BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish Teens

Listening skills practice: Boy bands – exercises

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

1. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise before you listen. 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.

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle *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*
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*

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3. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle 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 .

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 .

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