

Music as a form of communication

■ A bit of history

In nature, music has always been used as a form of communication: birds communicate by making meaningful sounds; they “talk” in sophisticated ways, for **courtship**, **mating** and to establish territories or to warn of danger.

In the early stages of **mankind**, music was probably used more for communication than for pleasure: drums, **horns** and bells were used during religious ceremonies and magical rites, and researchers suppose that early forms of human language developed through music.

■ Music and mankind

Even today, music allows people to connect with each other and find common ground easily. It provides a means by which people can share emotions, intentions, and meanings even though their spoken languages are incomprehensible, and it supplies a vital **lifeline** to human interaction for those whose special needs make other means of communication difficult.

From the drumbeats of our **ancestors** to today’s unlimited streaming services, music is an integral part of human life.



■ The effects of music

Researches have demonstrated that music affects our **mood** and produces emotions.

It potentially reduces anxiety and depression; it increases happiness and self-esteem; it improves the quality of life; it stimulates the emotional areas of the brain and it may take us back in time to emotions we felt.

Moreover, music training, with its pervasive effects on the nervous system’s ability to process sight and sound, may play a crucial role in **enhancing** verbal communication skills.

ancestor: *antenato*
courtship: *corteggiamento*
to crank up: *alzare*

to enhance: *aumentare*
horn: *corno*
lifeline: *linfa*

mankind: *umanità*
mating: *accoppiamento*
mood: *umore*



- 1  Read the text and summarise it in no more than two sentences.

Does Loud Music Affect How People Behave in a Bar?

Hanging out in a bar with good music usually lifts everyone's spirits, but is there another motive involved? A 2008 study conducted by behavioural researchers at the University of Southern Brittany in France looked at alcohol intake at two different bars over a three-week period, and discovered that people tend to drink more, and drink more quickly, when the decibel level of the background music is **cranked up**. The researchers observed a 31 percent increase in beer consumption when the music was raised from a base level of 72 dB to a louder 88 dB volume. The average patron drank 2.6 beers per visit at the lower noise level, and 3.4 beers when the music was louder. Patrons also drank beer more quickly, downing a brew in 14.51 minutes in normal conditions, and 11.45 minutes when the tunes got louder.

Adapted from: <http://www.wisegeek.com/does-loud-music-affect-how-people-behave-in-a-bar.htm?m>

- 2  Read the text and complete the sentences.

Drums in Communication

In Africa, New Guinea and tropical America, people have used drum telegraphy to communicate with each other from far away for centuries. When European expeditions came into the jungles to explore the local forest, they were surprised to find that the message of their coming and their intention was carried through the woods a step in advance of their arrival (a message can be transmitted at the speed of 100 miles an hour!). Drums spread across West Africa and to America and the Caribbean during the slave trade and there they were banned because used by the slaves to communicate over long distances in a code unknown to their enslavers. The traditional drumming found in Africa is actually of three different types. Firstly, a rhythm can represent an idea (or signal). Secondly it can repeat the accentual profile of a spoken utterance, or thirdly it can simply be subject to musical laws.

Adapted from: <http://begin-english.ru/stati-na-angliiskom/drums-in-communication#:~:text=Developed%20and%20used%20by%20cultures,from%20far%20away%20for%20centuries.>

1. In Africa drums have been used to communicate
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2. When Europeans went to Africa, they were surprised because
3. Drums message can reach the speed of
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4. In America the use of drums was banned
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5. Traditional African drumming may be
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