

Научно-исследовательская работа

Иностранный язык

**How did the band “Twenty One Pilots” get their name?**

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## **Introduction**

The band “Twenty One Pilots” is an American musical duo, which is very popular among teenagers all over the World. They perform many concerts in different parts of the Globe, where millions of youngsters can enjoy their incredible music. The band consists of the singer Tyler Joseph and the drummer Josh Dun. They usually compose music in the genres of alternative and a bit of pop. We really like such music that is why we decided to make a research about this band. Our main interest was the reason, why “Twenty One Pilots” have such a name.

### **The aim of the work is:**

- to reveal how the band “Twenty One-Pilots” got their name.

### **The tasks of the work are:**

- to study information about the history and biography members of the band “Twenty One Pilots”;
- to learn the musical style and discography of the band;
- to analyse the reasons for the band name;
- to run a survey about the popularity of the band among the students of Vzmakh school.

## **Chapter 1. The history of the band.**

The band “Twenty One Pilots” is a popular American group.

The band was founded by lead singer Tyler Joseph in 2009 along with former members Nick Thomas and Chris Salih who left in 2011. A few months later a new member has joined the group – the drummer Josh Dun. Now the band has only two members.

Tyler Joseph first met future bandmate Nick Thomas at a young age while playing youth basketball in Columbus, Ohio. Thomas later transferred to Joseph's middle school, and the two would remain friends throughout high school.

While attending Ohio State University, Joseph met Texas-born future bandmate Chris Salih at a party. Noting the songwriter's talent and creative energy, Salih consulted Joseph about starting a band. Impressed by the recording studio Salih had built in his house, Joseph agreed to play music together and began sharing his ideas for new music. Just before their first performance, Joseph invited Thomas to join the unnamed band as a bassist. In 2009, the group moved into a house of their own, where their first album was conceptualized and recorded in the basement.

The band initially played for a wide variety of audiences at clubs and venues around the Columbus area. Playing at metal, hardcore, and electronic venues influenced Joseph to incorporate these disparate styles into his songwriting. To catch the attention of unfamiliar or disinterested attendees and promoters, the band began to experiment with costumes and on-stage acrobatics.

Salih left on May 8, 2011 to focus on work, and Thomas left the next month on June 3, 2011 to focus on schooling, both posting farewell notes on the band's official Facebook page. Before departing from the project, Salih invited Guitar Center co-worker and friend of the group Josh Dun (former touring drummer for House of Heroes), to take his place in the band. Impressed by the

band's potential and Joseph's creative vision, Dun abandoned plans to pursue drumming in Nashville and joined the project only a few weeks before Thomas left the group.

The name of the band cannot be written in numbers - Tyler came up with this name under the impression of a heavy dramatic play and he is uncomfortable when he notices 21 pilots, written in numbers.

Tyler Joseph is from Columbus, Ohio and was homeschooled as a kid where he played basketball. His parents wanted Tyler to be the best he could be and didn't ever expect their son to hit it big so they showed him sports in hope that he would get a scholarship one day for college. That was the plan. Play ball, get a scholarship, go to school. But plans change and Tyler decided to learn how to play the piano instead.

Josh Dun also from Columbus, Ohio always had music with him he started playing the drums when he was 12 years old and taught himself everything he knows today. He would use his skateboard to go everywhere and would find the most tattooed up guy he could find at a record store and just ask for album suggestions. He then would walk to the music shop across the street and ask to play their drums until they asked him to stop.

These two guys have brought a form of art within their music that captivates people everywhere, but with every popular group they always have a beginning.

