



Modul 1: Expressive Listening

**Modul 2: Dual interview**

Modul 3: Let's Mix!

Modul 4: Mov(i)ement



## Dvorak & Swift – A dual interview

The ‘Fictional Interview’ method is an innovative pedagogical method that can be used in the classroom to help students better understand and internalise complex topics and concepts. The method is based on the idea that students are actively involved in the learning process by placing themselves in a fictitious situation and putting themselves in the role of people who embody certain topics or concepts.

In this case, the fictional interview method is used to find out the similarities and differences between the artist biographies and musical work of Taylor Swift and Antonin Dvorak. Through the interview, the pupils not only get to know the two artists and their work better but also learn how to draw comparisons and differences between different personalities and their artistic creations.

The fictional interview therefore provides an ideal opportunity to organise lessons in a playful and creative way, while at the same time encouraging pupils' critical thinking, language skills and artistic perception.



## Procedure:

### Phase 1

#### Allocation of roles and familiarisation

The class is divided into three groups of approximately equal size. Each group receives different work materials and work assignments:

- Group A (journalist) receives the factual texts on both people and works out questions to emphasise the differences and similarities between the two.
- Group B (Taylor Swift) receives a profile and interview with Taylor Swift and familiarises themselves with the role of Taylor Swift. Characteristics and special features of Swift's music and musical career should be emphasised.
- Group C (Antonin Dvorak) receives a profile and interview with Antonin Dvorak and familiarises themselves with the role of Dvorak. Characteristics and special features of Dvorak's music and musical career should be emphasised.

a. Group A work assignment:

- Read the work materials and highlight the most important information.
- Organise the texts into sections and create questions about them.
- Focus on the differences and similarities between the two musicians.

b. Group B & C work assignment:

- Read the work materials and highlight the most important information.

### Phase 2

#### The Talkshow

Then one person each from groups A, B & C sit down and conduct an interview, led by the journalist (group A).

*Alternatively, the interview can also be played in front of the class in plenary.*

### Phase 3

#### Final Quiz

At the end of the unit, a short quiz can be carried out with the whole class to consolidate the content of the interview. The quiz can be carried out according to the '1,2 or 3' principle, which encourages the pupils to move.



## Printable work assignments:

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### Group A work assignments – Journalists

- Read the work materials and highlight the most important information.
- Organise the texts into sections and create questions about them.
- Focus on the differences and similarities between the two musicians

Example questions a journalist could ask:

- How did you get into music?
- How important are prizes for your music to you?

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### Group B work assignments – Antonin Dvorak

- Read the work materials and highlight the most important information.
- Divide the texts into sections and work out the special features and characteristics of the musician and his/her career.

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### Group C work assignments – Taylor Swift

- Read the work materials and highlight the most important information.
- Divide the texts into sections and work out the special features and characteristics of the musician and his/her career.



## Interview Dvorak (Group B)

**Interviewer:** Hello, Mr Dvorak. It's great that we can talk to you today.

**Antonin Dvorak:** Hello, thank you very much for the invitation. I'm glad to be here.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell us how you compose new pieces of music?

**Antonin Dvorak:** Of course. When I write music, I let the ideas flow naturally. I don't force myself to find ideas or to put a piece into a certain structure. Instead, I let melodies and harmonies emerge by themselves, almost as if they were already there and I'm just discovering them.

**Interviewer:** That sounds exciting. Do you have an example of a piece that was created in this way?

**Antonin Dvorak:** Yes, my 'New World Symphony' is a good example. When I wrote the piece, I was inspired by the music of the Native Americans and African Americans that I got to know during my time in America. I tried to integrate these influences into the music, but I didn't have an exact plan as to how. I just let the music develop and the result was successful.



**Interviewer:** Your music often has elements of folk music. Why is that important to you?

**Antonin Dvorak:** I believe that folk music is the basis for great music. It appeals to the human spirit and has a timeless quality. When I incorporate folk music into my own compositions, I don't try to reinvent it. Rather, I want to capture the essence of this music and incorporate it into my own works.

