language Service of Radio Exterior, go to [www.rtve.es/podcasts/radio-exterior/emisiones-en-ingles](http://www.rtve.es/podcasts/radio-exterior/emisiones-en-ingles)