



2021: Ed Sheeran released his new album, “=” (UK)



Ed Sheeran

Ed Sheeran is an English singer and songwriter (with Irish roots) born in 1991. Considered a music prodigy, he became known to the public in 2012 after playing first at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Concert, and then at the closing ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics. Also in 2012, he wrote a song for Taylor Swift and played as the opening act for her 2013 tour. However, he had started singing much earlier. He was already in a church choir at the age of four, and had learned to play the guitar, piano, bass and cello and had even released an EP (Extended Play) at 14. He has won numerous awards for his four original solo albums, which all have math symbols as titles: “+” (2011), “x” (2014), “÷” (2017), and “=” (2021).

His most popular song is “Shape of You”, the lead single from his “÷” album. He later revealed in a BBC Radio interview that he originally wrote the song with Rihanna in mind before deciding to do it for himself. By his account, the song almost didn’t make the cut and was the last one he wrote for the album. Sheeran admitted in an interview that his dream would be to write a soundtrack for a Disney movie and that he was jealous that Sir Elton John had the opportunity to do it for the *Lion King* movie. He has appeared in a few hit TV series such as *The Simpsons* and *Game of Thrones*. He is also obsessed with tattoos – he even had one made as a thank you to Taylor Swift for having discovered him and helped him get a start in the business.

Teaching ideas

☆☆☆ **CYCLE 3** - Have pupils look for information about Ed Sheeran (physical description, age, birthplace, job, friends...) and ask them to write a short interview with the singer. Why not team up with music teachers and have your pupils sing one of Ed Sheeran’s songs?