

DJ AMBITION ... EXTRA

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of TEAM magazine.

SYNOPSIS

Ali Zuri is 16 and lives with her mum and brother in London. She loves urban music and really wants to be a DJ in a London club. She practises DJ-ing all the time, instead of studying, and this causes conflict with her mum. At school, there is a boy called Nik Galas (known as 'Da G') who is already a DJ. He too makes fun of her, saying that girls can't be DJs. He sabotages one of her gigs and makes her look stupid. Ali's only support is her best friend, Kat.

Ali gets a lucky break when she goes to a club in north London, 'The Place' with Kat. She finds out that there's going to be a competition for new DJs. The first prize is a 'residency' at 'Igloo,' a small but trendy London club. By chance, Ali meets Ben Ricci, the owner of 'The Place.' When she tells him how hard it is for her, he suggests that she practises at 'The Place' using the club's excellent equipment. Ali accepts, but finds that Ben's interest in her is more than it seems. Difficulties with Ben and his girlfriend Lisa make it hard for her to focus on her ambition. In the end, though, Ali wins the competition and becomes resident DJ at 'Igloo.'

The main themes are family conflict and sexism.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The 'single parent' family set-up, with one parent only is common in the UK.

16 year-olds can legally go to clubs in the UK but they are not able to purchase or drink alcohol. Some clubs operate a strict door policy and won't allow entry to under 18s or under 21s.

Ali and her friends are in year 11 at school. Students take their GCSE exams at the end of the school year. Ali's mum is concerned that Ali isn't devoting enough time to her homework, and revision.

CASUAL LANGUAGE

There are five informal expressions in the story.

- **'Shut up!':** This is a very abrupt way of saying 'Be quiet!'
- **'No way!':** This is an informal way of saying 'No! Definitely not!' Usually used by teenagers.
- **'Try me':** This means 'Tell me - give me a chance.'
- **'How's it going?':** This means 'How are you?'
- **'In your dreams...!':** This means that the previous speaker has suggested something that will never happen.
Example Da G: I'm going to win, Miz Ali!
Ali: *In your dreams*, Galas!

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC ELT READER

Choosing

Is this the right story for your class? Do they want to read it? If not, choose another! Ask them some questions. For example: *Do you like music? What kind of music do you like? Would you like to be a DJ? Do you have a favourite DJ?*

Motivating

Get your class to want to read *DJ Ambition*. Motivate them with some background information and a taste of the story, like this: *Ali wants to be a DJ, but sometimes it seems that everyone is against her. Her mother, her brother, 'Da G', a boy at school who think that girls can't be DJs. How will she fulfil her 'DJ Ambition'?*

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and photocopy extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading.

Anticipating

Read People and Places on pages 3-4 aloud with the class. Talk about the characters. Ask for predictions. What is going to happen in this story?

Glossary

Go to New Words! on the inside back cover of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *DJ Ambition*. Put them into context (see above). Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises

Show students the self-study exercises on pages 30-32. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after. (Answers are in this resource sheet.)

Feedback

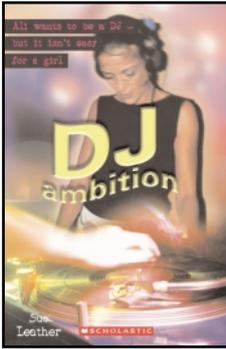
Have class feedback sessions each week. Talk and ask about the story so far. Get students to ask each other questions. Check exercise answers with the whole class. Answers to all exercises are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

Fact Files

After the story, there are 4 Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files explore the themes of the book in a fun and cultural context with interactive elements. Project ideas are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of *DJ Ambition*. Compare opinions. Did you like it? Let us know at: readers@link2English.com



**DJ
AMBITION
... EXTRA**

Chapter 1: A bad morning

Who said what? Can you remember who said what in Chapter 1?

- a) 'Come on, Ali, wake up!' *Veronica*
- b) Shut up, Calvin!'
- c) 'You look tired, Ali'
- d) 'That's 'cos you been to a club again, Miz Ali.'
- e) 'I'm in a hurry this morning.'
- f) 'Maybe you can be a doctor one day...!'

Chapter 2: A gig

True or False? Decide if the sentences are true or false. Correct the sentences that are false.

- a) At the beginning of Chapter 2, Ali and Kat are in Maths class.
..... *False. They're in French class.*
- b) Ali goes shopping with Kat.
.....
- c) Ali talks to Miss Jakic, the music teacher.
.....
- d) Ali wears earrings at the end of term party.
.....
- e) Da G plays at the end of term party.
.....
- f) Nobody dances during Ali's set.
.....
- g) Da G tells Ali she was fantastic.
.....

Chapter 3: Trouble

What happened in Chapter 3? Put the events a - g in the correct order.

- a) Ali goes to Westside school to do a gig.
- b) Ali can't find her records.
- c) Gina Banks calls Ali.
- d) Veronica Zuri talks to Ali about her school work.
- e) Ali sits in the park with her head in her hands.
- f) Ali leaves her records on a table.
- g) The kids at Westside talk about Ali's terrible set.

