Boy bands

Listening Comprehension

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Listen to the radio interview about boy bands and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

I. Preparation

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

reality	**music**	**'look'**
feel-good	**record**	**good-looking**

How to create a boy band

1. Find four or five_____ boys.
2. Check they have at least some _____ability.
3. Decide on a _____ for the band.
4. Write them some songs with safe, _____lyrics.
5. Ideally, get them on a _____TV show.
6. Make as much money as possible from _____sales, concerts and merchandising

II. Checking your understanding

A. Choose *True or False* for these sentences.

1. Many boy bands are not successful.	True	False
2. In the past, boy band members dressed differently but had similar personalities.	True	False
3. Having different types of boy in the group is supposed to appeal to different girls.	True	False

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4. One Direction first became famous on YouTube. True False

5. One Direction lyrics are written for girls who like rebellious boys. True False

6. One Direction's stylists try to give each band member an individual look. True False

7. One Direction became famous in the US by clever use of social media True False

8. One Direction have not tried to make money from merchandising. True False

B. Choose the best phrase to complete these sentences.

1. The most important thing for boy bands in the past was that **they had some musical ability / they could dance well / they had different personalities.**

2. Things have changed because **people wanted something different / the media and new technology influence things differently / both of the above.**

3. Starting on a reality show like X Factor is great for a band because **appearing on TV is the quickest way to get famous / the many viewers who vote every week become loyal fans / people feel a personal connection with bands they see on TV .**

4. The words to One Direction songs are designed to **make teenage girls feel good about themselves / appeal to mums by being a bit cheeky / communicate universal messages about love.**

5. One Direction's clothes **are very individual and they each have a strong look / create a clean-cut, safe and non-threatening image / are casual and fashionable with a touch of rebelliousness .**

6. Lots of people said One Direction wouldn't **be regarded as serious musicians / get famous in the US as well as the UK / have a number one record .**

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7. One Direction were the first British band to **have their first album go to number one in the US / sell so many copies of their first album in just one week / break into the US market by using social media** .

8. The boys have also made money from **selling One Direction products like dolls and phones / performing as many sell-out concerts as possible / giving talks about their success .**

III. Discussion

Have you had any favorite boy/girl band?



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