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Level 6

Hit musical 'Cats' gets rap song

10th July, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' has had a slight makeover for its comeback performances starting in December in London. One of the traditional songs will now be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he felt the musical needed to be updated to appeal to a new generation of theatre-goers. Lloyd Webber based his musical on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a group of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which cat gets to come back to life after death. 'Cats' first opened in London's West End in 1981 and on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous awards and ran for twenty-one years in the English capital.

The rap will be performed by the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said the original poem that the cat sings, written in the 1930s, has a strong rap rhythm. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the conclusion...that maybe Eliot was the inventor of rap." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop." The show's producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the decision to include the rap. He said: "There is a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly elements of the show that can be reinvigorated in very contemporary terms."

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/theatre/theatre-news/10951867/Cats-classic-musical-to-feature-a-rapping-cat.html>
<http://www.standard.co.uk/goingout/theatre/andrew-lloyd-webbers-hit-musical-cats-gets-hiphop-twist-as-it-returns-to-west-end-9589096.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cats_%28musical%29

WARM-UPS

1. RAP: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rap. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

makeover / comeback / traditional / appeal / generation / famous / awards / capital / performed / rebellious / rhythm / rapper / inventor / hip-hop / discovered / show

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. MUSICALS: What might these imaginary musicals be about? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Basic story	What happens at the end?
"Dogs"		
"Smile"		
"World Cup"		
"I Love You"		
"English"		
"QWERTY"		

4. STAGE: Students A **strongly** believe musicals are better than operas; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. MUSIC: Rank these with your partner. Put the best music for a musical at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- rap
- rock
- classical
- jazz
- R & B
- reggae
- country
- punk

6. MAKEOVER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "makeover". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. All songs in the new version of the musical 'Cats' will be rapped. T / F
- b. Rap has been introduced to get younger people to see musicals. T / F
- c. The story of 'Cats' is based on an entry about cats in an encyclopaedia. T / F
- d. 'Cats' opened in New York a year after it opened in London. T / F
- e. The rap will be performed by the cat who follows all the rules. T / F
- f. The 'Cats' writer joked that a famous British writer was the first rapper. T / F
- g. The writer of 'Cats' is also the producer. T / F
- h. A guy called Nunn said parts of the show could be made more modern. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. hit | a. tempo |
| 2. traditional | b. age group |
| 3. updated | c. creator |
| 4. generation | d. standard |
| 5. ran | e. energised |
| 6. rhythm | f. modernised |
| 7. conclusion | g. incorporate |
| 8. inventor | h. box-office success |
| 9. include | i. deduction |
| 10. invigorated | j. continued |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The hit musical 'Cats' has had | a. to be updated |
| 2. comeback | b. poem |
| 3. the musical needed | c. awards |
| 4. come back | d. terms |
| 5. It won numerous | e. a slight makeover |
| 6. the original | f. of kids |
| 7. a strong | g. to life |
| 8. the inventor | h. performances |
| 9. a whole generation | i. of rap |
| 10. in very contemporary | j. rap rhythm |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' has had a (1) _____ makeover for its comeback performances starting in December in London. One of the (2) _____ songs will now be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he felt the musical needed to be (3) _____ to appeal to a new (4) _____ of theatre-goers. Lloyd Webber (5) _____ his musical on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a (6) _____ of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which cat gets to come back to (7) _____ after death. 'Cats' first opened in London's West End in 1981 and on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous (8) _____ and ran for twenty-one years in the English capital.

generation
life
traditional
group
slight
awards
updated
based

The rap will be (9) _____ by the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said the (10) _____ poem that the cat sings, written in the 1930s, has a strong rap (11) _____. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the (12) _____ ...that maybe Eliot was the (13) _____ of rap." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop." The show's producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the (14) _____ to include the rap. He said: "There is a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly (15) _____ of the show that can be reinvigorated in very contemporary (16) _____."

