



### Pre-Reading Preparation

1. Is street performing popular in your country? Why?
2. Do you think people should be allowed to perform in public wherever they please?

# Street Performers

1 Street performers are very popular in Victoria, Canada. Because the **climate** is warm during the spring and summer months, performers can stay outside all day. They tend to work in the downtown area, where most tourists visit. Large crowds are important because the performers rely on tips to survive. A tip is a donation from someone in the **audience**. The performers put out a basket, a hat or a guitar case to collect tips.

10 Some street performers play music, some dance and some do magic **tricks**. The musicians tend to be very lively. One six-man **Peruvian** band plays cheerful Spanish music. The band attracts huge crowds on weekends when most people are off work.

20 A talented magician calls himself “Red” because of his red hair. He lights himself on fire, rides a **unicycle** and **juggles flames**. The crowd loves him because, while he does his tricks, he also tells jokes and **pokes fun at** himself.

25 Any performer who works in Victoria must get a **permit** from the local government to stand on the street and play music. This may seem a bit strange or even unfair. The problem, however, is the large number of bad musicians, magicians and dancers out there. If no one stopped them, they would all be downtown playing their terrible music, much to the **dismay** of tourists!

30 I asked Red last summer: “How much do you make as a performer?” I expected him to say that he did not make very much because it was only a part-time job for him. I also thought he would become tired doing it. Surprisingly, he works full-time traveling around the world. He makes a lot of money and meets kind people. He sometimes has more than 200 people watching him. With an **average** tip being about five dollars, he can earn over one thousand dollars. That is more money than many **professionals** make in a day. Since then, I have decided to become a street performer! The only problem is, I have no musical skills!

**audience** *n.* a gathering of spectators or listeners.

The cheer squad performed three routines for the audience.

**average** *adj.* typical; ordinary; usual.

The average consumption of beef in America is very high.

**climate** *n.* weather conditions.

Polar bears can survive the harsh climate of the Arctic.

**dismay** *n.* dread; distress.

Acts of terrorism fill me with dismay.

**flame** *n.* burning gas; fire.

The firemen put water on the flames.

**juggle** *v.* to keep two or more objects in the air at one time by alternately tossing and catching them.

James showed me how to juggle using oranges.

**permit** *n.* authorization paper; license.

The radio station needed a permit to broadcast in the region.

**Peruvian** *adj.* of or from Peru, a South America country.

Lima is the Peruvian capital.

**poke fun at** *v.* to tease.

Janet poked fun at the weird paintings in the art gallery.

**professional** *n.* person competent in a particular occupation.

Players in the National Hockey League are professionals.

**trick** *n.* a difficult or clever act designed to amuse.

Robert amazed people at the party with some incredible card tricks.

**unicycle** *n.* a “bicycle” with only one wheel.

Children giggled at the clown riding a unicycle.

## Vocabulary Exercise

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### A. Fill in the Blanks:

*climate*   *tend to*   *survive*   *perform*   *rely on*  
*donation*   *audience*   *crowd*   *permit*   *average*

1. We need a \_\_\_\_\_ from City Hall to build a new garage in the backyard.
2. Children \_\_\_\_\_ their parents for food and shelter.
3. Mary often gets to school late; she \_\_\_\_\_ sleep in.
4. Many people made \_\_\_\_\_ for the fire victims.
5. Musicians often are nervous when performing before an \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Peter was hired \_\_\_\_\_ in a new play.
7. Mary's \_\_\_\_\_ grade last semester was a B+.
8. Now that the mother lion is dead, the baby lion will have problems \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Florida is very good for outdoor sports.
10. The Latin Salsa dance was so popular that it attracted a big \_\_\_\_\_ in the courtyard.

## Vocabulary Exercise

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### B. Multiple Choice:

1. They tend to work in the downtown area, where most tourists visit.
  - a. only want to work
  - b. like to work
  - c. are used to work
2. the downtown area
  - a. the center area of the city
  - b. a suburb of the city
  - c. underground streets
3. people are off work
  - a. jobless
  - b. not able to work
  - c. not working
4. I expected him to say that he did not make very much.
  - a. I thought he would say
  - b. I wanted him to say
  - c. I hoped he would say
5. much to the dismay of tourists. The tourists would be
  - a. distressed
  - b. sad
  - c. surprised

## Grammar Point

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Adding the suffix “er”, “or”, “ian”, or “tist” to words changes the meaning of the word from the trade or action to the people (or things) who perform it, such as music becomes musician and compute becomes computer. Try to change the following words to the associated person or things. Look up in a dictionary and find out how to make the correct changes to these words.

1. The children at the birthday party were entertained by a \_\_\_\_\_ . **(magic)**
2. We hired an \_\_\_\_\_ to install our new ceiling lights. **(electric)**
3. Mary visits her \_\_\_\_\_ weekly for a manicure. **(beauty)**
4. In his speech, the \_\_\_\_\_ promised to improve the economy. **(politic)**
5. The children’s \_\_\_\_\_ hosts story time once a week. **(library)**
6. The blood samples were sent to the laboratory for the \_\_\_\_\_ to analyze. **(technique)**
7. Have you seen Tina’s antiques? She has been a \_\_\_\_\_ for years. **(collect)**
8. I can program this \_\_\_\_\_ to work with the TV, the DVD player, and the Playstation. **(control)**

9. The recent tornadoes were the worst crop \_\_\_\_\_ the area has seen. **(destroy)**
10. Kelly works long hours to be a good \_\_\_\_\_ for her family. **(provide)**
11. The nearby mine is the biggest \_\_\_\_\_ of the local rivers. **(pollute)**
12. It takes years of training to become a skilled mountain \_\_\_\_\_ . **(climb)**
13. The gallery is featuring Marissa’s paintings because she is such a talented \_\_\_\_\_ . **(art)**
14. After years of research, the \_\_\_\_\_ discovered a cure. **(science)**



## Comprehension

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### A. True or False:

- \_\_\_ 1. Street performers rely on the money that they make on the street.
- \_\_\_ 2. Street performers in Victoria are free to perform anywhere in the city.
- \_\_\_ 3. Tourists appreciate all performances, no matter what the quality is.
- \_\_\_ 4. People in the audience usually give about five dollars each to street performers.
- \_\_\_ 5. The author is a talented musician.

### B. Multiple Choice:

- 1. He pokes fun at himself.
  - a. He has fun.
  - b. He is a funny guy.
  - c. He makes fun of himself.
- 2. He lights himself on fire.
  - a. He lights the fire by himself.
  - b. He lights a fire on himself.
  - c. He injures himself.
- 3. This may seem a bit strange or even unfair. This statement refers to:
  - a. The performers stand on the street and play music.
  - b. The performers have to get a permit to perform on the street.
  - c. The local government is stopping street performers from performing.
- 4. The problem, however, is the large number of bad musicians, magicians and dancers out there.
  - a. There are too many street performers in Victoria.
  - b. Many street performers are criminals.
  - c. Many bad musicians, magicians and dancers want to make a living as street performers.
- 5. That is more money than many professionals make in a day.
  - a. Street performers always make good money.
  - b. Many street performers make more money than professional entertainers.
  - c. Street performers make more money than professional people like lawyers and doctors.

## Writing Exercise

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### 1. Why are street performers popular in Victoria?

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### 2. Do you think street performing is a good job? Why?

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