

## Has Music Become Less Special?



1. Look at the images below and discuss the questions on the following page with a partner.



vinyl record player



radio



music videos



walkman



CD player



MP3 player / iPod



apps



concerts

- Have you ever used any of these? Which ones?
- Which of these feels most familiar or “normal” for you?
- Is there one you have never tried but would like to try? Why or why not?
- Do you think concerts give a different feeling compared to listening at home? Why?
- If you could only keep ONE of these forever, which would you choose and why?



2. Guess the artist based on the emojis.

1. 👑 + 🎸 + 🎤 = *Elvis Presley*

2. 🧑 + 🌙 + 🚶 = *Michael Jackson*

3. 🤖 + 🤖 + 🎧 + 🎵 = *Daft Punk*

## Music Quiz

<p>1. 📺 When did MTV start showing music videos?</p> <p>A) 1970s            B) <b>1980s</b>            C) 1990s            D) 2000s</p>	<p>2. 🧟 Which music video is famous for zombies and a long dance sequence?</p> <p>A) <b>Thriller</b>            B) Bad Romance            C) Toxic            D) Smooth Criminal</p>
<p>3. 🎧 Which technology made music portable for the first time?</p> <p>A) Radio            B) <b>Walkman</b>            C) CD player            D) Streaming apps</p>	<p>4. 📀 Which decade made CDs extremely popular?</p> <p>A) 1970s            B) 1980s            C) <b>1990s</b>            D) 2010s</p>
<p>5. 🏰🏠 Where was Elvis Presley's famous home "Graceland"?</p> <p>A) New York            B) Los Angeles            C) <b>Memphis</b>            D) Chicago</p>	<p>6. 🧑📱 Which artist broke YouTube records with "Gangnam Style"?</p> <p>A) BTS            B) Blackpink            C) Drake            D) <b>PSY</b></p>
<p>7. 🎧 Which song starts with the line "Is this the real life...?"</p> <p>A) Imagine            B) <b>Bohemian Rhapsody</b>            C) Hey Jude            D) Let It Be</p>	<p>8. 🎤 Which artist is famous for the album "Future Nostalgia"?</p> <p>A) Olivia Rodrigo            B) Billie Eilish            C) Ariana Grande            D) <b>Dua Lipa</b></p>
<p>9. 🕺 Which group is famous for the dance "YMCA"?</p> <p>A) ABBA            B) Bee Gees            C) Queen            D) <b>Village People</b></p>	<p>10. 🎤 Which artist released a song called "Bad Guy"?</p> <p>A) <b>Billie Eilish</b>            B) Taylor Swift            C) Rihanna            D) Dua Lipa</p>

<p>11. 🎧 Which band wrote and performed "Bohemian Rhapsody"?</p> <p>A) The Rolling Stones          B) <i>Queen</i>          C) Pink Floyd          D) U2</p>	<p>12. 📺☆ What was the FIRST music video ever played on MTV?</p> <p>A) Thriller – Michael Jackson          B) <i>Video Killed the Radio Star – The Buggles</i>          C) Like a Virgin – Madonna          D) Billie Jean – Michael Jackson</p>
<p>13. ✨ Which artist became the youngest solo artist to headline Coachella?</p> <p>A) <i>Billie Eilish</i>          B) Ariana Grande          C) Dua Lipa          D) Miley Cyrus</p>	<p>14. 📺🎧 Which group was formed on a reality TV show and became globally famous?</p> <p>A) BTS          B) <i>One Direction</i>          C) ABBA          D) Coldplay</p>
<p>15. 🎵 Which artist is known for the album "25"?</p> <p>A) <i>Adele</i>          B) Billie Eilish          C) Rihanna          D) Ariana Grande</p>	<p>16. 📊🎧 Which artist broke streaming records with the album "Midnights"?</p> <p>A) Ariana Grande          B) Billie Eilish          C) <i>Taylor Swift</i>          D) Drake</p>
<p>17. 🐼🎧 Which artist combined country and rap in "Old Town Road"?</p> <p>A) Drake          B) <i>Lil Nas X</i>          C) Post Malone          D) Travis Scott</p>	<p>18. 🎧⚡ Which electronic music duo is famous for wearing robot helmets?</p> <p>A) <i>Daft Punk</i>          B) The Chemical Brothers          C) Justice          D) Kraftwerk</p>
<p>19. 🎬🎵 Which artist composed film scores for movies like <i>Inception</i> and <i>The Dark Knight</i>?</p> <p>A) <i>Hans Zimmer</i>          B) John Williams          C) Ennio Morricone          D) Howard Shore</p>	<p>20. 🎸🔥 Which band is known for smashing guitars on stage?</p> <p>A) Muse          B) Queen          C) U2          D) <i>The Who</i></p>

TOTAL CORRECT: \_\_\_\_\_

## Has Music Become Less Special?

1. Humans have always made music. A 50,000-year-old bone flute suggests that even Neanderthals created sound and rhythm, proving that music is not just entertainment but part of human nature. What has changed dramatically is not music itself, but how we experience it.



