Memories and music on a desert island

BBC radio started broadcasting in 1927 and some of the programmes it broadcasts today are almost as old. One programme that has a long history is *Desert Island Discs*. For over 70 years, people from all parts of society and the world have been invited to go on the programme to talk about some of the special or interesting things that have happened to them and choose eight pieces of music that hold a special memory or meaning for them.

The people who have been on *Desert Island Discs* range from actors and musicians to scientists and politicians. Some people are less in the public eye but have made great contributions to society, such as pioneering surgeons and scientists. It can be interesting and surprising to hear about the fascinating lives of these less-well-known guests.

So what kind of music do people choose as their favourite tracks? The music is often classical but there are also a lot of modern songs, too. The author J. K. Rowling chose a mixture of music that ranged from the Beatles to Beethoven. In-between each track, she talked about her life, telling listeners about her time as a schoolgirl, and the train trip that inspired the Hogwarts Express and Harry Potter, her most famous creation. Princess Margaret, the sister of the British Queen, Elizabeth II, chose military music and also a rock song among her tracks.

At the end of the programme, once the guest has talked about his/her chosen songs and the impact they have had on his/her life, it's time to make some important decisions. The question is this: If you were sent to live on a desert island on your own, what music track, what book and what luxury item would you take with you? A book that is often chosen is *War and Peace* by Tolstoy, perhaps this is because it is a very long book. The luxury item can be anything as long as it is not practical and sometimes people ask for very strange things. One comedian asked for a tin of baked beans and lots of people have asked for chocolate, which would almost certainly melt on a desert island.

Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. *Desert Island Discs* is over eighty years old.
2. The guests are always TV celebrities.
3. J. K. Rowling chose a song by the Beatles.
4. You have to choose four things to take with you on the island.
5. *War and Peace* is a popular book with many of the guests.
6. Many people don't want to take chocolate with them to the island.

Read the text again and Complete the summary of the article. Use one word or number in each gap.

The article is about a [1]_____ programme that started many years ago. The interviewer asks a guest to choose [2]_____ songs or pieces of music they like and at the end of the programme they also have to choose a [3]_____ item and a [4]_____. People often choose very [5]_____ things to take with them. It's best not to choose chocolate as it is almost certain to [6]_____ in the heat on the island.

Find words in the text that have the same meaning as the words below.

1. sending out radio or television programmes
2. something you remember from the past
3. introducing new and better ideas first
4. people who are invited to an event or occasion
5. individual songs
6. influence/effect

LIVEWORKSHEETS