conclusion
decision
elements
performed
terms
original
inventor
rhythm

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

- 1) The hit musical 'Cats' has had a slight makeover for its _____
 - a. comeback performance
 - b. comeback performance is
 - c. comeback perform ants is
 - d. comeback performances
- 2) Andrew Lloyd Webber said he felt the musical needed _____
 - a. to be outdated
 - b. to be updated
 - c. to be update it
 - d. to be updates
- 3) appeal to a new generation _____
 - a. of theatre-goers
 - b. of theatre-go as
 - c. of theatre-goes as
 - d. of theatre-golfers
- 4) decide which cat gets to come back to _____
 - a. life after deaths
 - b. life after dying
 - c. life after death
 - d. life after deathly
- 5) It won numerous awards and ran for twenty-one years _____
 - a. in the English capitals
 - b. in the English capital
 - c. in the English cap it all
 - d. in the English cap it tall
- 6) The rap will be performed by the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a _____
 - a. rebellious street cat
 - b. rebelliously street cat
 - c. rebellion street cat
 - d. rebel on us street cat
- 7) the original poem that the cat sings, written in the 1930s, has a _____
 - a. stronger rap rhythm
 - b. strong raps rhythm
 - c. strong rap rhythm
 - d. strong rap rhythms
- 8) I've come to the conclusion...that maybe Eliot was the _____
 - a. invention of rap
 - b. inventors of rap
 - c. inventory of rap
 - d. inventor of rap
- 9) Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the decision to _____
 - a. include the wrap
 - b. include the lap
 - c. include the rap
 - d. include the rapt
- 10) elements of the show that can be reinvigorated in very _____
 - a. contemporary items
 - b. contemporary terms
 - c. contemporary teams
 - d. contemporary trams

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' has had (1) _____ for its comeback performances starting in December in London. One of the traditional songs (2) _____. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he felt the musical needed to be (3) _____ to a new generation of theatre-goers. Lloyd Webber based his musical on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" (4) _____ writer T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a group of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which cat gets (5) _____ life after death. 'Cats' first opened in London's West End in 1981 and on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous (6) _____ twenty-one years in the English capital.

The rap will (7) _____ the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said the original poem that the cat sings, written in the 1930s, has (8) _____. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the conclusion...that maybe Eliot was (9) _____." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he (10) _____." The show's producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the (11) _____ the rap. He said: "There is a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly elements of the show that (12) _____ in very contemporary terms."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

1. When does 'Cats' start its new season?

2. Who does the writer of 'Cats' want to appeal to?

3. Who wrote the book on which 'Cats' is based?

4. When did 'Cats' first open in London?

5. For how long did 'Cats' first run in London?

6. What kind of street cat is Rum Tum Tugger?

7. When was the book the songs are based on written?

8. What did Lloyd Webber joke about regarding T.S. Eliot?

9. Who is Sir Trevor Nunn?

10. What did Trevor Nunn say could be reinvigorated?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

1. When does 'Cats' start its new season?
 - a) September
 - b) October
 - c) November
 - d) December
2. Who does the writer of 'Cats' want to appeal to?
 - a) cat owners
 - b) younger theatre-goers
 - c) vets
 - d) dog lovers
3. Who wrote the book on which 'Cats' is based?
 - a) J.K. Rowling
 - b) Shakespeare
 - c) Fee Line
 - d) T.S. Eliot
4. When did 'Cats' first open in London?
 - a) 1979
 - b) 1980
 - c) 1981
 - d) 1982
5. For how long did 'Cats' first run in London?
 - a) 24 years
 - b) 23 years
 - c) 22 years
 - d) 21 years
6. What kind of street cat is Rum Tum Tugger?
 - a) a cool cat
 - b) an intelligent one
 - c) a rebellious one
 - d) one with nine lives
7. When was the book the songs are based on written?
 - a) in the 1930s
 - b) last year
 - c) 1962
 - d) 10 years ago
8. What did Lloyd Webber joke about regarding T.S. Eliot?
 - a) that he was a musical star
 - b) that he hated cats
 - c) he was the inventor of rap
 - d) he was a cat in a past life
9. Who is Sir Trevor Nunn?
 - a) a cat expert
 - b) the show's producer
 - c) a musicals critic
 - d) a singer
10. What did Trevor Nunn say could be reinvigorated?
 - a) parts of the show
 - b) pet shops
 - c) musicals
 - d) Andrew Lloyd Webber

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Role A – Rap

You think rap is the best music for musicals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, classical or punk.

