

## Breaking the ice

# The music scene

### A Speaking

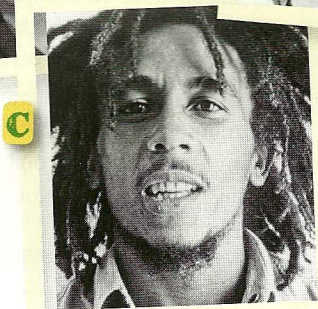
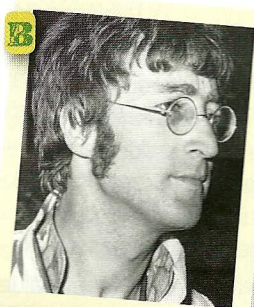
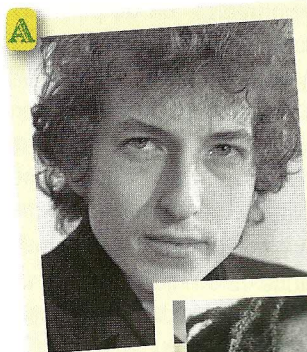
#### 1 Protest songs of the 1960s-1970s

- Name each singer, then match him with the extract from a song opposite.
- What did these singers protest against?
- Explain why the protest song movement was so important in the 60s-70s.

1  
Come you masters of war  
You that build the big guns  
You that build the death planes  
You that build all the bombs  
You that hide behind walls  
You that hide behind desks  
I just want you to know  
I can see through your masks.

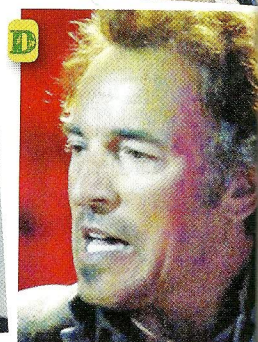
2  
Preacher man, don't tell me,  
Heaven is under the earth.  
I know you don't know  
What life is really worth.  
It's not all that glitters is gold;  
'Alf the story has never been told:  
So now you see the light, eh!  
Stand up for your rights. Come on!  
Get up, stand up: stand up for your rights!

3  
Two, one, two, three, four  
Everybody's talking about  
Bagism, Shagism, Dragism, Madism, Ragism, Tagism  
This-ism, that-ism, is-m, is-m, is-m.  
All we are saying is give peace a chance  
All we are saying is give peace a chance.



#### 2 Singers emblematic of the 1980s-1990s

- First, name each singer, then match him / her with one of the sentences below.
- In your opinion, which of these singers is the most emblematic of the 1980s-1990s? Explain why and give as many details as you can about him / her.
- Can you think of any other singer who could figure on the list of the top-five singers of that period? Justify your choice.



1 This singer was born in the USA and nicknamed "the Boss".

2 This singer was thrilled to learn that one of her / his albums was the best-selling album of all time.

3 This singer is known for continuously reinventing his / her image and music.

4 This singer is famous not only for his / her songs but also for his / her involvement in humanitarian causes, particularly in Africa.







# Breaking the ice



Reading

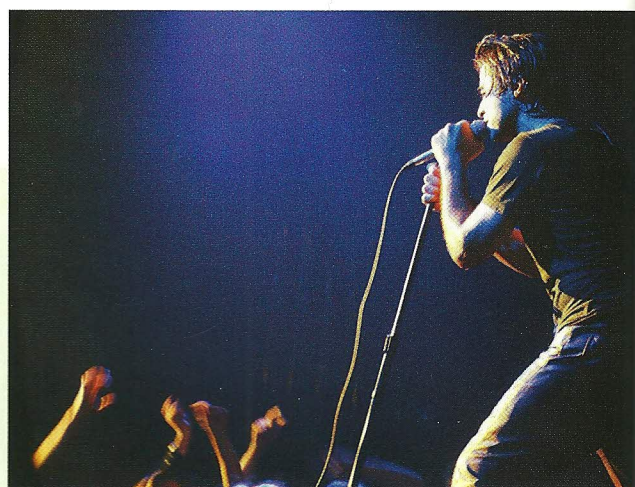


Nick HORNBY

was born in 1957 in England. His first novel, *Fever Pitch* (about his being a devoted Arsenal fan), made him a literary star in the UK. It was adapted for the screen as well as several of his best-selling novels: *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*, *An Education*.