**Interviewer:** You have travelled a lot. How have these experiences influenced your music?

**Antonin Dvorak:** Every place has its own sounds and rhythms that impress me. Whether it's the folk music of the Czech countryside or the spirituals of the American South, all these experiences have in one way or another influenced my music.

**Interviewer:** Why do you think your music appeals to such a wide audience?

**Antonin Dvorak:** I think my music speaks to people on a deep emotional level. Music is a universal language that can transcend cultural barriers. When I compose, I try to use this language to create music that is understood and appreciated by people from different walks of life.

**Interviewer:** Thank you very much for your answers. All the best!

## Subject text Dvorak (Group A)

Antonin Dvorak was a famous composer of the 19th century and one of the best-known musicians from the Czech Republic. In an interview, he explained how he worked creatively and drew inspiration from various sources.

Dvorak believed that music should emerge naturally, without the need to force ideas or structures. He allowed melodies and harmonies to emerge almost by themselves, as if they were already floating in the air and he only had to discover them. A good example of this is his 'New World Symphony', which was inspired by various musical styles he had encountered during his time in America. He integrated these influences naturally into his music and the result was very successful.

Dvorak was also known for incorporating elements of folk music into his compositions. He believed that folk music was the foundation for great music and tried to integrate the essence of this music into his own work.

Through his many travels, he was inspired by the sounds and rhythms he heard, and all of these experiences found their way into his music in one way or another.

Dvorak's music appealed to a wide audience because he saw music as a universal language that could transcend cultural and linguistic barriers. When he composed, he tried to utilise this universal language and create music that could be understood and appreciated by people from different walks of life.

Antonin Dvorak was a musician who naturally worked creatively and drew inspiration from many sources. His music appealed to a wide audience and remains an important part of classical music history to this day.





## Fact Sheet Dvorak (Group B)

Name:	Antonin Dvorak
Date of birth:	8 <sup>th</sup> September 1841
Place of birth:	Nelahozeves, Bohemia (today Czech republic)
Date of death:	1 <sup>st</sup> May 1904
Job:	Composer



**Known for:** Antonin Dvorak was a renowned composer who is considered one of the most important representatives of Czech music. He wrote works in various genres such as operas, symphonies, chamber music, choral works and orchestral works. Dvorak became particularly well known for his use of folk music and national themes in his compositions. Some of his most famous works are the symphony 'From the New World', the cello concerto in B minor and the opera 'Rusalka'.

**Life story:** Antonin Dvorak was born in a small town in Bohemia and grew up in a musical family. He studied music at the Prague Conservatory and later worked as an organist and teacher. Over the course of his career, he won several prizes and awards, including the Austrian State Prize for Music and the Ring of Honour of the City of Vienna. Dvorak was also appointed director of the National Conservatory in New York City, where he lived and worked for several years.

**Personality:** Antonin Dvorak was described as a friendly and down-to-earth person. He was very proud of his Czech roots and his music was often inspired by the traditional sounds of his homeland. Dvorak was also described as a diligent and ambitious composer who worked hard to develop his own style.

**Influences:** Dvorak's music was shaped by many different influences, including Czech folk music, German classical music and American music. He was also influenced by other composers of his time, particularly Johannes Brahms, who was a close friend and mentor of Dvorak.

**Death:** Antonin Dvorak died of pneumonia in Prague on 1 May 1904 at the age of 62. Today he is honoured as one of the most important composers of the 19th century and as a national hero in the Czech Republic.



## Interview Taylor Swift (Group C)

**Interviewer:** Hello Taylor, thank you very much for your time. Let's talk about your musical journey. How did you get into music in the first place?

**Taylor Swift:** Hello, thank you for having me. I sang and played guitar a lot as a child. But it wasn't until I was a teenager that I started writing my own songs and sharing them on MySpace. That was the beginning of my musical journey.