## **Chapter 2. Musical style of the band and discography.**

The duo are most frequently categorized as alternative hip hop, a subgenre of hip hop known for its unconventional nature and blending of music styles that is embraced primarily by alternative rock listeners and college radio more so than rap or pop audiences. They create music borrowing from a wide variety of different genres, most often hip hop, electropop, punk, rock, and reggae. Their songs contain a mixture of musical styles, intertwining rap rock rhymes laced with hard rock energy and piano pop hooks over synth-pop beats and reggae rhythms. Early material is post-emo, following bands such as My Chemical Romance and Dashboard Confessional, with show tune or glam rock esthetics. At the time of their major-label debut album *Vessel*, “Twenty One Pilots” was described as an indie rock duo. The album featured a fusion of rap, piano pop, rock and electronica. Their breakthrough album *Blurryface* expressed elements of pop, EDM, breakbeat, reggae, and dancehall. Over time, hip hop has become an increasingly prominent musical influence for the band. “Twenty One Pilots” has since been hailed as a leading contemporary alternative rock group, having sent four singles to the summit of the hot rock charts, and ten to the top of the alternative charts, with most of their singles reaching at least the top ten as well. During their songs, Joseph incorporates rapping, singing, screaming, and sometimes crooning.

Tyler Joseph writes lyrics that are often psychodramatic in nature and usually based around his piano parts. He describes his songwriting as well as himself as "very dramatic." Joseph claims he began writing songs because there were things he wanted to say that he didn't know how to in a normal conversation.

The group released their debut, Self-Titled album, “Twenty One Pilots”, on December 29, 2009, and began touring Ohio. With a new lineup consisting of only Joseph and Dun, “Twenty One Pilots” self-released their second album, *Regional at Best*, on July 8, 2011. “Twenty One Pilots” third album, *Vessel*, was released January 8, 2013; it would reach No. 21 on the Billboard 200, No. 9 on

the Digital Albums chart, No. 17 on the Internet Albums chart, No. 15 on the Rock Albums Chart, and No. 10 on the Alternative Albums Chart. On March 16, 2015, the band announced that a new album, *Blurryface*, was to be released on May 19. On April 28, "Stressed Out" became the group's best-selling single, peaking at No. 2 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. On June 16, 2016 the band released "Heathens", the lead single from the soundtrack to the movie *Suicide Squad*.

In April 2018, a cryptic message was uncovered on the band's web store, which revealed a website. Fans began using clues and found other sections of this site, hinting at the possibility of the band's return. There were multiple images uploaded to the website, including letters from a character named "Clancy". In July 2018, "Twenty One Pilots" broke their year-long silence, first sending a cryptic email to fans and later posting a video to all social media platforms and updating their logo and branding. On July 11, 2018, the band released two new songs, "Jumpsuit" and "Nico and the Niners", as well as the music video for "Jumpsuit". Later, on July 26, 2018, the music video for "Nico and the Niners" was released. The song "Levitate" was subsequently released as the album's third single via Zane Lowe's Beats 1 show as the day's "World Record". The music video was also released, concluding the trilogy series. The band released their fifth album, *Trench*, on October 5, 2018.

On March 4, 2019, five months after the release of their fifth studio album *Trench*, the band confirmed that they were working on their next studio album. About the possible theme, Joseph said, "there's a character that hasn't been talked about on any record yet that plays a huge role in the narrative that obviously will need to be talked about and it's probably where we're going next". On April 9, 2020, the duo released the song "Level of Concern", which marked the first musical output by the duo since the release of *Trench*. "Level of Concern" references COVID-19 pandemic-induced anxiety, and its accompanying music video was filmed in Joseph and Dun's homes while they were under lockdown due to the pandemic. Joseph directed a portion of the