2. When the radio became popular, people used to listen to the same songs at the same time. A new hit could unite whole cities. Music used to create shared cultural moments, and different generations used to know the same songs. This created what some call a “monoculture,” a shared musical language. Today, that experience is weaker. Streaming platforms allow everyone to choose their own artists and playlists, meaning two friends can sit next to each other while listening to completely different music.

3. MTV changed music again. Musicians were judged not only by their sound but also by their appearance, fashion, and performance style. Music videos turned artists into global visual icons, creating new creative possibilities but also new pressure. Looking good became almost as important as sounding good, and some critics argue that music became more about marketing than artistry. In today’s social media era, artists are expected to be musicians, influencers, and brands at the same time.



4. Portable music created another shift. Devices like the Walkman and later MP3 players allowed people to carry music everywhere and create their own personal soundtrack. People would gather around one radio, but later they started listening alone with headphones. It felt freeing, but also isolating.

5. Streaming platforms created another transformation. Almost every song is now instantly available, and independent artists can reach global audiences. However, people didn’t use to have unlimited access to music, and today listeners often skip songs more quickly. Artists earn very little per stream, often around \$0.003 to \$0.005 per play, meaning a musician may need millions of streams to earn a meaningful income. Many now rely more on touring and merchandise than music sales.

6. Finally, there is another debate. When music was harder to access, people used to listen to the same albums repeatedly, allowing songs to grow and gain meaning over time. Today, with millions of options available, attention is shorter, and music can sometimes become background noise rather than a deep experience. Streaming has expanded access and diversity, but some argue it has also made music feel more disposable.



### 3. Find the words or phrases in the text that match the definitions below.

a. How something looks (*noun*) (Paragraph 3)

*appearance*

b. Activities used to promote something (*noun*) (Paragraph 3)

*marketing*

c. Available immediately (*adverb/adjective*) (Paragraph 5)

*instantly available*

d. Not valuable for a long time (*adjective*) (Paragraph 6)

*disposable*



### 4. Answer the questions about the text.

a. What did artists use to focus on, and what do they focus on now?

*Artists used to focus mainly on their music and sound. Now they also focus on their appearance, image, and social media presence.*

b. How did people use to listen to music before portable devices? What are the advantages and disadvantages today?

*Before portable devices, people used to listen to music together, often around one radio at the same time. Today, people can listen anywhere and choose their own music, which is convenient, but it can also be more isolating.*

c. What didn't people use to have in the past? Is unlimited choice always a good thing?

*People didn't use to have unlimited access to music. Unlimited choice is convenient, but it can make people skip songs more quickly and enjoy music less deeply.*

d. How did musicians use to earn money, and how do they earn money now?

*Musicians used to earn money mainly from selling albums. Now they earn less from streaming and often make money from concerts and merchandise instead.*

## 'used to' &amp; 'would'

We use *used to* for past habits and situations that are no longer true.

✓ Positive: Subject + used to + verb

→ People used to listen to the radio.

✗ Negative: Subject + didn't use to + verb

→ People didn't use to skip songs.

? Question: Did + subject + use to + verb?

→ Did people use to buy albums?

We use *would* for repeated past actions (NOT states).

✓ Families would gather around the radio.

✓ People would listen to full albums.

⚠ Key Difference: *used to* → actions + states vs. *would* → actions only



5. Complete the sentences using *used to*, *didn't use to*, or *would*.

1. In the past, people *would / used to* wait for their favourite song on the radio.
2. Years ago, families *would / used to* listen to music together in the same room.
3. In the past, people *didn't use to* have access to millions of songs.
4. In the past, listeners *didn't use to* skip songs so quickly.
5. Years ago, artists *didn't use to* worry so much about social media.
6. In the past, people *would / used to* buy full albums instead of single songs.



6. In pairs, discuss the questions below.

Did you use to listen to full albums, or just your favourite songs? What about now?

How did you use to discover new music before streaming apps?



7. Look at the genres below. Discuss the following questions with a partner.



pop



rock



hip-hop



indie



EDM



classical



jazz



k-pop



country



reggae



lo-fi



metal

- Which styles are most popular in your country right now? Why do you think that is?
- Which styles do you connect with older generations?
- What kind of music did you use to listen to when you were younger? Has your taste changed?
- Which style has evolved the most over the years? How has it changed?
- Do you think labels like “rock” or “pop” still matter, or is everything mixed now?
- Which type of music seems to create the strongest fan communities?