



Some Vocabulary Explained

There are many ways to describe music and, of course, there is also a lot of great vocabulary we can use. Firstly, we can describe what **genre** (type) of music a song belongs to such as: **Jazz**, **Flamenco**, **Classical**, **Rock** etc.

Then, we can talk about the **effects** the song has on the listener. For example, we could say a song is **relaxing**, **happy** or **sad** etc. The **rhythm** or **tempo** (speed) of the music is important to mention also. A song can have a **fast**, **upbeat tempo** or a **melodic**, **slow** or **gradual** tempo or **rhythm**.

Lastly, we can describe the sound volume of the song. **Heavy Metal** songs usually are **loud**, or, even, **raucous** with electric guitars playing **strong** or **piercing** sounds and **drums** banging really **loudly**. **Jazz**, *on the other hand*, can be **gentle**, **soft** and **mellow** with **rich**, **warm** and **smooth** bass sounds. However, sometimes the trumpets can be **brassy**, **loud** or even **harsh**.

A Table of Much More Music Vocabulary

Genre (Types)	Effects on Listener	Tempo/Rhythm	Volume
rock	mellow	fast	loud
pop	upbeat	brisk	soft
reggae	soothing	upbeat	brassy
jazz	exciting	quick	gentle
country	uplifting	moderate	natural
Latin	relaxing/calming	slow	raucous
Easy-Listening	stimulating	gradual	strong
blues	enlightening	energetic	smooth
classical	frightening	joyful	rich
rap	scary	sad/melancholic	mellow
disco	uplifting	rapid/lively	shrill/piercing
instrumental	calming	steady	clear
ambient/chillout	catchy	frantic	harsh
soul	happy	melodic	warm
gospel	sad/melancholic		bright
alternative			dark
indie			light
rock			nice
heavy metal			
romantic			
folk			
electronic			
opera			
choral			
rhythm and blues			
Flamenco			
punk			



Putting the Vocabulary Into Practice – A Description of a Song

Click on the
Image to Hear
the Song!



A Description of **True Friends** by Jerry Fish

*This song is a mixture of **Easy-listening**, **Pop** and **Jazz**. It is very **mellow**, **soothing** and **relaxing**. It makes me feel **calm**. For me, the message is actually quite **uplifting** because it is positive and hopeful that everything will be OK. The tempo is not **too slow** or **too fast**, I suppose you could say that it is **steady** and **melodic** but definitely not **frantic**! One of the things I really love about this song is that it is not **loud** (there are no guitars played strongly, for example!). It is a **nice**, **mellow**, **smooth** and **gentle** song. The lyrics are very **clear**, and the music is also **warm**. I don't think that it is **catchy** because the words or the tune don't 'stick' in my head!*

Your Description of One of Your Favourite Songs

Write a little description (100-120 words) about your favourite song. Be sure to write about the four categories presented in the Music Vocabulary Table on Page 1. There might be some vocabulary that you know or need that isn't in the table, so you can use this also!