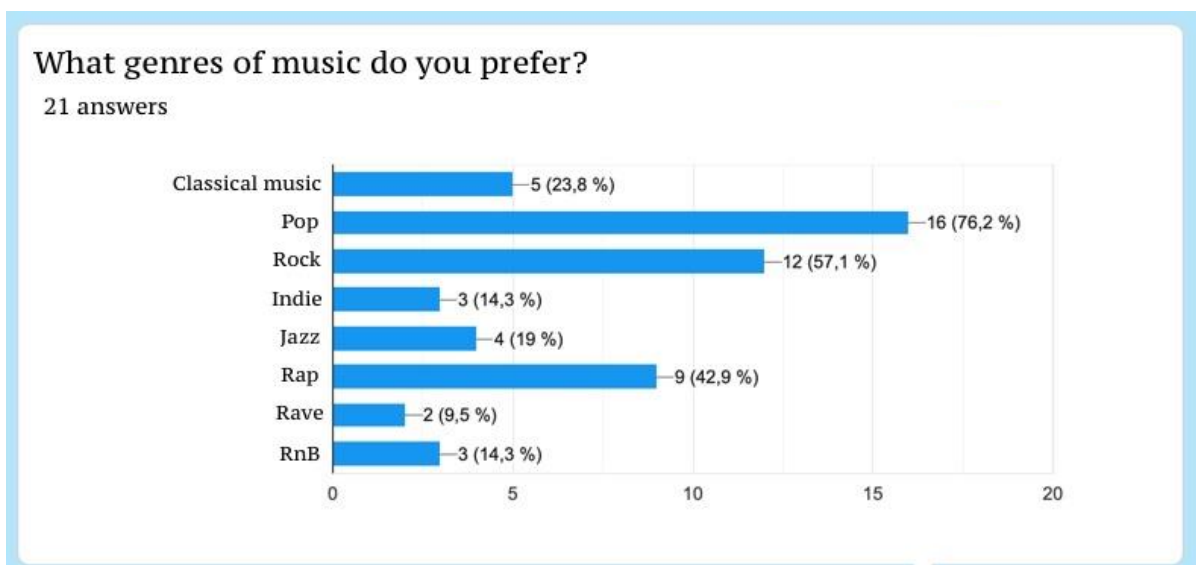
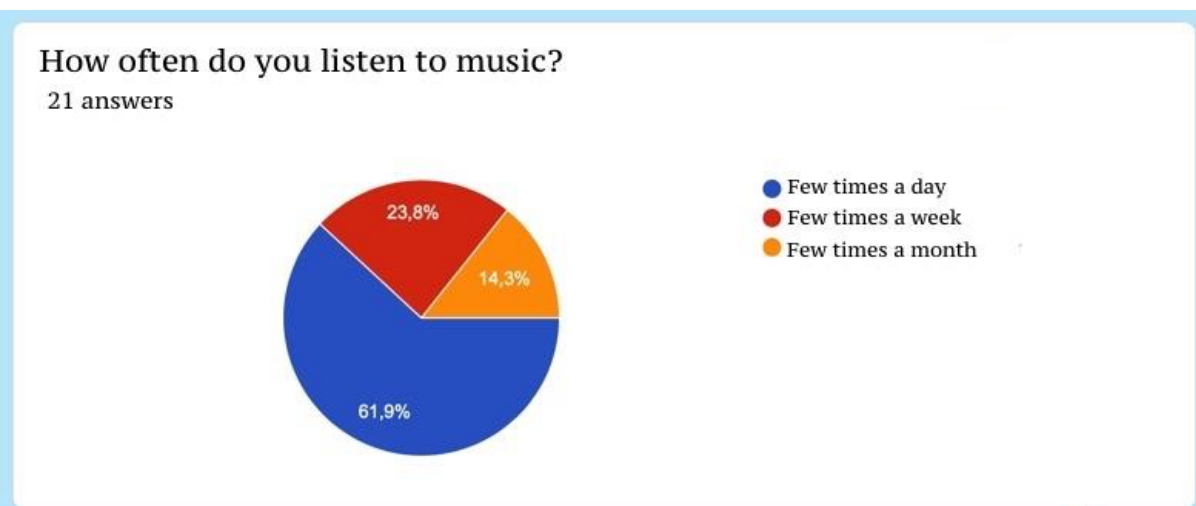
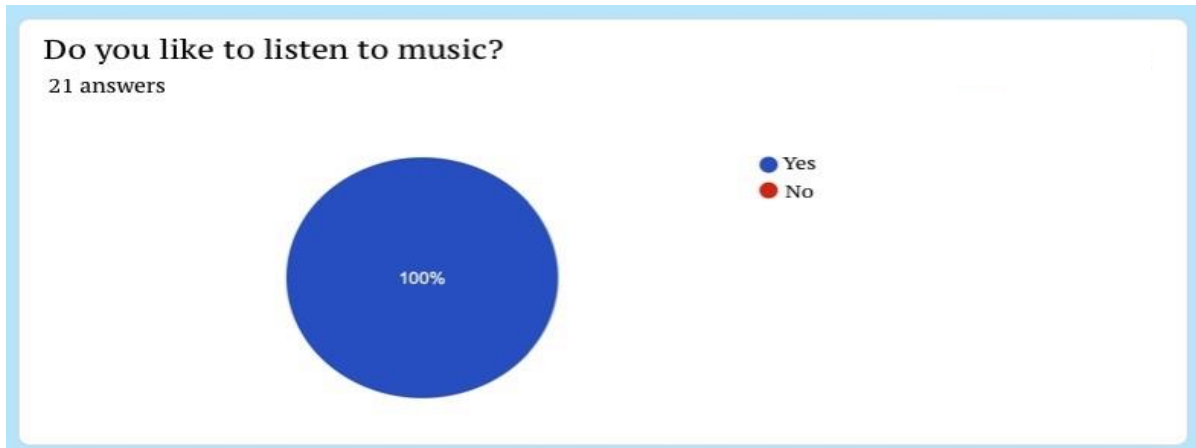
song's proceeds to Crew Nation, a charity for live music crews who could not be paid during the international quarantine. The duo's sixth studio album, *Scaled and Icy*, was released on May 21, 2021.

