



# British Music & English Course Newsletter

This is the first ever monthly Newsletter about the **NEW!!** British Music & English Course being launched this summer by Answer English and Tti School of English in Camden, London.

The Newsletter aims to inform you about bands present and past in the London music scene, keep you up-to-date about the course, and let you know about other websites for you to check out.

Also you will see our roving reporter **Amanda Algueró Alejos**, the face of the new course, and her interviews of London bands.

So please take a look and enjoy learning more about an important part of British culture...

**Features this month:** Rock Icon: David Bowie  
Music Exercise: Space Oddity  
British band of the month: The Garuda Commute  
Interview: James Wilkins  
British Music Course  
List of Sites to check out

If you would like to be sent future editions of our newsletter please send an e-mail to [enquiry@answerenglish.com](mailto:enquiry@answerenglish.com) or call us on +44 20 7402 8651.

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## Rock Icon: David Bowie

Most successful musicians change their style somewhat over the course of their career, but few have **evolved** as rapidly or as **adroitly** as British rock star David Bowie, born David Robert Jones in Brixton, London, on 8 Jan 1947. He later changed his name to Bowie to avoid confusion with Monkee Davy Jones.

The self-ascribed "Chameleon of Pop" has played many roles during his long career, usually **coinciding** with major stylistic changes that were often **eerily** prescient of pop trends. He began mixing feminine and masculine elements in his wardrobe, hairstyles and makeup in the early 70s. From his early years as a glam icon to his critically acclaimed late 1970s work with Brian Eno and his runaway commercial success in the 1980s, Bowie has remained a **fixture** in rock music, all the while **dabbling** in production, stage and screen acting, and art (Bowie draws, paints, sculpts and writes in his spare time even if he got just one O Level in art.)

His first ever release was Liza Jane / Louie Louie Go Home in June 1964, under the name of Davie Jones with The King-Bees. Bowie's first hit in the UK - 1969's Space Oddity - was used by the BBC in its coverage of the moon landing. This first album contained an eclectic mix of psychedelic rock and easy listening. The biggest-selling album of Bowie's career was Let's Dance, released in 1980.

Today Bowie is one of the wealthiest rock stars in the U.K. (Bowie is believed to have sold in the region of 140 million albums over his career and owns a company called UltraStar which designs websites and is also an ISP) - a testament to his enormous popular appeal as well as his **astute** investments. His most recent album, *Reality* was released in 2003.

### Glossary

Evolve (v) develop gradually by a natural process

Adroit (adj.) dextrous, skilful

Coincide (v) occur at or during the same time

Eerie (adj.) gloomy and strange, frightening, weird

Fixture (n) a person or thing confined to or established in one place

Dabble (v) take a casual or superficial interest or part

Astute (adj.) shrewd; sagacious

## Musical Exercise: Space Oddity

As part of the British Music & English course this summer, we will use famous songs by British Icons as listening exercises to help you to build up your listening skills and learn new vocabulary. This month we are starting with Space Oddity.

The exercise is very simple all you need to do is find a copy of Space Oddity, be it from a friend or family member or downloaded legally from the Internet, and listen to the song, filling in the missing words as you go.

We recommend trying to listen just 2 times, to push yourself to improve your listening skills. The answers are on the next page:

Ground Control to Major Tom  
Ground Control to Major Tom  
Take your \_\_\_\_\_  
and put your \_\_\_\_\_ on

Ground Control to Major Tom  
Commencing \_\_\_\_\_,  
engines on  
Check \_\_\_\_\_  
and may God's love be with you

[spoken] Ten, Nine, Eight, Seven, Six, Five, Four, Three, Two, One, Lift-off

This is Ground Control  
to Major Tom  
You've really \_\_\_\_\_  
And the papers want to know whose \_\_\_\_\_  
Now it's time to leave the capsule  
if you dare

This is Major Tom to Ground Control  
I'm \_\_\_\_\_  
And I'm floating  
in a most \_\_\_\_\_  
And the stars look very different today

For here  
Am I sitting in a \_\_\_\_\_  
Far above the world  
\_\_\_\_\_ is blue  
And there's nothing I can do

Though I'm past  
\_\_\_\_\_  
I'm feeling very still  
And I think my spaceship knows which way to go  
\_\_\_\_\_  
she knows

Ground Control to Major Tom  
Your circuit's dead,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Can you hear me, Major Tom?  
Can you hear me, Major Tom?  
Can you hear me, Major Tom?  
Can you....

