

The Mullet (B1)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you often change hairstyles?
2. Have you ever cut your own hair? If so, when? Why? Were you happy with the result?
3. Does your present hairstyle have a name? If so, what is it? Is it fashionable?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. If you have a mullet haircut, your hair is
a) shorter at the back. b) all the same length. c) longer at the back.
2. It's a hairstyle that was sometimes worn
a) in Greek and Roman times. b) by Native American tribes. c. Both of these.
3. The cut was first called a mullet
a) in 1990. b) in the 1990s. c) in the 1980s.
4. One of the first singers to wear this style was
a) Tom Jones. b) David Bowie. c) Rod Stewart.
5. The USA Mullet Championship was founded in
a) 2021. b) 2020. c) 2018.
6. A similar competition had already started two years earlier in
a) Australia. b. Austria. b) the United Kingdom.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How did the haircut come to be called 'the mullet'?
2. Why was David Bowie's mullet so striking?
3. What kind of people wore a mullet in the 1980s?
4. Who continued to wear it even when it went out of fashion?
5. What explanation is given for the return of the hairstyle in 2020?
6. Why is it particularly popular in Australia?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Fish like salmon are covered in _____. Before cooking these fish, it's best to remove them.
2. Julie found it difficult to talk about her family, even when she was _____ friends.
3. Our grandma didn't open the door to the robber, though he _____ to be a police officer.
4. You'll have to hand in your exam paper at 4 o'clock, _____ you've finished or not.
5. I was sorry to hear about the _____ of that restaurant. It was one of my favourites.
6. Tom's had a haircut. He went to that new _____ _____ in the High Street.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

In a 2019 interview, actor Kiefer Sutherland claimed that he was responsible ¹ _____ inventing the hairstyle later called 'the mullet'. In 1987, he was eighteen and was filming *The Lost Boys*, a vampire classic directed ² _____ Joel Schumacher. Sutherland had an important ³ _____ as

David, a terrifying vampire biker. Schumacher wanted Sutherland to ⁴_____ his long hair dyed white, but Sutherland didn't like the result ⁵_____ all, so he had the ⁶_____ cut short, like singer Billy Idol, but kept it long at the back and sides to please Schumacher.

F – Write about it

Write about a hairstyle that's fashionable in your country at the moment. Mention:

- whether it's a man's/woman's/unisex style;
- what it's like;
- when/why it became fashionable;
- whether you like it.

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. c 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. b 6. a

C – Read and answer

1. It got that name when an American rap-rock band released a song with the title *Mullet Head* in 1994. 2. It was brilliant orange. 3. In the 1980s it was worn by stars of music, the arts and sport and also by their fans. 4. The members of certain subcultures, like American hockey stars and K-pop artists. 5. During Covid-19 lockdowns, hair salons were closed so many people cut their own hair and the mullet was an easy style to cut. 6. Because it's considered by many to be a symbol of Australian culture and identity.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. scales 2. among 3. claimed 4. whether 5. closure 6. hair salon

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. for 2. by 3. role/part 4. have/get 5. at 6. top