Robbie Williams sings for fans in Lima

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever had plans cancelled? What happened?
2. Do you like live music? Why or why not?
3. What would you do if a show stopped suddenly?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

impromptu
done without planning; sudden and not prepared

singalong
an event where people sing together with a performer

venue
a place where an event or concert happens

comply
to do what a rule or law says you must do

regulation
an official rule made by an authority

authorities
official people or organisations with power to decide

cancelled
stopped from happening after it was planned

capital
the main city of a country where the government is

III. READING

Robbie Williams gave an impromptu show outside a hotel in Peru's capital, Lima, after his stadium concert was cancelled. Authorities said the Arena 1 Park gig could not go ahead because the venue did not comply with safety regulations. Fans gathered on the street, and Robbie told them he was "broken-hearted".

He then led a short singalong with the cheering crowds. People were singing and filming as he performed a few lines from his songs. The surprise moment did not replace the big show, but it gave fans something to remember. Many had come hoping to see a full concert. Instead, they saw a star trying to thank them, even when plans had changed at the last minute.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Robbie Williams' surprise singalong after Peru...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did Robbie Williams sing for fans?
2. Why was the Arena 1 Park concert cancelled?
3. What did Robbie say about how he felt?
4. How did the fans react during the street moment?
5. Did the impromptu moment replace the full concert?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever seen a street performance? Describe it.
2. Is safety a good reason to cancel a concert? Why?
3. Would you wait outside a hotel to see a singer? Why?
4. What could organisers do for fans after a cancellation?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Past continuous

Use was/were + verb-ing to talk about actions that were happening at a particular time in the past or while another action occurred.

*"People **were singing and filming** as he performed a few lines from his songs."*

*"Visitors **were waiting** outside the hotel when the music started."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct past continuous form.

1. Fans (cheer) ___ loudly outside the hotel. _____
2. Visitors (gather) ___ on the street before the impromptu show. _____
3. The singer (try) ___ to thank his fans as they sang. _____
4. Crowds (talk) ___ about the cancellation during the afternoon. _____
5. Authorities (explain) ___ why the gig could not go ahead. _____

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.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 6-8 minutes warm-up, 8-10 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 8 minutes comprehension, 8-10 minutes discussion. Combine grammar timing with reading if needed.
- Pre-teach place names (Lima, Peru) and check students understand concert, hotel, and stadium. Drill pronunciation of impromptu, venue, and authorities with stress marked.
- Run a first reading for gist, then a second for detail to find why it was cancelled. No sensitive content; keep discussion on event safety and fan experience rather than personal stories.
- Differentiate: stronger students summarise the event in 3-4 short sentences; others highlight key phrases in the text and retell using them.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Elicit examples first in pairs, then invite two or three to share with the class.
2. Take a quick poll, then ask for one safety reason and one fan-focused reason.
3. Set up a mini role-play: one student waits, the other persuades them to go home.
4. Board two ideas from students, then push for one concrete action and a why.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 60-word message from organisers to fans explaining the cancellation and thanks (10 minutes).

Role-play: In groups of three, act the hotel moment: a fan, a friend, and the singer thanking the crowd (8 minutes).

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Past continuous

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

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did Robbie Williams sing for fans?
   Outside a hotel in Lima, Peru's capital.
2. Why was the Arena 1 Park concert cancelled?
   Authorities said the venue did not comply with safety regulations.
3. What did Robbie say about how he felt?
   He said he was "broken-hearted".
4. How did the fans react during the street moment?
   They cheered, sang, and filmed the moment.
5. Did the impromptu moment replace the full concert?
   No, it was only a short street singalong.

V. DISCUSSION

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

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct past continuous form.

1. Fans ___ loudly outside the hotel. **were cheering**
2. Visitors ___ on the street before the impromptu show. **were gathering**
3. The singer ___ to thank his fans as they sang. **was trying**
4. Crowds ___ about the cancellation during the afternoon. **were talking**
5. Authorities ___ why the gig could not go ahead. **were explaining**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use was/were + verb-ing to talk about actions that were happening at a particular time in the past or while another action occurred. (Example 2 constructed.)

> *"People* **were singing and filming** *as he performed a few lines from his songs."*
>
> *"Visitors* **were waiting** *outside the hotel when the music started."*