(Exercise End)

## Answers to Space Oddity Exercise:

- 1 protein pills
- 2 helmet
  
- 3 countdown
- 4 ignition
  
- 5 made the grade
- 6 shirts you wear
  
- 7 stepping through the door
- 8 peculiar way
  
- 9 tin can
- 10 planet earth
  
- 11 one hundred thousand miles
- 12 Tell my wife I love her very much
  
- 13 there's something wrong

How many did you get right?

If you are not sure what some of the words mean here is a Glossary to help you out.

### Glossary

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| protein pills        | supplements designed to build up muscle                                      |
| helmet               | a head-protective covering worn by soldiers, policemen, motor cyclists...    |
| countdown            | the act of counting down, esp. at launch of a rocket etc.                    |
| ignition             | a mechanism for starting a machine e.g. a car or space rocket                |
| make the grade       | be at the right level for something  |
| whose shirt you wear | who you support<br>in this case: refers to the pilots nationality            |
| peculiar way         | strange, odd, unusual way to do something, often belonging to the individual |
| tin can              | a tin container, here: the spaceship   |

## British band of the month: The Garuda Commute

The British rock band **The Garuda Commute** (formed in 2006) was already established in 2004 and performed more than 2 years under the name of *K-A-I-B-O-S-H*. The band was founded in North London and comprises elements of rock, soul, psychedelia and visceral energy. With a sound that Kerrang describes as "a Led Zeppelin meets The Doors hybrid often ending up nearer QOTSA epic freak outs... KKK". Garuda Commute is gathering an ever-growing army of supporters at their live shows in London and beyond.

Band members:      Jim (vocals & guitar)  
                              Chris (Keys)  
                              Al (drums)  
                              Rob (bass)



The Garuda Commute are signed to *Criminal Records* a London based independent label. Formed in 2004 Criminal Records represents the independent basement rock scene and hosts a massive heap of acts at eclectic live events.

### What others say about The Garuda Commute

"The Garuda Commute will remind of Muse but rawer – people soon start paying attention. Vocals are long anguished notes that ring out through the entire tiny venue – the crowd happy that they have someone new to look up"  
(SANDMAN MAGAZINE)

"Heavy, well crafted, angst driven... If you liked what you read then you will love what you hear" (Pleasure Unit – Reuben Review)

"A twisted hulk of de-tuned riffs and fiery dynamics" (VIRTUALFESTIVALS.CO.UK)

"It's apparent that these guys are going to be able to stand their own on a stage much larger than that of 93 Feet East. Certainly with tracks like 'Curse This Day' and its epic Foo Fighters style chorus you can easily imagine them at next year's Reading. Live they take much darker and heavier sound – tracks like 'I Took That From You' lie more closely with the dark musings of Soundgarden and QOTSA." (LONDONIST.co.uk)

Find out more about Garuda Commute at: [MySpace](#)

### Interview with Jim Wilkins, lead singer of *The Garuda Commute*

We have an exclusive interview with Jim Wilkins lead singer of The Garuda Commute. Amanda the face of the British Music & English course questions Jim on everything from how the band started to what they do to get people to go to their gigs.

Check out Amanda's interview here on You Tube: [Interview](#)

## **British Music & English Course**

NEW and exclusive!!! This course is ideal for fans of British music that are looking for a course that combines their love of music with learning the English language. If you count Coldplay, Arctic Monkeys, The Rolling Stones, Oasis or BabyShambles among your favourite bands - this is the course for you!

On the British Music & English 2 week course you will feel a lot more confident at listening to and understanding spoken English. You will take 30 hours of General English plus 10 hours of classes that use British music as the medium to learn English. Plus walking tours like the Beatles London walking tour for example, to ensure you are able to impress people with your knowledge of British music back home, parties such as a Best of British party, karaoke night, film night and the music & pub quiz and much, much more!

Overall you will have a lot of fun and enjoyment as these classes will keep you interested and entertained.

### **London - Camden**

The school is located in Camden Town, the heart of fashionable London right on Camden High Street within one minute's walk from the underground and a five minute walk from the world-famous Camden Town Market and Camden Lock. As you enter you go up the stairs and you will find yourself in the large student room, complete with computers and Internet access.

