

# Hipster vs indie essay

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While the majority of both Indies and hipster people participate in November year round, engage in shopping only from thrift shops, or listening to mainstream music exclusively, it would seem that these two subcultures clearly have many similarities. To the untrained eye this is true, however the differences reside in the subcultures' origin and life values. Hipsters, a subculture of men and women who value independent thinking, are undercurrent, and an appreciation for art, music, creativity, and witty banter, are most commonly stereotyped as being cliquey, elitists, arrogant, unfriendly and superficial. Many Indies people have an image of being generally nice, happy, people with a quick wit. The term 'hipster' was coined in the 1940s Jazz age where the adjective "hip" emerged to describe aficionados of the growing scene.

While the origin of "hip" is disputed, some say it was a derivative from 'hop', a slang word for opium, and others believe it comes from the West African word 'hip', meaning "to open one's eyes". Either way, 'hip' eventually acquired the prefix steer, such as with gangster. As for the Indies beginnings, the late 60s were the precedents to Indies music. It began with the initial punk rock explosion, and soon following was new wave.

It originated in the UK in the mid 60s and was a bit more experimental and polished than punk was. By the mid 60s the United States was referring to the underground scene as college rock or alternative. Americans weren't referring to this new genre as Indies until the late 60s to differentiate between the alternative acts and the underground. It wasn't until the late 60s to early 70s when Indies became a known genre for music and soon thereafter, a lifestyle.

The number one rule in hipster is to never call oneself a hipster because by doing so, one is confining oneself out of their unique potential and creativity. Common practice amongst hipsters is to shun everything mainstream, how society thinks one should act, look, and think like. They listen to underground music to impress their friends and be cool. While Indies people avoid mainstream music, they choose to listen to underground music for its meaning. For both hipster and Indies people, their music of choice usually is an underground alternative/ independent band. However no matter how obscenely terrible the music may sound, a hipster will listen to it just to say, “ I heard it before you.

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