



Reading Activity

- Read the text and write T for True or F for False.

Music videos

British teenagers like to watch their music online. Watching music on video streaming sites on the internet is now more popular than listening to the radio with young British people. Popular videos can quickly become extremely popular internationally. Justin Bieber's song 'Baby' was the most watched music video on YouTube until 2012. Then, PSY's 'Gangnam Style' became the first video to get a billion views. Now, it's quite common for videos to pass the billion mark. Things can change quickly on YouTube!

Downloading music

Downloading music is a popular choice for young Brits. The BPI (an organisation which promotes the interests of British music) says that people in the UK prefer downloading singles rather than albums. In the UK you can download a single for about £1 and an album for around £10.

Live music

The O2 in London is the second largest live music arena in Europe. There you can see world-famous bands such as One Direction, Justin Bieber, The Rolling Stones, and Elton John.

There are also music festivals across Britain every year that are completely free of charge. Last year

britishcouncil.org

more than 150,000 people went to the Tramlines free music festival in Sheffield in the north of England.

Music on TV

The X Factor is a British television music competition to find new talented singers. The 'X Factor' of the title refers to the difficult-to-define quality that makes a star. The show began in 2004 and is still popular. *X Factor* singers perform on a stage in front of the judges and a live audience. After the performance the audience at home can vote by phone for their favourite acts. Many winners then go on to get a UK number-one single. But you don't have to win *The X Factor* to become famous: One Direction, the massively popular British boy band, competed in 2010 but they didn't win, they came third!

What kind of music?

What are you and your friends listening to these days? Hip hop, dance, rock, heavy metal, rap, urban, reggae ... individual tastes are very varied amongst British teenagers. In a shopping centre in Birmingham, central England, shoppers and shop owners complained to the police about teenagers behaving badly in the shopping centre. When a new sound system started playing Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, the antisocial behaviour stopped. The young people causing problems had gone! Classical music was clearly not popular with these particular teenagers.

- 1) British teenagers prefer the radio to YouTube videos.
- 2) J. Bieber's song 'Baby' was the first watched music video on YouTube in 2012.
- 3) People in the UK prefer to download singles.
- 4) The O2 is the largest live music venue in the world.
- 5) There are free music festivals in the UK every year.
- 6) The X Factor has been on TV since 2004.
- 7) One Direction won a television music competition.
- 8) Classical music helped to solve a problem in a British shopping centre.