

Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about Keeping the beat and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-h next to the number 1-8.

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------|----|--|
| 1..... | rigid | a. | the rhythm of music |
| 2..... | the beat | b. | programs used by a computer |
| 3..... | software | c. | a sound recording that contains a series of 'click' noises which is used to keep the musical rhythm constant |
| 4..... | a metronome | d. | a concert |
| 5..... | a gig | e. | a device that marks regular spaces with a clicking sound, used by musicians |
| 6..... | a rehearsal | f. | a practice session before performing in public |
| 7..... | Java | g. | not flexible |
| 8..... | a click track | h. | the name of a programming language that is used on the internet |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | The Beat Keeper software helps musicians not to lose the rhythm of a song or tune when they are playing. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Doctor Andrew Robertson plays the drums in a band. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | The conventional click track allows musicians to speed up or slow down when they are playing. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | The click track is a kind of electronic version of a metronome. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Doctor Robertson says that creating music can be difficult when a band are concentrating on keeping the tempo. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Some bands use a car alarm to help them keep the beat. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The B-Keeper program can follow a drummer who goes faster or slower. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | This software is used only with the bands Doctor Robertson plays in. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word which appears in CAPITAL LETTERS. You must not change the word in capital letters. Use a maximum of five words. For example:

Doctor Andrew Robertson finds music interesting.

INTERESTED

Doctor Andrew Robertson **is interested in** music.

1. The new software will help bands to play more freely when they use pre-programmed music.

ABLE

The new software means bands _____ play more freely using pre-programmed music.

2. Doctor Andrew Robertson likes music very much.

ON

Doctor Andrew Robertson _____ music.

3. The click track was not flexible so a new program was needed.

NOT

If the click track had been more flexible, a new program _____ needed.

4. The B-Keeper software is more flexible than the conventional click track.

AS

The conventional click track _____ the B-Keeper software.

5. With the B-Keeper program, it is not necessary for the drummer to listen to the click.

NEED

The drummer _____ listen to the click with the B-Keeper software.

6. Doctor Robertson has made his invention available to other music groups.

MADE

The invention _____ to other bands.

Discussion

How do you think technology is going to change music in the future?