Chapter 4: The Place

Read this summary of Chapter 4. There are 3 more mistakes (incorrect facts) in the summary. Can you find them?

Kat tells Ali about a DJ contest at 'The Place,' a club in ^{Camden} ~~Tottenham~~. She suggests that they go on Saturday night. Ali agrees. At the club they listen to the music and watch the dancing for a while. Then Ali goes to the toilet and on the way back, meets Ben Ricci, the owner of 'The Place.' They talk about the weather. He says that she can practise at 'The Place.' He calls her 'darling.' She goes back and tells Kat all about it. Ali says 'yes' to Ben Ricci's offer.

Chapter 5: A piece of luck

Adjectives. Here are some adjectives used in Chapter 5. Fill the gaps with the correct adjective.

brilliant expensive angry unfriendly strange dark

- a) Ben's behaviour was a little ... *strange*
- b) Ali thought that it was to be able to practise at the club.
- c) Record decks are really, so it was good that Ali could use the decks at 'The Place.'
- d) It was in the corner of the room when the girl came in.
- e) The slim blonde girl was very to Ali.
- f) Lisa seemed to be with Ali.

Chapter 6: Ben and Lisa

1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- a) How do things get worse in chapter 6?
- b) How does Lisa respond when Ali tries to talk to her?
- c) What do you think Ali will say to Ben?

2 Role play. Work in pairs.

Student A: You are Lisa. You want to know what's happening between Ben and Ali. You talk to him that evening before the club opens. What do you say? Are you angry? Do you believe what he tells you?

Student B: You are Ben. Lisa wants to ask you about your friendship with Ali. What do you say to her? Do you tell the truth? Are you angry?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapter 7: DJ ambition

Answer the questions.

- Ali is angry with Ben. Why?
He won't listen to her. He doesn't think there is a problem.
- Ali doesn't want to leave her records anywhere at The Place. Why not?
.....
.....
- Ali feels nervous when she sees Haze. Why?
.....
.....
- Ali sees Lisa at the contest. She is crying. Ali doesn't go and talk to her. Why not?
.....
.....
- At the end of the contest, Da G looks angry. Why?
.....
.....
- Why does Lisa say sorry to Ali?
.....
.....
- Ali won't come to The Place anymore. Why not?
.....
.....

FINAL TASK

Role play

Radio Interview. After winning the contest, Ali is invited to Radio Tottenham to be interviewed. Work in pairs.

Student A: You are Anne-Marie, the Radio Tottenham interviewer. Prepare some possible questions.	Student B: You are Ali. Prepare some possible answers.
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Role play the interview.

Example: *So, Ali, you've won a residency at Igloo. How do you feel?*

Writing

Three years later... Ali is 19 and has left school. What does Ali do next? Where is she living? Is she at university? Is she still DJ-ing? Does she have a boyfriend? Is her mum still angry with her? Where is Da G?

Write Chapter 1 of DJ Ambition: Part 2! Use one of these sentences as a beginning or write your own.

- 'No, mum! I've already told you. I'm not doing it.' Ali and her mum were having another 'talk'...
- Ali's mobile rang. She looked at the name on the screen. "Oh, no! Not Da G again," she thought...

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Jewellery

Ali likes to wear big earrings, like Beyoncé. Can you find the names of 5 more types of jewellery?



-
-
-
-
-

Describing people

Read these descriptions of Ben and Lisa from DJ Ambition.

Ben Ricci is a 'tall, good-looking man, about thirty years old. He was wearing a really cool shirt and green jeans.'

Lisa is 'slim with blonde hair, maybe 25 or 26 years old.'

Look at People and Places on page 4, and the illustrations in the reader. Write short descriptions of Ali, Veronica, Kat and Da G. Use your dictionary to help you.

- Ali is an attractive girl with long, dark hair. She's wearing ...

More adjectives

Before the DJ contest, Ali is 'nervous.'
When she hears about 'The Place,' Veronica Zuri is 'worried.'

Use these adjectives to make sentences about the people in DJ Ambition.

unhappy famous jealous friendly angry

Example: *Ali feels very unhappy after her gig at Westside School.*

Casual language

Complete the dialogues with the expressions below.

Shut up! No way! Try me. How's it going?
In your dreams...!

- 'Do you want to come to homework club with me after school today?'
'..... I hate homework!'
- 'Hi, Michelle. Urrr – do you want to go to the cinema with me tonight?'
'.....'
- 'You're not going out tonight. You've got lots of homework to do.'
'Oh, mum!
'Go to your room – NOW!'
- 'You never listen to me.'
'That's not true.'
- 'Hi, Jess.'
'Oh – OK.'

THE URBAN SCENE (pages 38-9)**1 Artist profile**

Students work in small groups and write profiles of their favourite urban/R&B artists, using the web and magazines to help them. Use the Beyoncé profile on page 40 as a model. Ask each group to read out their profiles to the rest of the class.

