

**Describing music vocabulary and speaking**  
**music vocabulary/ adverbs of degree/ adjectives/ opinions**  
**Landmark Advanced Unit 11**

*Use these adverbs to describe particular music and try to find opinions which are the same as your partner:*

|            |              |                       |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| slightly   | quite        |                       |
| really     | particularly |                       |
| very       | too          |                       |
| fairly     | rather       |                       |
| absolutely | completely   | extremely/ incredibly |

*Do the same by combining the adverbs above with these adjectives:*

|                                          |                   |              |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| relaxing/ soothing/ calming/ chilled out | uplifting         |              |
| moving                                   | catchy            | eclectic     |
| atonal                                   | dark              |              |
| poppy                                    | acoustic          | husky        |
| elegant                                  | unique            |              |
| deep                                     | classic/ timeless | cheerful     |
| distinctive                              | hummable          |              |
| cathartic                                | sophisticated     | cosmopolitan |
| commercial                               | cheesy            |              |
| clichéd                                  | repetitive        |              |
| dated                                    | out of tune       |              |
| over the top                             | long-winded       |              |
| mellow                                   | jazzy             |              |
| trendy                                   | up-tempo          |              |
| sugary                                   | bland             |              |
| irritating                               | monotonous        | pretentious  |
| modern                                   | contemporary      |              |
| melancholy                               | rhythmic          |              |

*When your teacher stops you, share an opinion you agreed on and see what the class thinks.*

*Ask about anything above which you are not sure about, working together as a class to use it to describe particular kinds of music each time.*



*Label the sections above as positive, negative or mixed/neutral, then check as a class.*

*Use similar language to share your opinions about topics from this list:*

- AOR/ MOR
- acapella
- background music/ elevator music/ supermarket music)
- backing vocals
- bass line
- bonus tracks
- boy bands/ girl bands
- catchiness/ catchy choruses/ catchy tunes
- chart music
- choral music
- classical music
- classics
- (greatest hits) compilations
- concept albums
- controversial artists
- deep lyrics
- double albums
- downloads
- famous conductors
- famous orchestras
- guitar riffs
- (long) guitar solos
- hype (hyped debuts, etc)
- instrumental pop music
- jazz standards
- live recordings/ concert recordings
- manufactured pop
- music that comes to a crescendo (= swells up)
- music that fades out
- music that you can sing along to
- number ones
- one hit wonders
- orchestral arrangements
- pub bands
- remasters/ reissues
- (extended/ dance) remixes
- second albums
- short bursts of pop music in a film
- soul music, e.g. Motown
- (film) soundtracks
- strong beats
- tribute bands/ cover bands
- world music