**Interviewer:** Your music is often described as pop-country. What does this genre mean to you?

**Taylor Swift:** For me, this genre is a part of my identity. I grew up listening to country music, which you can hear in my early albums. But over time, I've evolved and integrated pop elements into my music. It's important for me to stay authentic and express myself creatively, and that has changed over time.

**Interviewer:** Which artists have inspired and influenced you?



**Taylor Swift:** There are a lot of artists that have inspired me. When I was younger, I listened to a lot of Shania Twain, Dixie Chicks and Faith Hill. Later, artists like Gwen Stefani, Beyoncé and Ed Sheeran also inspired me.

**Interviewer:** You have received many awards, including several Grammys. How important are such awards to you?

**Taylor Swift:** Of course, awards are an honour and show that my music is reaching people. But what matters most to me is that my music has an impact. If my songs touch people or bring joy, that is much more important to me than any award.

**Interviewer:** You write your own songs. How do you go about it and what emotions play a role?

**Taylor Swift:** When I write songs, it's always about telling a story. I try to bring my own experiences and feelings into the lyrics. Sometimes it starts with a specific feeling or idea, sometimes it just flows out of me. It's always a very personal and emotional experience for me.

**Interviewer:** What instruments do you play?

**Taylor Swift:** I play guitar and piano. I started with the guitar and I still love playing it. Lately I've also been writing a lot on the piano. It opens new ways of thinking and melodies for me.



## Subject text Taylor Swift (Group A)

Taylor Swift is an American singer and songwriter known for her honest and emotional lyrics. In an interview, she talked about her musical career and her love of music.

Taylor Swift was already singing and playing guitar as a child. But it wasn't until she was a teenager that she began writing her own songs and sharing them on MySpace, which marked the beginning of her career. Swift's music is characterised by her roots in country music, but she has also integrated pop elements.

She has been inspired by many artists, including Shania Twain, Dixie Chicks, Faith Hill and later Gwen Stefani, Beyoncé and Ed Sheeran. Her numerous awards, including several Grammys, mean a lot to her, but what is more important to her is that her music touches people and brings them joy.

When Taylor Swift writes her songs, it's always about telling stories and bringing in her own experiences and feelings.

The guitar is still her most important instrument, but she has also written a lot on the piano.

For Swift, musical instruments are something special because they can express emotions and tell stories. In the studio, she decides spontaneously which instrument best suits the mood and the desired sound.

Overall, Taylor Swift is an artist who makes music with passion and emotion. Her honest lyrics and unique voice have made her one of the most successful artists of our time. We can look forward to her upcoming releases.





## Fact sheet Taylor Swift (Group C)

Name: Taylor Swift  
Date of birth: 13. Dezember 1989  
Place of birth: Reading, Pennsylvania, USA  
Job: Sängerin, Songwriterin, Schauspielerin



**Known for:** Taylor Swift is one of the most successful and recognisable singers of our time. She has won several Grammy Awards and other honours for her music and is known for her lyrics about relationships and personal experiences. Swift has also appeared in several films and television programmes.

**Life story:** Taylor Swift grew up in Pennsylvania and began writing songs at an early age. She signed her first record deal at the age of 14 and released her debut album 'Taylor Swift' in 2006. Since then, she has released several successful albums, including 'Fearless', 'Speak Now', 'Red', '1989', 'Reputation' and 'Lover'. Swift is also known for her philanthropic activities and has supported various charitable organisations.

**Personality:** Taylor Swift is described as talented, hardworking and ambitious. She is also known for standing up for women's rights and equality and has spoken out against sexism and harassment in the past. Swift is also known for her close relationship with her fans and her open way of talking about her personal experiences and challenges.

**Influences:** Swift's music has been shaped by a variety of influences, including country, pop, rock and folk. She has also cited many famous musicians and artists as influences, including Shania Twain, Faith Hill, Mariah Carey, Madonna and Bruce Springsteen.

**Achievements:** Taylor Swift has received numerous awards and honours throughout her career. She has also broken several sales records and is considered one of the most commercially successful musicians in the world.



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