

PIRATE RADIO STATIONS

Seven sentences have been removed from this article. Choose the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Forty years ago a radio station on a boat off the coast of Britain began broadcasting pop music. Radio Caroline's style was young, fresh and cheeky - and the station itself was outside British law.

The British government grants licences for people to operate radio and TV stations, but forty years ago the only radio stations that existed legally in Britain were run by the BBC, the state-owned broadcasting company, and the government would not allow anyone to operate a private radio station. (1)_____ The Irishman who founded Radio Caroline simply put the radio equipment on a boat and anchored it just outside the three-mile limit.

Why would anyone go to so much trouble to start up a radio station? One reason was the BBC's policy on the kind of music it broadcast. During a period when pop music was extremely popular, the BBC played very little of it on its radio stations. It was felt that the BBC should cater for more conservative tastes in music. (2)_____ It was only a matter of time before an enterprising businessman who managed some pop music bands realized that here was a huge potential market.

There was, in fact, a radio station operating outside Britain at the time transmitting programs that could be received in the country: Radio Luxembourg. (3)_____ It was only after Radio Caroline went on the air that young people were able to listen to pop music broadcast in English all day.

As well as playing the sort of music that young people liked, Radio Caroline was popular with listeners for other reasons.

The disc jockeys didn't have the typical BBC pronunciation, which, even forty years ago, was considered by many to be too formal and old-fashioned. Instead they spoke with regional accents, they used colloquial English, they were loud and irreverent. (4) _____

Then other pirate radio stations began to spring up and the British government decided that some action had to be taken. (5) _____ However, it soon became clear that the authorities were being forced to face the new situation created by the pirate radio stations. These had shown that pop music was here to stay, and that young people desperately wanted to listen to radio stations that played it.

Was there a lesson to be learnt from all this? Indeed there was! The BBC decided to start up its own pop music radio station, Radio 1, and before long Radio Caroline disc jockeys were working there. (6) _____

In a further development, the British government decided to allow commercial radio stations to operate in the country. This meant stations could now do legally what Radio Caroline had been doing illegally - and in far more comfortable conditions. (7)_____ Its situation became even worse when the ship from which it was operating sank. The crew and disc jockeys had to be rescued. Another ship was found but it ran aground in a storm.

Today Radio Caroline still exists but it is no longer as popular as it was 40 years ago. But it made history by forcing the BBC to change its policy on pop music and the nature of its relationship with its listeners.

A However, the government's power only extended to the country itself and the seas around it up to three miles from the shore.

B Not surprisingly, Radio Caroline found itself in serious financial difficulties.

C As a result, there were large numbers of young people who wanted to listen to a particular type of music but couldn't.

D The audiences love it and soon large numbers of listeners were tuning in to Radio Caroline.

E What is more, increasing numbers of listeners were switching from the pirate stations to the eminent broadcaster.

F But this station used to play only a short section of each song - and this was clearly not satisfactory.

G The radio station went on to become a legend, and its disc jockeys won fame and fortune.

H In 1967 a new law was passed making it illegal to advertise or supply an offshore radio station from the UK.

