

American Idol

Introduction: American Idol judges

Look at the American Idol judges. What kind of comments do you think each one might give?



Randy Jackson
Musician, producer



Paula Abdul
Pop singer, choreographer



Simon Cowell
Music industry executive, producer

Listening I: Judges' critiques

During the auditions, the judges have made the following comments. Which ones do you think are positive and which ones are negative?

Part I

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----------|----------|
| 1. Everything was just mad. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 2. like a sheep / like an animal | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 3. excruciating | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 4. Does he have a returns policy? | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 5. That was catchy. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 6. It ended for me when the weird strip-tease started. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 7. She's got a nice tone. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 8. You must be hot | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 9. I was like, "yeah, what?" | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |

Part II

- | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----------|----------|
| 1. It's like when your mum gets drunk and starts dancing. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 2. There was absolutely nothing redeeming in it. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 3. This is the one I'm gonna remember. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 4. You're a force to be reckoned with. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 5. You would've just shattered every window in here. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 6. I believe you know it kind of fell apart. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 7. You could sneak up and give everybody a run. | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |
| 8. That was the bomb! | RJ | PA | SC | positive | negative |

Now watch the video and check your answers. Also, circle the initials of the judge who actually made each comment.

Listening II: Finalists

Here are the two finalists in the competition. Watch their final performances and write your own criticism of each (positive or negative).



David Archuleta



David Cook

Discuss your criticisms with your group members.

Listening III: Judges' criticism

Now watch the judges' criticism. Who do the judges seem to think is the winner?

David Archuleta David Cook

Listening IV: Final Results

Watch the final results video and fill in the blanks in the judges' comments.

Randy Jackson: ...You dudes brought it _____ _____. I'm so happy that it's the two of you standing there. This has been one of the _____.

Paula Abdul: ... And just remember, sometimes we think it's all about _____, but it's the things sometimes that _____ that reminds us how truly special we are as people.

Simon Cowell: Um, I want to congratulate both of you last night. Because um I thought, on the night, it was a _____. I went back home to watch it. (It) wasn't quite so _____ as we had called it.