

# You'll never guess which pop band has the most sophisticated song lyrics of all time

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The Mirror's data unit analysed various song lyrics and calculated how many years would have to be spent in education in order to understand them

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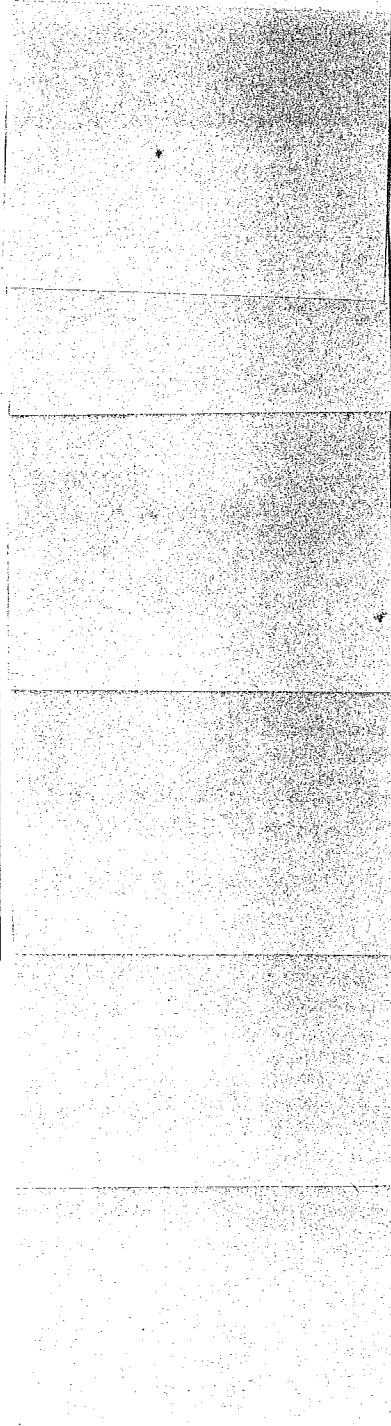
Music for the Masses: Depeche Mode have the most sophisticated song lyrics

Depeche Mode have the most sophisticated lyrics out of any of the UK's best selling bands.

The 80s electronic band came top after the Mirror's data unit analysed their lyrics and calculated how many years fans would need to spend in education to understand them.

The average Depeche Mode song required 10.3 years in education - the equivalent to a 15-year-old.

This was the higher than legendary UK music acts such as The Beatles, David Bowie and Queen.



One of Depeche Mode's most sophisticated songs was Macro, the opening lines to which are: "Overflowing senses, heightened awareness, I hear my blood flow, I feel its caress.

"Whispering cosmos talking right to me, unlimited, endless, God breathing through me."

Elton John came in second place followed by Dire Straits, Pet Shop Boys and David Bowie. Robbie Williams was a surprise inclusion at seventh.



Let Me Sophisticate You: Robbie Williams was also on the list

The analysis compared the lyrics to over 6,000 different songs by UK acts.

Each song was scored on the readability of its lyrics using the Coleman Liau Index and the SMOG index, two algorithms used to determine the difficulty of school texts.

An average was taken of each song's score in both of these tests to fix on its final score before each artist was given an average score based on all of their lyrics.

The least complex lyrics out of all 6,093 songs was for ABC (Freeform) by the Eurythmics, which is just the 26 letters of the alphabet spoken one after the other.

## The 10 bands with the most sophisticated lyrics were:

Band // Years of Education Required to Understand Average Song // Letters Per Word

