

ENGLISH EASTER WORK – COMPONENT 2

The following texts will be used in lessons when you come back in the exam format. Please answer the questions following the two texts below as this will get you to engage with the language of the texts.

Read the extract taken from The Telegraph newspaper below. Answer the questions in full sentences.

If you would like to read the full article, it can be found at the following location:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/9700384/Quiet-please-says-news-presenter-John-Humphrys.html>

'Quiet, please!' says news presenter John Humphrys

The world is getting louder, and the noise is damaging our health. It's time we all turned down the volume

It is inevitable that if you present the Today programme, you will become obsessed with noise. The first question strangers ask is always: "What time do you get up?" (Answer: the middle of the night.) The second is: "What time do you go to bed?" (Answer: absurdly early – long before the average 10-year-old.) And the third is: "How do you manage to sleep?"

Which is where noise comes in. Because it depends. If it is quiet, I sleep like a contented baby. If it is noisy, I sleep like a fractious baby with a particularly nasty teething problem. The difference is that if I am kept awake, I do not scream for attention but lie still, cursing all those selfish souls who think it acceptable to walk past my house at nine in the evening without lowering their voices to a whisper. Yes, I know this is seriously weird, but I would contend that there is no sentient being who is indifferent to noise.

I happen to be on the extreme end of the spectrum for obvious reasons, but you, dear reader, are on it, too. Do you not dread the approach of Christmas with the certain knowledge that every shop you enter will welcome you with canned Christmas carols? Or the fellow passenger who pulls out their mobile to make a phone call, forcing the entire carriage to listen in? Or the hotels who believe you cannot make it through a meal without music in the background? Even at breakfast, for God's sake!

Now answer the questions below:

1. What time does John Humphrys get up?
2. How does the writer use similes to support his views in the second paragraph?
3. How does the writer try to engage his readers?

Now read the following article and answer the questions that follow on the next page in full sentences.

To M.T Bass, Esq., M.O.

Sir,

YOUR undersigned correspondents are desirous to offer you their heart thanks for your introduction into the House of Commons for a Bill of the Suppression of Street Music; and they beg to assure you that, in the various ways open to them, they will, out of Parliament do their utmost to support you in your endeavor to abolish that intolerable nuisance.

Your correspondents are, all, professors and practitioners of one or other of the arts or sciences. In their devotion to their pursuits - tending to the peace and comfort of mankind - they are daily interrupted, harassed, worried, wearied, driven nearly mad by street musicians. They are even made especial objects by persecution by brazen performers on brazen instruments, beaters of drums, grinders of organs, bangers of banjos, clashers of cymbals, worriers of fiddles and bellowers of ballads; for, no sooner does it become known to those producers of horrible sounds that any of your correspondents have particular need of quiet in their own houses, that the said houses are beleaguered by discordant hosts seeking to be bought off.

Your correspondents represent to you that these pecuniary speculations in the misery they endure are far more destructive to their spirits than their pockets; and that some of them, not absolutely tied to London by their avocations, have actually fled into the country for refuge from this unmerited persecution - which is none the less grievous or hard to bear, because it is absurd.

Your grateful correspondents take the liberty to suggest to you that, although a Parliamentary debate undoubtedly requires great delicacy in the handling, their avocations require at least as much, and that it would highly conduce towards the success of your propped enactment, if you prevail on its opponents to consent to state their objections to it, assailed on all sides by the frightfull noises in despite of which your correspondents have to gain their bread.

(Signed)

CHARLES DICKENS

4. What does the adjective 'hearty' suggest about the people who have signed the proposal?
5. What are the street musicians doing to the professors and practitioners who have signed the proposal?
6. What adjective in line 16 gives Charles Dickens' view about people moving from the city to the country? What does it suggest?
7. What language choices does Dickens make in his last paragraph to persuade readers (the government) that they should respond?
8. Both of these texts are about noise. Compare how the writers feel about noise.