

In the 1960s, it took pop and rock groups one or two days to record other their songs. Nowadays, it can take months and months. Many rock groups begin by recording only one instrument, for example, the voice. Then they record other instruments – electric piano, synthesiser, guitars, drums and so on.

Next, they might use a computer to add special effects. Finally, they 'mix' all the instruments until they get the sound that they want. This means that a CD or cassette will always sound very different from a live concert.

Music engineers have developed a new computer programme that will change the future of music. A computer can analyse a singer's voice. Then if you give the computer the lyrics and music of a song, the computer can 'sing' **it** in that voice. This means that a singer only needs to record one song and the computer can then sing other songs in the singer's own voice. Singers can sing new songs many years after they have died.

Most of us listen to music for pleasure, but for the record companies, music is a product, the same as soap powder. When a record company finds a new group (or 'band'), they first try to develop the band's 'profile'. They will try to create an 'image' for the band **that** they think will attract young people. Instead of allowing the band's full artistic freedom, they will often tell the band what they should wear, what they should say and how they should sing and play.

In recent year, many rock groups have started their own record companies because they say that the big companies are too **commercial**.

1. Today, to record songs, it takes ____.

- A. longer than it used to do
- B. shorter than it used to do

C. only one or two days
D. the same amount of time as the 1960s

2. Today's record procedure results in _____.
A. different sounds of recorded songs and live-performed songs
B. the mixture between CDs and live concert
C. some special effects on songs
D. differences in voices and instruments played

3. Which of the following is NOT true about the new computer programme?
A. It is predicted to change the music future.
B. It can imitate singers' voices.
C. It can sing only one recorded song of the singer.
D. The singer does not necessarily present to really sing.

4. The word "it" in the passage refers to _____.
A. music B. a lyric C. a singer D. a song

5. Record companies don't always _____.
A. suggest the outfits of the band
B. tell the band what to say
C. give the band freedom to do things
D. decide the songs the band will play

6. The word "that" in the passage refers to _____.
A. the new computer programme
B. the new computer programme
C. the new computer programme
D. the new computer programme

A. soap powder B. an image

C. the band D. a company

7. The word "**commercial**" in the passage is closest in meaning to ____.

A. famous B. popular

C. useful D. money-oriented