

## Huge financial rescue package for UK arts

8th July, 2020



The government in the United Kingdom has announced it will give nearly \$2 billion to help support the country's arts industry. The money will go to theatres, concert halls, galleries, museums and other cultural

venues. It will help people who have had a hard time during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include actors, writers, composers, make-up artists, costumers and support staff. The UK government said the money represents, "the biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture". It added: "The money will provide a lifeline to vital cultural and heritage organisations across the country hit hard by the pandemic. It will help them stay afloat while their doors are closed."

The UK is world famous for its arts. People across the globe know and love cultural icons like Shakespeare, The Beatles and James Bond. Britain's theatres, museums and galleries attract millions of tourists every year. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "From iconic theatre and musicals, mesmerising exhibitions at our world-class galleries, to gigs performed in local basement venues, the UK's cultural industry is the beating heart of this country." The UK's Culture Secretary said: "Our arts and culture are the soul of our nation. They make our country great and are the centre of our world-beating and fast growing creative industries. This money will help safeguard the sector for future generations."

Sources: gov.uk / the guardian.com / metro.co.uk

### Writing

Spending money on the arts is very, very important. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / announce / arts / industry / theatre / make-up / pandemic / help / famous / icon / gallery / musical / exhibition / venue / basement / creative / future

### True / False

- a) The UK government is giving the arts over £2 billion. T / F
- b) The money will go to theatres, galleries and sporting venues. T / F
- c) The money will help make-up artists. T / F
- d) The UK government called the money a lifeline. T / F
- e) The article said Shakespeare is not so famous around the world today. T / F
- f) Boris Johnson likes to attend the Iconic Theatre in London. T / F
- g) Boris Johnson spoke about memorising exhibitions. T / F
- h) The money will help to protect the future of the arts in the UK. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. <b>announced</b>  | a. visitors |
| 2. <b>support</b>    | b. give     |
| 3. <b>venues</b>     | c. back     |
| 4. <b>provide</b>    | d. protect  |
| 5. <b>hit</b>        | e. country  |
| 6. <b>globe</b>      | f. stated   |
| 7. <b>tourists</b>   | g. concerts |
| 8. <b>gigs</b>       | h. affected |
| 9. <b>nation</b>     | i. places   |
| 10. <b>safeguard</b> | j. world    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the arts?
- b) What arts do you like?
- c) How has coronavirus affected the arts in your country?
- d) What arts is your country good at?
- e) What do you think of museums?
- f) What is your favourite museum?
- g) How proud are you of your country's culture?
- h) How important is heritage and culture?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. help support the                    | a. generations             |
| 2. people who have had a hard          | b. by the pandemic         |
| 3. the biggest ever one-               | c. like Shakespeare        |
| 4. hit hard                            | d. famous for its arts     |
| 5. It will help them stay afloat while | e. country's arts industry |
| 6. The UK is world                     | f. heart of this country   |
| 7. cultural icons                      | g. off investment          |
| 8. attract millions                    | h. their doors are closed  |
| 9. the beating                         | i. of tourists             |
| 10. safeguard the sector for future    | j. time                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the UK's culture?
- What parts of the UK's culture do you like?
- What is the "beating heart" of your country?
- How creative are you?
- What area of the arts would you like to work in?
- What is the greatest ever example of the arts?
- What questions would you like to ask an unemployed actor?

## Spelling

- the country's arts dysrtniu
- money will go to theatres, concert halls, ilgelresa ...
- museums and other cultural vneuse
- writers, sroosmpec, make-up artists
- The money will provide a ifenleli
- hit hard by the dacnepim
- cultural nosic
- tctarta millions of tourists
- musicals, mesmerising einbthiioxs
- the soul of our nniaot
- This money will help drguaaesf the sector
- for future orgnnseitae

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. j	7. a	8. g	9. e	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – The Beatles

You think The Beatles is the best thing about British culture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the royal family, fish and chips or tea.

### Role B – The Royal Family

You think the royal family is the best thing about British culture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): The Beatles, fish and chips or tea.

### Role C – Fish and Chips

You think fish and chips is the best thing about British culture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the royal family, The Beatles or tea.

### Role D – Tea

You think tea is the best thing about British culture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the royal family, fish and chips or The Beatles.

## Speaking – UK Culture

Rank these with your partner. Put the best examples of UK culture at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| • Shakespeare | • The royal family     |
| • The Beatles | • Fish and chips       |
| • Mr Bean     | • Tea                  |
| • James Bond  | • Chicken tikka masala |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.