The school is very sociable and owns a very friendly atmosphere. Both the student room and the terrace outside are always filled with students. Outdoor spaces such as these are rare in London and students of London - Camden enjoy, especially in the summer, have the chance to relax outside with people from all over the world. The school is very popular, well respected and many students return every year – a symbol of the quality time you will spend there.

### **Course details:**

*Class size:* 15 students

*Minimum age:* 16 years old

*Level available:* Intermediate - Advanced

*Number of classes per week:* 20 classes

*Length of 1 class:* 50 minutes

*Time:* 12:00 – 16:00

*Course start dates:* 02/06/08 - 13/06/08; 30/06/08 - 11/07/08; 14/07/08 - 25/07/08; 11/08/08 - 22/08/08

*Minimum course length:* 2 weeks

### **Course fees:**

2 weeks British Music & English Course, £389

There is no enrolment fee. Accommodation not included.

Read more on the Answer English Website: [British Music & English course](#)

See Amanda launch the course on YouTube with Jen Brister off BBC 6 Music radio: [British Music & English course launch](#)

And with Anna Jover from TV3 Catalan TV Channel: [British Music & English course launch](#) (Spanish Version)

## List of sites to check out

Here are some online resources you might like to investigate:

| <b>Name</b>                      | <b>Contents</b>   | <b>Webpage</b>   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b><i>Froots</i></b>             | Roots, folk and world music monthly   | <a href="http://www.frootsmag.com">www.frootsmag.com</a>                   |
| <b><i>Jazzwise</i></b>           | Leading jazz monthly  | <a href="http://www.jazzwise.com">www.jazzwise.com</a>                     |
| <b><i>Kerrang!</i></b>           | World's biggest selling rock music weekly   | <a href="http://www.kerrang.com">www.kerrang.com</a>                       |
| <b><i>Mojo</i></b>               | Rock, alternative and world music monthly   | <a href="http://www.mojo4music.com">www.mojo4music.com</a>                 |
| <b><i>Music</i></b>              | The BBC's best-selling classical music magazine                                     | <a href="http://www.bbcmagazines.com/music">www.bbcmagazines.com/music</a> |
| <b><i>NME</i></b>                | Long established rock and pop weekly  | <a href="http://www.nme.com">www.nme.com</a>                               |
| <b><i>Straight No Chaser</i></b> | Interplanetary sounds: ancient to future 5 times a year                             | <a href="http://www.straightnochaser.co.uk">www.straightnochaser.co.uk</a> |
| <b><i>The Wire</i></b>           | Adventurous, modern music monthly   | <a href="http://www.thewire.co.uk">www.thewire.co.uk</a>                   |
| <b><i>Songlines</i></b>          | The world music magazine  | <a href="http://www.songlines.co.uk">www.songlines.co.uk</a>               |
| <b><i>Knowledge</i></b>          | Specialist UK drum & bass monthly   | <a href="http://www.knowledgemag.co.uk">www.knowledgemag.co.uk</a>         |
| <b><i>Deuce</i></b>              | Bi-monthly UK garage, R&B and hip hop magazine                                      | <a href="http://www.deucemag.com">www.deucemag.com</a>                     |
| <b><i>Bigmouth</i></b>           | UK music information station with tour dates, music events, and artist information. | <a href="http://www.bigmouth.co.uk">www.bigmouth.co.uk</a>                 |
| <b><i>Q Online</i></b>           | Premier UK music magazine.  | <a href="http://www.q4music.com">www.q4music.com</a>                       |
| <b><i>Aversion</i></b>           | Find the latest news about rock, punk, and indie artists                            | <a href="http://www.aversion.com">www.aversion.com</a>                     |
| <b><i>Music Emissions</i></b>    | Covers many genres including punk, hip-hop, folk and blues, metal, and alt-rock     | <a href="http://www.musicemissions.com">www.musicemissions.com</a>         |
| <b><i>NY Rock</i></b>            | Rock & roll, served up New York City style  | <a href="http://www.nyrock.com">www.nyrock.com</a>                         |
| <b><i>Rolling Stone</i></b>      | Covers all themes connected to music and celebrities                                | <a href="http://www.rollingstone.com">www.rollingstone.com</a>             |

**We hope that you have enjoyed the first of our Newsletters on the British Music and English course. Please remember if you would like to be sent future editions of our newsletter or would like more information on the course please send an e-mail to [enquiry@answerenglish.com](mailto:enquiry@answerenglish.com) or call us on +44 20 7402 8651.**