Role B – Rock

You think rock is the best music for musicals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rap, classical or punk.

Role C – Classical

You think classical is the best music for musicals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, rap or punk.

Role D – Punk

You think punk is the best music for musicals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, classical or rap.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'hip' and 'hop'.

hip	hop
------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• slight• felt• based• group• opened• ran	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• character• written• come• today• whole• certainly
--	--

RAP SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rap in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

RAP DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'musical'?
- c) Do you like musicals?
- d) How do musicals in your culture compare with Broadway ones?
- e) How are musicals and operas different? Which are better?
- f) Is it a good idea to put rap in older musicals to make them more modern?
- g) Do you think more people will want to see Cats because it has a rap?
- h) Would you prefer to watch a musical or play?
- i) Do you think London and Broadway musicals are exciting?
- j) What's the best musical from your culture?

Hit musical 'Cats' gets rap song – 10th July, 2014
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RAP DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Who is your favourite character from musicals?
- c) Is there anything rebellious about you?
- d) Would you like to see the musical Cats?
- e) Is it possible the writer T.S. Eliot could have invented rap?
- f) What do you know about the history of rap?
- g) Is rap music?
- h) What is the appeal of musicals?
- i) Is it important for musicals to be "modern"?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Andrew Lloyd Webber?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The (1) _____ musical 'Cats' has had a slight makeover for its comeback performances (2) _____ in December in London. One of the traditional songs will now be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he felt the musical needed to be updated to (3) _____ to a new generation of theatre-goers. Lloyd Webber (4) _____ his musical on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a group of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which cat gets to (5) _____ back to life after death. 'Cats' first opened in London's West End in 1981 and on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous awards and (6) _____ for twenty-one years in the English capital.

The rap will be performed by the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a (7) _____ street cat. Lloyd Webber said the original poem that the cat sings, (8) _____ in the 1930s, has a strong rap rhythm. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the (9) _____ ...that maybe Eliot was the (10) _____ of rap." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop." The show's producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the decision to (11) _____ the rap. He said: "There is a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly elements of the show that can be reinvigorated (12) _____ very contemporary terms."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) punch | (b) strike | (c) smash | (d) hit |
| 2. | (a) started | (b) starts | (c) start | (d) starting |
| 3. | (a) repeal | (b) appeal | (c) peal | (d) dispel |
| 4. | (a) basted | (b) blasted | (c) based | (d) bashed |
| 5. | (a) go | (b) live | (c) come | (d) refresh |
| 6. | (a) ran | (b) managed | (c) coped | (d) imagined |
| 7. | (a) rebels | (b) rebellious | (c) rebellion | (d) rebelling |
| 8. | (a) written | (b) wrote | (c) writing | (d) writes |
| 9. | (a) condition | (b) conclusion | (c) concussion | (d) conditional |
| 10. | (a) starter | (b) maker | (c) inventor | (d) organiser |
| 11. | (a) putting | (b) entrance | (c) include | (d) introduction |
| 12. | (a) as | (b) at | (c) on | (d) in |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Paragraph 1

1. The hit musical 'Cats' has had a slight rkvemoea
2. comeback femraecsrnp
3. the dniartltaio songs
4. appeal to a new oraegteinn
5. It won eumounsr awards
6. in the English aliaptc

Paragraph 2

7. The rap will be eorepdrmf
8. a irebleuslo street cat
9. a strong rap tmhryh
10. the oetvirnn of rap
11. eeletnsm of the show
12. in very ypcntaormr terms