Depeche Mode // 10.3 // 3.8

Elton John // 9.3 // 3.7

Dire Straits // 9.2 // 3.7

Pet Shop Boys // 9.1 // 3.7

David Bowie // 8.7 // 3.7

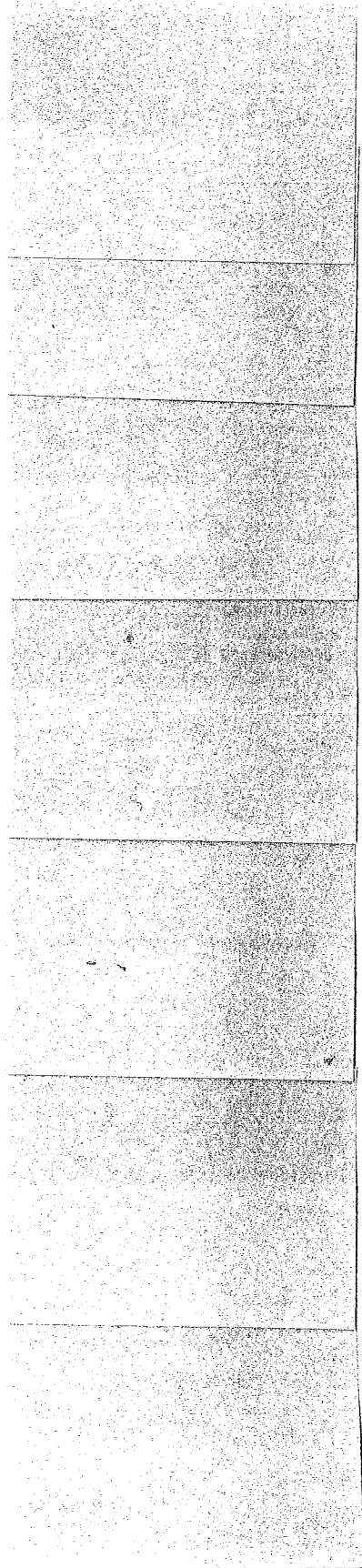
Rod Stewart // 8.7 // 3.7

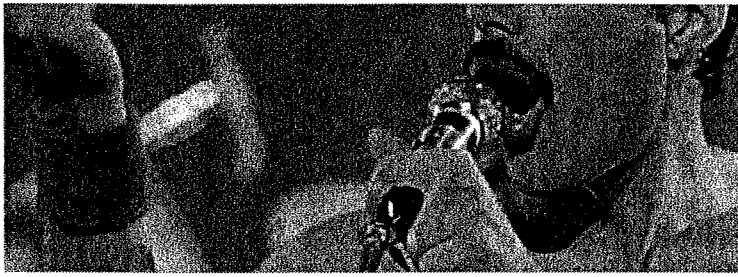
Robbie Williams // 8.6 // 3.6

Ub40 // 8.5 // 3.7

Queen // 8.5 // 3.7

Def Leppard // 8.5 // 3.6





We Aren't The Champions: Queen rounded up the top ten artists

## The 10 bands with the least sophisticated lyrics were:

Band // Average Readability Score // Letters Per Word

Led Zeppelin // 4.4 // 3.5

The Who // 5.3 // 3.8

Smiths // 5.5 // 3.6

Beatles // 5.7 // 3.5

Jethro Tull // 6.1 // 4

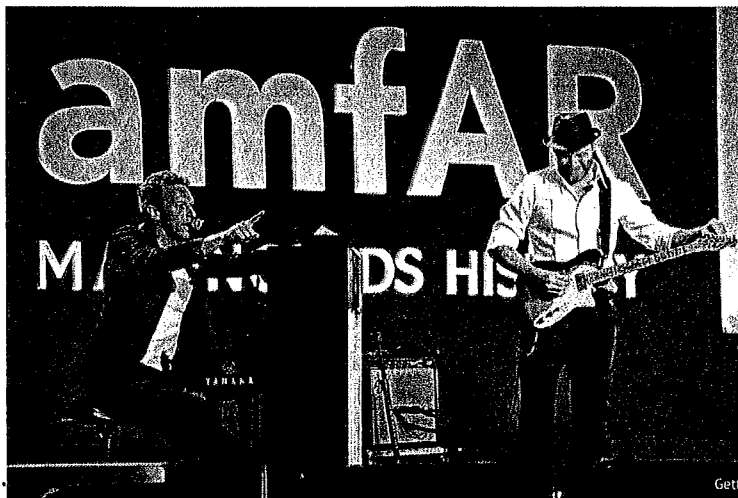
Joy Division // 6.5 // 3.9

Fleetwood Mac // 6.5 // 3.6

The XX // 6.7 // 3.5

Paul McCartney (solo) // 6.7 // 3.6

Coldplay // 6.9 // 3.6



In Their Place: Coldplay had some of the least sophisticated song lyrics

## The ten songs with the longest words on average were:

Band // Song // Letters Per Word

U2 // Ito Okashi // 6.8

Oasis // Manuk Dadali // 6.1

Coldplay // Chinese Sleep Chant // 5.9

Robbie Williams // Minnie The Moocher // 5.9

Depeche Mode // Macro // 5.6

Genesis // The Dance Of The Giant Hogweed // 5.5

David Bowie // Band Intro // 5.4

David Bowie // Law // 5.3

Spice Girls // My Strongest Suit // 5.3

Eurythmics // Jennifer // 5.2