

Name: _____

Never too old to rock

For most of us, 69 is an age when we want to take things easy and perhaps potter around the garden or play a relaxing round of golf now and again. But not for Ruth Flowers. She hasn't had a weekend off in the

5▶ last two months, and has taken six flights in the last week alone. But Ms Flowers isn't a top executive or anything like that: she is an internationally famous disc jockey!

She first thought of becoming a DJ five years ago,

10▶ when her grandson decided to celebrate his birthday in a London nightclub and she decided to turn up and join in the fun. As soon as she entered the club, she was hooked: 'It was frightfully noisy, of course, and there were all these lights flashing, but ... these young

15▶ people were just having so much fun. So I said to my grandson, "You know, I could arrange things like this, for the local kids."

Nowadays, she's not just laying on music for the 'local kids'. She has a hectic programme of gigs

20▶ all over Europe. Strangely enough, one of the few countries in Europe where she's not in demand is Britain. It seems to be a case of no prophet, or at least no DJ, being accepted in his or her own country. On the continent, however, she is treated like a pop star:

25▶ 'They try to hug me, they tell me they want me to be their grandma, they even throw roses at me.' The job obviously involves a lot of travelling, and she has

mixed feelings about that. On the one hand, she finds it tiring, but on the other hand, it gives her a chance

30▶ to see lots of different countries and to stay in very nice hotels.

When she's 'at work', Flowers plays a mixture of her own favourites – Queen, The Rolling Stones, etc. – together with more modern electro-rock. She thinks

35▶ that this is one of the reasons why her sessions go down so well. But her popularity doesn't just come from the music that she plays. She also has her own rather unique dress sense: glamorous sports gear, big jewellery and sunglasses, and spiky silver hair.

40▶ Before becoming a DJ at a relatively late stage in life, Flowers had a string of varied jobs: owner of a village shop, drama teacher, running singing and theatre groups in Portugal and more. In fact, she gives the impression of being someone who is always willing

45▶ to try something new, and also someone who doesn't like to be stuck in the same job for long. Her next challenge is to try to make it in America, and possibly in Asia, too. She has not given up on her home market, either. For sentimental reasons, she would

50▶ very much like to have her work recognised here in the UK.

One thing is for sure: it doesn't look like Ruth Flowers will be taking things easy and pottering around the garden any time soon.

1 Answer the questions *in your own words*.

- 1 Why is Ruth Flowers not a typical 69-year-old?
- 2 How is Ruth Flowers considered in Britain and in other European countries?
- 3 Why do people like Ruth Flowers' performances?

2 Say whether the statements are true or false. Quote from the text to justify your answers.

- 1 Ruth Flowers' grandson gave her the idea of becoming a DJ.
- 2 She doesn't like travelling.
- 3 This is not her first job connected with music.
- 4 She wants to be a success outside Europe.

3 Find words or phrases in the text that mean:

- 1 walk slowly (paragraph 1)
- 2 very (paragraph 2)
- 3 performances (paragraph 3)
- 4 are received (paragraph 4)

4 Complete the sentences with a word or phrase that expresses the meaning of the text.

- 1 Ruth Flowers has been at the weekend for the last two months.
- 2 Ruth Flowers got the idea of becoming a DJ because she went to
- 3 Travelling a lot makes her
- 4 When she works, Ruth Flowers doesn't wear

5 Write two words from the second paragraph that include the same sound as *u* in *put* /ʊ/.