

Animations

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BBC Teach Live Lesson: Eurovision 2023



BBC Teach

Live Lessons



Watch the **BBC Teach Live Lesson: Eurovision 2023.**



**What do you already know about
the Eurovision Song Contest?**

What is the Eurovision Song Contest?

The Eurovision Song Contest is a songwriting contest that takes place every year and is organised by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

National broadcasters (like the BBC) select a song and performer by the middle of March to enter the contest. Each country's performer may be selected through a national public vote or a series of televised shows.



Did you know...?

Although the majority of competing countries are from Europe, countries such as Israel and Azerbaijan take part in Eurovision. This is because they have a broadcasting service which is part of the EBU.

Are there rules about performances?

Traditionally, the Eurovision Song Contest is held in May in the previous winner's country.

When artists first performed at the contest, they sung in their native language; however, this has changed as time has gone on with many countries choosing to sing in a more universal language in order to have greater appeal to the judges and audience at home.

Other rules have been established so that there are guidelines for the artists, such as the number of performers on stage and the inclusion of dance moves.

How is a winner chosen?

Originally, judges from each country would award points for each performance. However, in 1997, **televoting** was trialled by five countries before being rolled out to all countries the following year; this allowed the public to vote for their favourite performances.



Did you know...?

Each nation is unable to vote for their own country's performance.

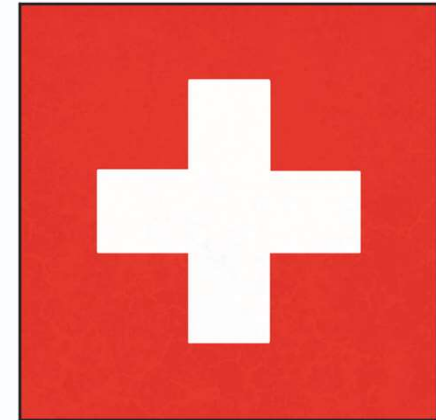
Televoting is when someone votes for something using their telephone. This may be by calling or sending a text message.

Nowadays, each country awards two sets of points to their favourite songs, one set from music professionals and the other from the audience watching at home. Points awarded from each group range from 1 to 8, and then 10 and 12 points are given to the top two choices.

The country receiving the most points overall wins the competition.

When was the first Eurovision Song Contest?

The first Eurovision Song Contest was held on 24th May 1956 in Lugano in Switzerland. It was one of the first times that a live event was broadcast on television to a large international audience. In the 1950s, a lot fewer people had televisions in their homes compared to nowadays.



Switzerland was chosen to host the first contest thanks to its central geographical location in Europe as broadcasters felt it was in the best position technically to transmit the programme.

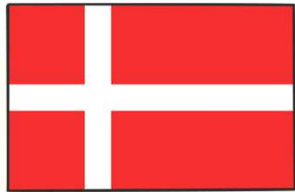
Who took part in the first Eurovision Song Contest?

Seven different countries took part in the first ever Eurovision Song Contest: the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Italy. Only solo artists were allowed to enter and each country performed two songs each.

The winning artist, Lyss Asia, represented Switzerland with the song, 'Refrain'.



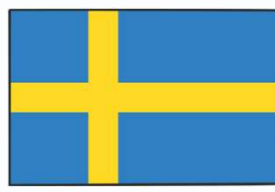
Timeline of recent winners



2013
Denmark



2014
Austria



2015
Sweden



2016
Ukraine



2017
Portugal



2018
Israel



2019
the Netherlands



2020
**Cancelled due
to the COVID-
19 pandemic.**



2021
Italy



2022
Ukraine

Where will the Eurovision Song Contest be held in 2023?

Traditionally, the Eurovision Song Contest is held in the previous winner's country. Ukraine won in 2022 but, because of the war there, the European Broadcasting Union decided it would not be possible to safely hold the event there in 2023. The United Kingdom, who were the runners-up, will be hosting the contest instead.



Did you know...?

When it was announced that the Eurovision Song Contest would be held in the United Kingdom, 20 cities across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland expressed an interest in hosting the event. Seven cities were shortlisted before Liverpool was announced as the host city.

‘United By Music’

The slogan for the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 is ‘United By Music’. This suggests how important the partnership between the United Kingdom and Ukraine will be throughout this contest and how music can bring people together.

Although Liverpool is hosting the competition, Ukrainian culture and music will be celebrated to mark the fact that Ukraine were the winners of the previous Eurovision Song Contest.



Eurovision fun facts

- In 1969, four countries earned the same amount of points to come in first place! Spain, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands were all declared joint winners.
- Until 1998, every country's act used to be supported by a live orchestra and each country brought its own conductor.
- The Eurovision Song Contest is the longest-running annual TV music competition. In 2015, it achieved the Guinness World Record for this title.
- As of 2022, Ireland has won the most Eurovision Song Contests with seven wins! Sweden have had six victories, while the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and the United Kingdom have each won five times.



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