

## Oasis

Noel Gallagher began his music career in 1989 as a roadie for The Inspiral Carpets. He gained the position by failing an audition as the new singer for the band at the end of 1988. The band took a liking to him and decided to take him on in a slightly less elevated role. After seeing his younger brother Liam's band (an early incarnation of Oasis) at a gig, he decided to take over the management of the band in addition to his duties for The Inspiral Carpets. He took control of the songwriting and gave the band a much more professional approach to their rehearsals (they could barely play their instruments at this stage). Eventually, as The Inspiral Carpets' success dwindled and they had to dispense with Noel's services as a roadie, so Oasis became his sole focus. By this stage, he was also the band's lead guitarist. They signed to Creation Records, run by the colourful character Alan McGee, in 1993. After the release of their debut album *Definitely Maybe* in 1994, Oasis went from strength to strength, becoming exceedingly popular with the record-buying public.



Noel Gallagher performing with his Union Jack guitar.



### 5 Supersonic, Oasis

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Listen to the song *Supersonic* by Oasis.

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| a) How is the scraping sound in the intro achieved? | d) What elements give this song its powerful driving feel? |
| b) Describe the phrase structure of the verse.      | e) What elements of the song make it sound 'British'?      |
| c) Write out the structure of the song.             |  |

## The Beatles' influence

Oasis are the Britpop band who most openly acknowledge The Beatles as a major influence. Their song *Don't Look Back in Anger* (from the album *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* (1995)) has an opening piano riff that is reminiscent of John Lennon's *Imagine* (1975). On their third album, a collection of B-sides and previously unreleased material entitled *The Masterplan* (1998), they include a cover of a Beatles song *I am the Walrus*. They are happy to admit borrowing from The Beatles, and this serves to reinforce their credentials as a very British band.

Other bands such as The Jam, The Who and The Rolling Stones have all been listed as influences by members of Oasis, Blur, Suede and Pulp. This 1960s guitar-based British rock band influence is an important part of the Britpop sound.