2 Music survey

Ask students to do a survey of the most popular kinds of music in their class/year at school. In groups, ask them to prepare questionnaires for their class members to complete. Remind them that the results will be easier to analyse if they provide options for interviewees to tick. Elicit possible question areas. For example:

- Which radio station do you listen to: Radio 1/Radio 2/ Radio 3 etc.?
- What was the last CD that you bought?
- What's your favourite type of music: R&B/classical/opera/ rock/pop etc.?

Students fill in each other's questionnaires. They analyse the results and each group presents their findings to the class. These could take the form of a mock 'radio broadcast,' a magazine article, or a poster.

3 Clothes survey

Students work in groups. They discuss what followers of different types of music typically wear. They then prepare posters, with photos and their own illustrations to reflect their impressions.

THE BAD BOYS OF THE URBAN WORLD (pages 42-3)**1 Personality profile**

Who are the other bad boys and bad girls of the music industry? Brainstorm possible candidates with your class. (Suggestions might include Pink, Christina Aguilera, Avril Lavigne etc.) Students then work in pairs. They select a personality who interests them, research their lives and write profiles.

Conduct class feedback on each pair's findings. Ask your class to vote for the worst boy/girl in the music world!

2 Class discussion

'Can the words of songs really start violence on the streets?' Lead a class discussion around this subject. Encourage students to share their experiences and opinions. For homework, ask students to write a 250 word essay on the subject.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A DJ? (pages 44-5)**Webquest**

Brainstorm other professions in the entertainment industry with your class (e.g. TV presenter, radio DJ, model, pop journalist, actor etc). Students work in pairs. They choose a profession that interests them. Tell them to compile a list of useful websites to help budding DJs / models etc. (Suggestions for searches might include celebrity biographies of those who have made it in their field, training college websites, television network websites etc.)

Groups update the class on websites they have found. Class votes for the top 5 websites based on usefulness of information, presentation etc.

ANSWER KEY**Self-Study Activities (pages 30-2)**

- 3 jewellery: nose ring, earrings
equipment: headphones, record decks, speakers
- 4 a) gig b) set c) records d) nervous e) mix f) take off
- 5 a) got b) felt c) stood d) could e) cost f) chose
- 6 a) She went to a club. b) Because her mother tries to talk to her about homework and school. c) Because it's very expensive. d) Because Ali was so good.
- 8 a) lay b) made c) sang
- 9 a) iv b) v c) iii d) ii e) i
- 10 a) Da G b) Kat c) Ali's mum d) Ali
- 11 a) False. The Westside gig goes really badly for Ali.
b) False. They go to The Place because there's a DJ contest there. c) True d) False. She really likes playing music.
- 13 a) won b) wore c) shut d) found
- 14 a) Ali b) No, she doesn't c) No, she doesn't d) No, they aren't
- 15 a) True b) False. She does want to talk to him about Lisa.
c) True d) False. There was only one girl-Ali. e) True f) True
g) False. She's going to be resident DJ at 'Iglloo.' h) True i) True

Resource Sheet Activities**Chapter 1**

- b) Ali c) Veronica d) Calvin e) Ali f) Veronica

Chapter 2

- b) False. She practises in the music room. c) True d) True
e) True f) False. Everyone was dancing during Ali's set.
g) False. He doesn't say anything to Ali.

Chapter 3

- c) 1 d) 2 a) 3 f) 4 b) 5 g) 6 e) 7

Chapter 4

- 1 Then Ali goes to the toilet (THE BAR)...
2 They talk about the weather. (MUSIC)
3 He calls her 'darling'. (SWEETHEART)

Chapter 5

- b) brilliant c) expensive d) dark e) unfriendly f) angry

Chapter 6

- Possible answers: a) Lisa sees Ali and Ben together. Ben puts his arm around Ali. Later Lisa argues with Ali. She thinks Ali likes Ben. Ali finds out that Da G is going to be in the contest too.
b) The first time she runs away. The second time she shouts at Ali and doesn't believe her.

Chapter 7

- b) Because Da G changed her records when she did a gig at Westside School. She had to play uncool music, and she looked stupid. c) Because he is a famous DJ at a top London club.
d) Because she doesn't have time. The contest is about to start.
e) Because Ali has won and he hasn't. f) Because she heard Ali talk to Ben and she knows that she didn't do anything wrong.
g) Because she has a residency at Iglloo.

Vocabulary Builder**Jewellery**

Possible answers: necklace, bangles, bracelet, nose ring, chain

Describing people

Possible answers: **Ali** is an attractive girl with long, dark hair. She's wearing a black and orange top, and some bangles.

Veronica Zuri has got short dark hair and brown eyes. She's about 43 years old. She's wearing a black jumper.

Kat is a pretty blonde girl with blue eyes. She's fair-skinned.

Da G is about 16 years old. He's tall with dark skin. He looks cool.

More adjectives

Possible answers: Ali wants to be a famous DJ like Haze.

Lisa is jealous of Ali. Ben is too friendly to Ali.

Ali often gets angry with Calvin.

Casual language

1. No way! / In your dreams...! 2. No way! / In your dreams...!
3. Shut up 4. Try me. 5. How's it going?