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The rap will be performed by the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said the original
- () in December in London. One of the traditional songs will now be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he
- () going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop." The show's
- () first rapper, saying: "I've come to the conclusion...that maybe Eliot was the inventor of rap." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is
- () goes. Lloyd Webber based his musical on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats"
- () producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the decision to include the rap. He said: "There is a whole
- () on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous awards and ran for twenty-one years in the English capital.
- (**1**) The hit musical 'Cats' has had a slight makeover for its comeback performances starting
- () cat gets to come back to life after death. 'Cats' first opened in London's West End in 1981 and
- () by the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a group of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which
- () elements of the show that can be reinvigorated in very contemporary terms."
- () generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly
- () felt the musical needed to be updated to appeal to a new generation of theatre-
- () poem that the cat sings, written in the 1930s, has a strong rap rhythm. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

1. had makeover hit has slight The 'Cats' a musical.

2. One of the traditional songs will now be a rap.

3. to Updated goes - theatre of generation new a to appeal.

4. the called group story It the of of tells Jellicles cats a.

5. cat come life which to to Decide gets back.

6. sings that The the the original 1930s written cat poem, in.

7. rapper have first may world's Eliot the been.

8. rap decision to Nunn include explained the the.

9. haven't generation who 'Cats' whole kids seen A of.

10. that Elements can of be the reinvigorated show.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' has had a *slight / slightly* makeover for its comeback performances starting in December in London. One of the *traditionally / traditional* songs will now be a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he *felt / feelings* the musical needed to be updated to *appall / appeal* to a *new / newly* generation of theatre-goers. Lloyd Webber based his *musical / musician* on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" *by / as* the famous British writer T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a group of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which cat gets to *come / go* back to life after death. 'Cats' *first / fast* opened in London's West End in 1981 and on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous awards and *saw / ran* for twenty-one years in the English capital.

The rap will be performed by the Rum Tum Tugger *character / characteristic*, who is a *rebellion / rebellious* street cat. Lloyd Webber said the *original / originated* poem that the cat sings, *wrote / written* in the 1930s, has a strong rap *rhythm / rhythms*. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the *introduction / conclusion*...that maybe Eliot was the *invention / inventor* of rap." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to *do / play* hip-hop." The show's producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the decision to include the rap. He said: "There is a *whole / entire* generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly elements of the show that can be reinvigorated in very contemporary *terms / teams*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

Th_ h_t m_s_c_l 'C_ts' h_s h_d _ sl_ght m_k__v_r f_r
_ts c_m_b_ck p_rf_rm_nc_s st_rt_ng _n D_c_mb_r _n
L_nd_n. _n_ _f th_ tr_d_t__n_l s_ngs w_ll n_w b__
r_p. Th_ m_s_c_l's wr_t_r, _ndr_w Ll_yd W_bb_r, s__d
h_f_lt th_ m_s_c_l n__d_d t_b__pd_t_d t__pp__l t_
_n_w g_n_r_t__n _f th__tr_-g__rs. Ll_yd W_bb_r
b_s_d h_s m_s_c_l _n _f m__s b__k c_ll_d "ld
P_ss_m's B__k _f Pr_ct_c_l C_ts" by th_ f_m__s
Br_t_sh wr_t_r T. S. _l__t. _t t_lls th_ st_ry _f _gr__p
_f c_ts c_ll_d th_ J_ll_cl_s, wh_ h_v_t_d_c_d wh_ch
c_t_g_ts t_c_m_b_ck t_l_f__ft_r d__th. 'C_ts' f_rst
_p_n_d _n L_nd_n's W_st _nd _n 1981 _nd _n Br__dw_y
_n N_w_Y_rk _n 1982. _t w_n n_m_r__s _w_rds _nd r_n
f_r twnty-_n_y__rs _n th_ _ngl_sh c_p_t_l.

