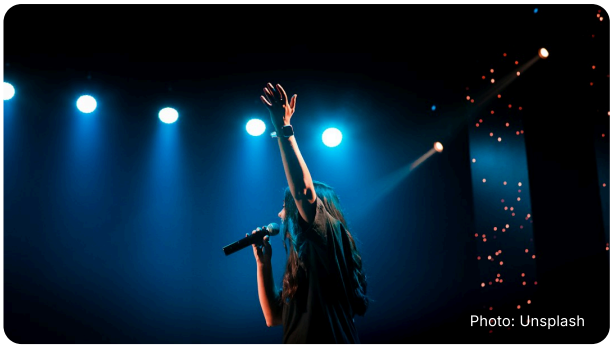
Nene Royal is first Thai AGT winner

LEVEL A2/B1


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever watched a talent show? Which one?
2. What kind of acts do you enjoy: music, magic or dance?
3. Who is a young artist from your country that you like? Why?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

finalist
A person who reaches the last part of a competition.

audition
A short test performance to try to join a show.

viral
Shared very quickly online by many people.

livestream
A video shown live on the internet.

magician
A performer who does tricks that look like magic.

busk
To play music in public places for money from passers-by.

prize
Something valuable that you win in a competition.

announce
To say something officially to many people.

III. READING

Nene Royal, 16, won America's Got Talent and became the show's first Thai winner. In Tuesday's final in California, she performed Seven Nation Army by The White Stripes. Her heavy metal style beat nine other finalists, including magicians, canine acts and a robot dance crew. The prize is $1m (£755,000).

Nene became a fan favourite after a viral audition where she belted Zombie. Before the results were announced, she performed The Emptiness Machine with Linkin Park. When her name was announced, she cried and knelt on stage. Many fans in Thailand watched a YouTube livestream because NBC did not show the final there.

The stream ended mid-announcement, and then social media quickly filled with celebrations. Nene started guitar at seven and used to busk at Phuket's Naka Weekend Market. Her school, Kajonkiet International School, also cheered their student.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Teen rocker Nene Royal becomes first Thai to...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What record did Nene set with her win?
2. Where did the final take place?
3. Which song did she perform in the final?
4. How many other finalists did she beat?
5. What is the winner's cash prize?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Do you watch talent shows? Why or why not?
2. Would you like to be on a talent show? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever performed in public? How did it feel?
4. What helps young people follow a big dream?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Phrasal verbs (inseparable)

Inseparable phrasal verbs are verb + particle that must stay together. If there is an object, it goes after the particle: look for your keys, not look your keys for. Learn the whole phrase as one unit.

"Nene Royal **went on** *to win the final."*
"Many fans **looked forward to** *the final."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

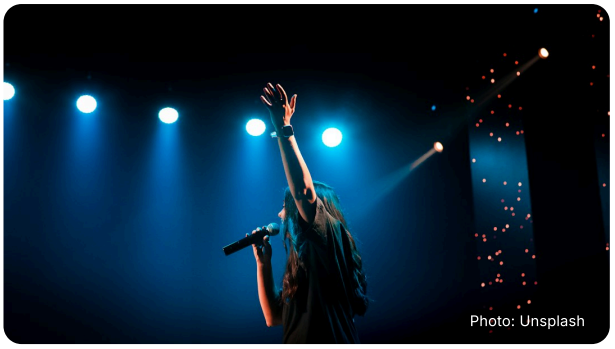
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Can you (look my guitar after / look after my guitar)? _____
2. Fans (look up to the winner / look the winner up to). _____
3. Viewers (put a slow stream up with / put up with a slow stream). _____
4. At the market, I (ran into a magician / ran a magician into). _____
5. I (came a viral audition across / came across a viral audition). _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 12–14 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach key names and terms: America's Got Talent, The White Stripes, Linkin Park, Phuket, livestream. Check meaning and pronunciation of viral, busk, finalist, announce.
- Run the reading in two passes: first for gist (who won and what record), then for details (songs, numbers, prize). Pair-check answers before whole-class feedback.
- Differentiation: Stronger students write a 3–4 sentence summary; others match facts to headings (songs, place, number, prize). Fast finishers list three past simple verbs from the text.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Poll the class first, then ask two students with different views to give reasons.
2. List ideas on the board and group by type of act; ask for examples from the text.
3. Let students think silently for 30 seconds, then share in pairs before open class.
4. Elicit two or three supports people need (family, school, time), then add examples.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: Write a 60-word congratulations post from her school after the win.

Presentation: In pairs, prepare a 90-second intro for Nene's next show, naming songs and facts.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

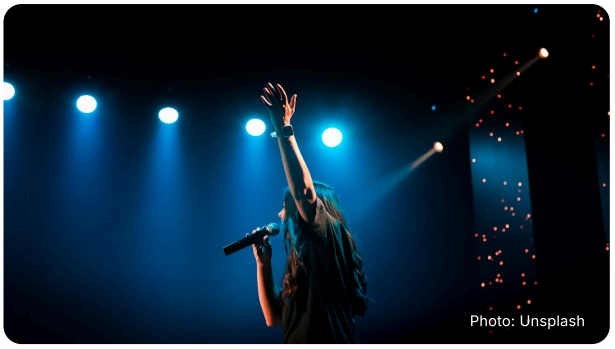
Grammar exercise: Phrasal verbs (inseparable)

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What record did Nene set with her win?
   She became the first Thai winner of the show.
2. Where did the final take place?
   In California, on Tuesday.
3. Which song did she perform in the final?
   Seven Nation Army by The White Stripes.
4. How many other finalists did she beat?
   Nine.
5. What is the winner's cash prize?
   $1m (£755,000).

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Can you (look my guitar after / look after my guitar)? **look after my guitar**
2. Fans (look up to the winner / look the winner up to). **look up to the winner**
3. Viewers (put a slow stream up with / put up with a slow stream). **put up with a slow stream**
4. At the market, I (ran into a magician / ran a magician into). **ran into a magician**
5. I (came a viral audition across / came across a viral audition). **came across a viral audition**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Inseparable phrasal verbs are verb + particle that must stay together. If there is an object, it goes after the particle: look for your keys, not look your keys for. Learn the whole phrase as one unit. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Nene Royal* **went on** *to win the final."*
> *"Many fans* **looked forward to** *the final."*