### **Chapter 3. The band's name.**

According to the band, their purpose for making music is "to make people think" and encourage them to find joy in what they come to believe in life. "Twenty One Pilots" derives their band name and philosophy from literary origins. This is an example of typical English allusion, which is a reference to a literature fact. According to Joseph, he got the band's name and meaning from reading the 1947 play *All My Sons* by American playwright Arthur Miller. In the story, the main protagonist is a war contractor named Joe Keller who crafts airplane parts for war planes. Upon discovering some are faulty and would fail if used, he must decide whether or not to recall them. Keller is forced to make a decision to either spend his money trying to repair the faulty parts or press forward and use them. Though he wants to do what's right, Keller is afraid to lose money and needs to support his family, so he decides to send the parts anyway, to Europe during World War II. As a consequence of his decision, twenty-one pilots perish. At the end of the play, Keller commits suicide. Joseph explained the story's themes of moral dilemma, between choosing the easy and the right decision resonated with him and inspired the name and formation of the band. While the story is morbid, Joseph discovered a lesson within it. It showed him that every decision he makes will have great outcomes or dire consequences. Joseph stated, "We're constantly faced with decisions. A lot of times, the right ones take more work, it takes longer to see benefit; they're the long route. We know in order to get where we want to be and do what we want to be doing, sometimes we have to do what we don't feel like doing. It takes hard work, and the band name is a constant reminder of that."

## Chapter 4. The survey results about the popularity of the band among the students of Vzmakh school.

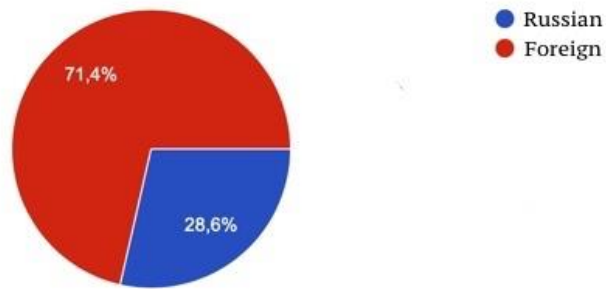
We made a survey about the popularity of the band “Twenty One Pilots” among students of our school. A total of 21 people took part in the survey.





