The Edinburgh Festival

Start thinking
1 Which cities are famous for their festivals in your country?
2 When are these festivals held?
3 What happens during these festivals?

Comprehension check
1 Watch the video clip and choose the correct answers.
   1 When is the Edinburgh Festival held?
      a May
      b July
      c August
      d September
   2 What percentage of Edinburgh Festival Fringe shows are comedy shows?
      a 10%
      b 35%
      c 50%
      d 75%
   3 What's the name of the Scottish stand-up comedian at the end of the clip?
      a Vladimir McDougall
      b Vladimir McDonald
      c Vladimir McKenzie
      d Vladimir McTavish

2 Watch again and number the things you see in the correct order (1–8).
   __ a boy throwing a knife
   __ a comedy group
   __ a stand-up comedy show
   __ men playing plastic bottles
   __ a man swallowing a sword
   __ a panorama of Edinburgh
   __ a famous comedian
   __ a woman playing a harp

3 Watch again and complete the sentences with the adjectives from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>free</th>
<th>scary</th>
<th>expensive</th>
<th>generous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rude</td>
<td>funny</td>
<td>embarrassing</td>
<td>strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   1 Ricky Gervais is rich and famous because he's very ________.
   2 In a TV comedy, he played an office manager who was quite ________.
   3 The situations in the programme were often very ________.

4 Watch again and choose the correct alternative.
   1 Ricky Gervais first became famous in a big budget film/television comedy.
   2 Nearly 90,000/19,000 performers take part in the Edinburgh Festival each year.
   3 The Edinburgh Festival is the biggest arts festival in Europe/the world.
   4 Hundreds/Thousands of young comedians take part.
   5 It's easy/difficult to sell all the tickets for all the shows.
   6 If you want to see the best shows, you'll need to have a plan/map.
   7 Vladimir is an experienced/inexperienced Scottish comedian.
   8 Vladimir is feeling anxious/relaxed tonight.

5 Complete the summary with the words from the box.

humour stand-up funny comedy

One of the best places to see live 1 ________ in the UK is the Edinburgh Festival. Visitors can choose between about 2,200 2 ________ performed in theatres or on the street. Some of the acts are 3 ________ comedians like Vladimir. During his show, he stands on the 4 ________ and tells 5 ________ about famous Scottish people. Scots have a great sense of 6 ________ and Vladimir is very 7 ________, so the 8 ________ laugh a lot.
Language check

6 Complete the sentences with the gerund or infinitive form of the verbs.

1 Thousands of people visit Edinburgh _________ (watch) live comedy.
2 _________ (be) at the festival was one of the highlights of my year.
3 Hundreds of young comedians look forward to _________ (take) part.
4 I really want you _________ (read) this book.
5 I remember _________ (see) that comedian at another festival.
6 It’s difficult _________ (decide) what to do first.
7 Remember, you won’t be able _________ (afford) tickets for every show!
8 Performers never get tired of _________ (come) to the festival.

7 Complete the second sentences with the words in brackets.

1 Emily’s mobile cost €100, Jessica’s cost €80 and Olivia’s cost €35. (expensive)
   Olivia’s mobile was ____________.
2 Matt finished the marathon in five hours and Alan finished in four. (slowly)
   Matt ran ____________ Alan in the marathon.
3 My brother and I are both tall, but he’s a bit taller than me. (tall)
   I ____________ as my brother.
4 You took your MP3 player to school and you lost it. (have)
   You ____________ your MP3 player if you hadn’t taken it to school.
5 I woke up late, so I missed my bus. (woken up)
   If I ____________ earlier, then I wouldn’t have missed my bus.
6 She didn’t know about the meeting because she’d left the room. (known)
   She ____________ about the meeting if she hadn’t left the room.

Talk about it

8 In pairs. Think about a festival you’ve been to in your country. Ask and answer the questions.
- What was the festival called?
- What did you see and do there?
- What was the best thing about it?