

Listen!



4 

Music piracy



Let's Think

1. Have you ever downloaded music from the internet without paying any money?
2. Do you think it is legal to do so?

You are Betty. You are reading a newspaper article on music piracy.



CR News

28th May, 20xx

Illegal Distribution Threatens Music Industry

Record companies have been trying very hard to control music piracy since the technology to make copies of records became widely available.

5 In the past, the record industry was not that anxious about a certain amount of copying. For example, fans of different artists recorded the songs that they performed at open concerts and traded them among one another afterwards.

10 However, in recent years, record companies have realised that piracy is an increasing threat. Part of the problem is that piracy is getting more and more serious. Computers and the internet have made it easier than ever for people to obtain music without paying for it. Additionally, the latest technology for storing and sending information on the web has worsened the problem.

‘It’s almost impossible to stop piracy over the internet,’ commented Satya Narayana Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, ‘because people can defeat any security measures.’

25 In response to this problem, music companies have aggressively gone after those who get music illegally from the internet. This has made music companies unpopular with the public, but they feel that it is necessary in order to protect their profits.

(182 words)



Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

1. What is the newspaper article mainly about?
 - A. the future of the music industry
 - B. the impact of the internet
 - C. the potential profits that a music company can make
 - D. the problem of music piracy and its negative effects
2. In line 8, 'they' refers to _____.
 - A. the songs
 - B. the concerts
 - C. the fans
 - D. the artists
3. In the past, the copying of music was _____.
 - A. secretly done
 - B. limited
 - C. massive
 - D. a practice done among only fans
4. Why has music piracy become more serious than before?
 - A. Music companies have weak security systems.
 - B. CDs sold on the Internet are cheaper.
 - C. Technology makes digital files easily accessible via illegal downloading.
 - D. The quality of CDs is not worth the prices.
5. The word 'aggressively' in line 26 means to act _____.
 - A. with force and determination
 - B. suddenly
 - C. as usual
 - D. in advance

Pay attention to the verb 'performed' after 'they'. Who performed indeed?

Grammar Corner

We can use the **present perfect tense** to show something has happened before the moment of speaking without specifying the time, but still has an effect at present.

e.g. *In recent years, record companies have realised that piracy is an increasing threat. (Lines 11-13)*

e.g. *Music companies have aggressively gone after those who get music illegally from the internet. (Lines 25-28)*

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Write your answers in the spaces provided.


1. Use one word to complete each blank.

Illegal music distribution refers to people downloading or sharing music from the (a) _____ without (b) _____ any money to music companies.

2. From the article, we know that music piracy was not so serious in the past. Can you describe what music piracy was like at that time?

3. Which word in paragraph 3 means 'to get'?

4. Why do music companies keep hunting the people who get music from the net illegally?

-  5. Decide whether each of the following statements is **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in the article. Put a tick (✓) in the appropriate column.

Statement	True	False	NG
(a) Illegal distribution is getting more serious nowadays.			
(b) Illegal distribution of music also affects the film industry.			
(c) Security measures are helpful in stopping music piracy.			

6. What does 'this' in line 28 refer to?

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some music genres. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

rhythm and blues (R & B) pop classical
jazz rock folk beatbox reggae



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



Let's Discuss

1. Some people say that music distribution should be made legal without any restrictions. How would this affect us?
2. Some people say the problem of music piracy will continue to exist. Why? Why not?