### What musicians do you listen more often?

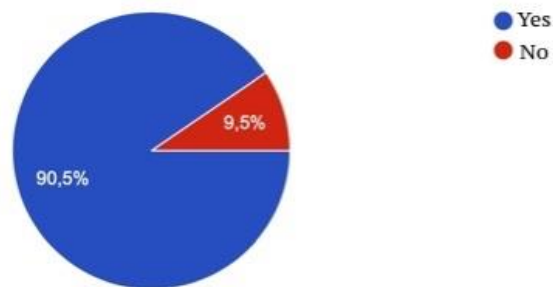
21 answers



### Have you ever heard about the duo twenty one pilots?

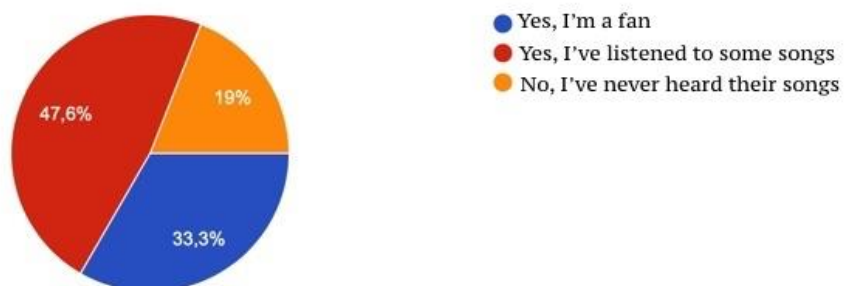
21 answers

 Копировать



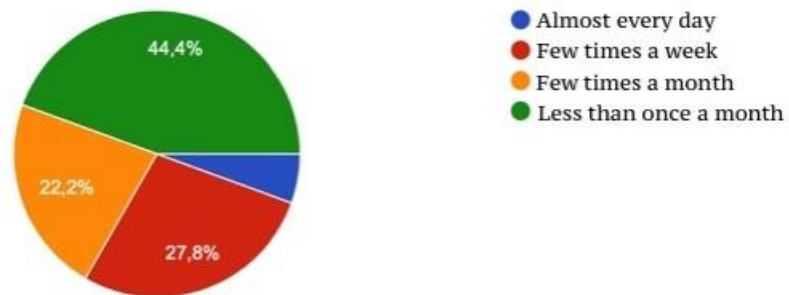
### Are you familiar with the music of the band?

21 answers



### How often to you listen to their songs?

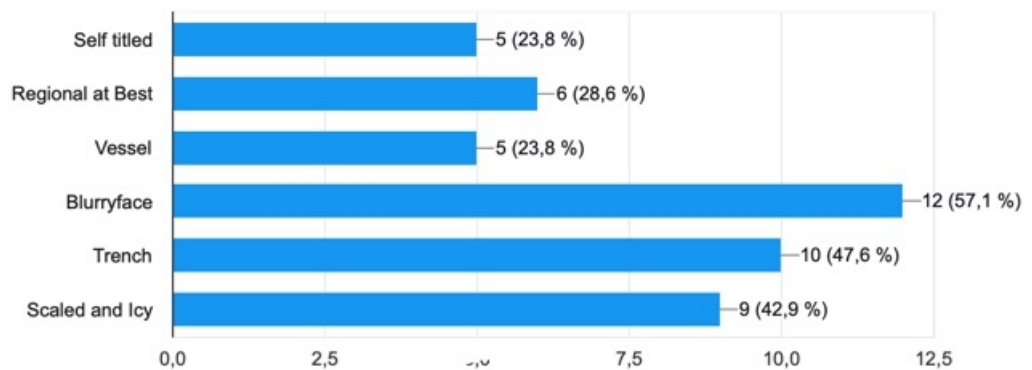
21 answers



### What group albums do you like the most?

21 answers

 Копировать



Our conclusions are:

- all respondents listen to music;
- most of respondents have heard about the band;
- most of the surveyed have listened some songs of the band;
- the favorite album is “Blurryface”.

The band “Twenty One Pilots” is quite popular among the students of the Vzmakh school.

## Conclusion

“Twenty One Pilots” became the third in the history of musicians whose two singles simultaneously entered the top five on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Before Tyler Joseph and Josh Dun only the Beatles and Elvis Presley achieved such result. In September 2016, at the American Music Awards ceremony, the musicians of “Twenty One Pilots” received awards as a favorite rock/pop duo and alternative rock artist.

“Twenty One Pilots” know no boundaries not only in the combination of genres, but also in how you can convey the meaning of songs. There is a whole story behind each line. The clips are one part of how their songs are revealed.

To conclude, we’d say, that the name of the band has a lot of meaning, which is much deeper than can be seen from the first view. People need to think more about some signs that can be noticed in their favorite band’s history.

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Загл. с экрана. (04.11.2022)

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