Th_ r_p w_ll b_ p_rf_rm_d by th_ R_m T_m T_gg_r
ch_r_ct_r, wh_ _s _r_b_ll__s str__t c_t. Ll_yd
W_bb_r s__d th_ _r_g_n_l p__m th_t th_ c_t s_ngs,
wr_tt_n _n th_ 1930s, h_s _ str_ng r_p rhythm. H_
j_k_d th_t T.S. _l__t m_y h_v_b__n th_ w_rld's f_rst
r_pp_r, s_y_ng: "'v_c_m_t th_c_ncl_s__n...th_t
m_yb__l__t w_s th_ _nv_nt_r_f_r_p." H__dd_d: "
th_nk R_m T_m T_gg_r_s g__ng t_h_v_t_b_c_m__
str__t c_t f_r t_d_y _nd h_h_s t_d_h_p-h_p." Th_
sh_w's pr_d_c_r, S_r Tr_v_r N_nn, _xpl__n_d th_
d_c_s__n t__ncl_d th_r_p. H_s__d: "Th_r__s _
wh_l_g_n_r_t__n _f k_ds wh_ h_v_n't s__n 'C_ts' _r
d_sc_v_r_d_t. _nd th_r__r c_rt__nly _l_m_nts _f th_
sh_w th_t c_n b_r__nv_g_r_t_d _n v_ry c_nt_mpr_ry
t_rms."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

the hit musical 'cats' has had a slight makeover for its comeback performances starting in december in london one of the traditional songs will now be a rap the musical's writer andrew lloyd webber said he felt the musical needed to be updated to appeal to a new generation of theatre-goers lloyd webber based his musical on a famous book called "old possum's book of practical cats" by the famous british writer t s eliot it tells the story of a group of cats called the jellicles who have to decide which cat gets to come back to life after death 'cats' first opened in london's west end in 1981 and on broadway in new york in 1982 it won numerous awards and ran for twenty-one years in the english capital

the rap will be performed by the rum tum tigger character who is a rebellious street cat lloyd webber said the original poem that the cat sings written in the 1930s has a strong rap rhythm he joked that ts eliot may have been the world's first rapper saying "i've come to the conclusion...that maybe eliot was the inventor of rap" he added "i think rum tum tigger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop" the show's producer sir trevor nunn explained the decision to include the rap he said "there is a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'cats' or discovered it and there are certainly elements of the show that can be reinvigorated in very contemporary terms"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140710-rap-song.html>

The hit musical 'Cats' has had a slight makeover for its comeback performance starting in December in London. One of the traditional songs will now bear a rap. The musical's writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, said he felt the musical needed to be updated to appeal to a new generation of theatre-goers. Lloyd Webber based his music on a famous book called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" by the famous British writer T.S. Eliot. It tells the story of a group of cats called the Jellicles, who have to decide which cat gets to come back to life after death. 'Cats' first opened in London's West End in 1981 and on Broadway in New York in 1982. It won numerous awards and ran for twenty-one years in the English capital. The rap will be performed by the Rum Tum Tugger character, who is a rebellious street cat. Lloyd Webber said the original poem that the cats sing, written in the 1930s, has a strong graph rhyme. He joked that T.S. Eliot may have been the world's first rapper, saying: "I've come to the conclusion... that maybe Eliot was the inventor of rap." He added: "I think Rum Tum Tugger is going to have to become a street cat for today and he has to do hip-hop." The show's producer, Sir Trevor Nunn, explained the decision to include the rap. He said: "There is a whole generation of kids who haven't seen 'Cats' or discovered it. And there are certainly elements of the show that can be reinvigorated in every contemporary term."

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about rap. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. RAP: Make a poster about rap. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. 'CATS' RAP: Write a magazine article about the new rap in the musical 'Cats'. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a rap expert. Ask him/her three questions about rap. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d T e F f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. hit | a. box-office success |
| 2. traditional | b. standard |
| 3. updated | c. modernised |
| 4. generation | d. age group |
| 5. ran | e. continued |
| 6. rhythm | f. tempo |
| 7. conclusion | g. deduction |
| 8. inventor | h. creator |
| 9. include | i. incorporate |
| 10. invigorated | j. energised |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. In December
2. A younger generation of theatre-goers
3. T.S. Eliot
4. 1981
5. 21 years
6. A rebellious one
7. In the 1930s
8. He was the inventor of rap
9. The producer of 'Cats'
10. Elements of the show

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)