## A Tucker fan

*Tucker Crowe is an American singer-song writer. Duncan has taken his girlfriend, Annie, on a trip through the USA, visiting the various places where Tucker Crowe had lived.*



- "I promise that after this holiday I won't be so Tuckercentric," he said.  
 "That's OK, I don't mind."  
 "I've wanted to do this for a long time."  
 10 "I know."  
 "I'll have got him out of my system."  
 "I hope not."  
 "Really?"  
 "What would there be left of you, if you did?"  
 15 She hadn't meant it cruelly. She'd been with Duncan for nearly fifteen years, and Tucker Crowe had always been part of the package, like a disability. To begin with, the condition hadn't prevented him from living a normal life: yes, he'd written a book, as yet unpublished, about Tucker, lectured on him, contributed to a radio documentary for the BBC and organized conventions, but somehow  
 20 these activities had always seemed to Annie like isolated episodes, sporadic attacks. And then the Internet came along and changed everything.  
 When, a little later than everyone else, Duncan discovered how it all worked, he set up a website called "Can Anybody Hear Me?", the title of a track from an obscure EP<sup>1</sup> recorded after the wounding<sup>2</sup> failure of Crowe's first album. Until  
 25 then, the nearest fellow fan had lived in Manchester, sixty or seventy miles away, and Duncan met up with him once or twice a year; now the nearest fans lived in Duncan's laptop, and there were hundreds of them, from all around the world, and Duncan spoke to them all the time. There seemed to be a surprising amount to talk about. The website had a "Latest News" section, which never failed to  
 30 amuse Annie, Tucker no longer being a man who did an awful lot. ("As far as we know," Duncan always said.) There was always something that passed for news among the faithful, though – a Crowe night on an Internet radio station, a new article, a new album from a former band-member, an interview with an engineer. The bulk<sup>3</sup> of the content, though, consisted of essays analysing lyrics, or  
 35 discussing influences, or conjecturing, apparently inexhaustibly, about the silence. It wasn't as if Duncan didn't have other interests. But these were all flirtations, by comparison. Tucker Crowe was his life-partner. If Crowe were to die – to die in real life, as it were, rather than creatively – Duncan would lead the mourning.

Nick HORNBY, *Juliet, Naked* (2009)

1. Extended Play: musical recording between the single and the full album or LP

2. *blessant*

3. *essentiel*



## 1 Reading comprehension WORKBOOK → p. 4

Turn to your *Workbook* for help in understanding the text.

## 2 Key questions

- What shows that Duncan's interest for Tucker has grown obsessional? What parallel does he make when he says "I'll have got him out of my system" (l. 11)?
- What is paradoxical about Tucker's fans' interest in their idol since the birth of Internet?
- Analyse Annie's attitude toward Duncan's addiction to Tucker Crowe.
- Do you agree with Annie when she refers to Duncan's addiction in terms of disability?

### toolbox

#### Nouns

- pilgrimage: *pèlerinage*
- addict /'ædɪkt/
- expert
- icon /'aɪkɒn/

#### Adjectives

- obsessed /əb'sest/
- obsessive /əb'sesɪv/
- addicted /ə'dɪktɪd/
- ironical /aɪ'rɒnɪkəl/
- unhealthy: *malsain*

#### Verbs & expressions

- dedicate one's life to
- keep V-ING: *ne pas arrêter de*
- look up to = admire
- idolize
- be on drugs
- make fun of: *se moquer de*



Fans during a vigil on the 10th anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death in Seattle

## E Writing

### Music pilgrimages

- A Seattle tour takes Nirvana's fans to the house where Kurt Cobain lived and died.
- Graceland, home of rock 'n' roll star Elvis Presley is a magnet to thousands each year.
- The tomb of Jim Morrison, The Doors' lead singer, in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, is one of the city's top attractions.

Would you be ready to undertake a music pilgrimage? Why or why not? (200 words)

### LES ÉVALUATIONS DIAGNOSTIQUES

Vous venez de vous entraîner dans les cinq activités langagières. Votre professeur va maintenant vous fournir des fiches vous permettant de vous évaluer et de déterminer à quel niveau du CECRL vous vous situez dans ces cinq activités.