

Reading and Speaking

Who wrote Imagine?

5 READING

a Read the article once and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 *Imagine* was a hit three times.
- 2 Yoko Ono helped to write *Imagine*.
- 3 Ono wrote poems for John Lennon.
- 4 Lennon never said that Yoko helped him with the song.
- 5 *Imagine* was written in two places.
- 6 John Lennon opened the new Liverpool Airport.

Reading Task 1.

Who wrote Imagine?

Imagine, John Lennon's most famous song, was recently voted 'Britain's favourite song of all time'. It's an idealistic song about peace and the hope for a better world.

'Imagine all the people living life in peace'. The song was a big hit in 1971, and again in 1980 when Lennon was murdered in New York. It became a hit for a third time after the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001.

But who really wrote the song? Until recently the answer to this question was always John Lennon. But on a TV programme this week Lennon's wife, Yoko Ono, spoke for the first time about how she, in fact, helped to write the song.

Ono said that the idea and inspiration for Imagine came from some of her poems that John Lennon was reading at that time. The poems began with the word 'Imagine'. 'Imagine a raindrop. Imagine a goldfish'. Ono said, «When I was a child in Japan during the Second World War my brother and I were terribly hungry. I imagined delicious menus for him and he began to smile. If you think something is impossible, you can imagine it and make it happen'.

In an interview just before he died, Lennon admitted that Yoko deserved credit for Imagine. He said, 'A lot of it - the lyrics and the concept - came from her, from her book of poems, 'imagine this, imagine that'. Lennon said that he was 'too macho' to share the credit with her at the time.

Ono said that some of the song was written when they were flying across the Atlantic and the rest was written on the piano in their bedroom at their home in England. Ono said, 'The song speaks about John's dream for the world. It was something he really wanted to say.' 'Imagine became a popular song for peace activists everywhere.

In March 2002 the airport in his home town of Liverpool was re-named John Lennon Airport. A sign about the main entrance has a line from Imagine. 'Above us only sky'.



b Read the article again. Number the sentences in the order that things happened.

- A John Lennon read Ono's poems. ☐
- B John Lennon wrote *Imagine*. ☐
- C Yoko Ono helped her little brother. ☒
- D John Lennon spoke about the song in an interview. ☐
- E Liverpool Airport was renamed John Lennon Airport. ☐
- F Yoko Ono spoke about the song on a TV programme. ☐
- G The song became a hit again when Lennon died. ☐
- H The song became popular again after September 11th 2001. ☐

Reading task 2

Here you can practice remembering the text before recording the retelling of the text.

1. Use the link

https://elt.oup.com/student/englishfile/preint/g_ef_pre_builder?cc=us&sellLanguage=en

2. Choose the Unit 2C

3. Do the exercise until you can retell the text.

4. Record your retelling.

5. Attach your recording to the comments to the post.

The screenshot shows the Oxford University Press New English File Text Builder interface. At the top, the Oxford University Press logo is on the left, a blue and green geometric pattern is in the center, and 'New ENGLISH FILE' is on the right. Below the logo is a navigation bar with 'Students > English File Student's Site > Pre-intermediate > Text Builder'. On the left is a vertical menu with buttons for Games, Grammar, Help, Practical English, Pronunciation, Text Builder (highlighted), Vocabulary, and Weblinks. The main content area is titled 'New English File Text Builder' in red. It contains a 'How to play:' section with three numbered steps: 1. Read the text, 2. Take out some or all of the words, and 3. Type in the missing words to rebuild the text again. Below these steps is the question 'How quickly can you do it?'. To the right is a 'Select a lesson:' section with a list of lessons: 1B, 1B (highlighted), 1D, 1 Revise & Check, 2A, 2C, 2D, 3A, 3C, 3 Revise & Check, 4A, and 4B. A 'NEXT' button with a right arrow is at the bottom right.

Speaking. Task 1.