READING ASSESMENT

Carpool Karaoke: A YouTube Hit

Karaoke is, of course, the popular Japanese activity of singing along to pop hits. And if you like pop music and enjoy spending your free time watching YouTube clips, the chances are you will have heard of the Carpool Karaoke videos, which have proved to be a global viral sensation. **(1)** _____ Justin Bieber, Jennifer Lopez and Adele, to name just a few pop stars, have all appeared in these viral videos.

Carpool Karaoke is presented by the British actor and producer James Corden. **(2)** _____ After that, Corden went on to become a presenter on a comedy sports programme and he also starred in the award-winning play *One Man, Two Guvnors* in London's West End. Then, in 2015, Corden was invited to present the American late-night talk show *The Late Late Show*, where he developed the idea of Carpool Karaoke as a regular section of the programme.

Although this was the first time Carpool Karaoke had appeared on American TV, Corden had first used the idea on British TV back in 2011. He had originally recorded a clip for Comic Relief, an annual event on television which raises money for charity. **(3)** _____ Viewers generally agreed that Corden's was the best clip of the entire show.

Although *The Late Late Show* has had considerable success on late night TV, it's the Carpool Karaoke videos which have proved to be the biggest hit with the public since Corden took over. **(4)** _____ For instance, 'Carpool' has been watched more than 500 million times on the video streaming website and many of the clips, with acts like One Direction and Christina Aguilera, have managed to get tens of millions of hits each. The most successful clip so far features Corden with pop superstar Adele, achieving more than 100 million hits.

The question that everyone is asking, including many YouTubers hoping to come up with a great idea for a video that goes viral, is what is the secret of its success? If you have seen 'Carpool', the answer seems quite obvious; Corden brings out the best in his guests. **(5)** _____ That is why even Michelle Obama, the former First Lady of the United States, is happy to drive around the grounds of the White House singing along to songs by Beyoncé and Stevie Wonder and talking about her campaign to raise funds for an educational project or just chatting about what she and her family get up to. This gives the viewers, who are probably singing along at home, the sensation that they are in the car themselves with the biggest stars of our time.

Read the article and order these paragraph summaries, from 1–5.

A information about the origins of Carpool Karaoke ____
B why the writer thinks the videos are popular ____
C a general description Karaoke ____
D examples of how successful Carpool Karaoke is ____
E information about the presenter of the videos ____

Read the article. Choose which sentence A–F fits each gap 1–5. There is one extra sentence you do not need.

A In this short video, Corden drives around with the pop star George Michael in the passenger seat, both singing along to his songs. _____
B None of the clips released so far has proved itself to be as popular as the Adele one. _____
C Each of them has been uploaded to YouTube, where most of them have gone viral and the viewing figures are incredible. _____
D In Carpool Karaoke, short videos feature a presenter driving his car around the streets of Los Angeles, chatting and performing karaoke with some of the biggest pop stars in the world. _____
E Regardless of how famous or powerful they are, this friendly, cheerful TV personality makes them feel relaxed enough to just be themselves. _____
F He first became famous after writing and starring in the sitcom *Gavin and Stacey*, which achieved major success in the UK.

LIVEWORKSHEETS