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Level 2 – 11th April 2024

Chechnya bans music that is too slow or too fast

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240411-music-tempo-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240411-music-tempo-2.html>

The Russian republic of Chechnya has made a rule about music speed. Chechnya has banned songs that are too fast or too slow. It said: "From now on, all musical, vocal and [dance] works should correspond to a tempo of between 80 to 116 beats per minute." Eighty beats per minute is much slower than a lot of modern-day pop music. However, the Russian national anthem is played at 76 beats per minute. There has been no word about whether the anthem can be played. It seems likely it will be an exception to the new rule.

The ban on up-tempo and down-tempo music is to protect Chechnya's culture. The Moscow Times said it was, "to root out any hint of Westernization". Chechnya's leader said the ban was to make music "conform to the Chechen mentality". He said: "Borrowing musical culture from other people's is [not allowed]." Chechnya's culture minister said: "We must bring to...the future of our children the cultural heritage of the Chechen people." Local artists have to rewrite their songs to follow the new tempo. People will no longer be able to listen to techno music or many pop songs.

Sources: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/04/05/chechnya-forbids-music-outside-80-116-bpm-tempo-a84755>
<https://www.politico.eu/article/culture-ministry-russian-republic-chechnya-ban-western-songs/>
<https://news.sky.com/story/chechnya-bans-music-that-is-too-fast-or-too-slow-13110266>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240411-music-tempo-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The Russian republic | a. likely it will |
| 2. made a rule | b. are too fast |
| 3. banned songs that | c. on |
| 4. From now | d. to the new rule |
| 5. slower than a lot of modern- | e. anthem |
| 6. the Russian national | f. of Chechnya |
| 7. It seems | g. day pop music |
| 8. be an exception | h. about music speed |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. protect Chechnya's | a. Chechen mentality |
| 2. root out any hint of | b. minister |
| 3. conform to the | c. the new tempo |
| 4. Borrowing musical culture from | d. Westernization |
| 5. Chechnya's culture | e. artists |
| 6. the future | f. culture |
| 7. local | g. of our children |
| 8. rewrite their songs to follow | h. other people's |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240411-music-tempo-2.html>

The Russian republic of Chechnya has (1) _____ about music speed. Chechnya has banned songs (2) _____ fast or too slow. It said: "From now on, all musical, vocal and [dance] works should (3) _____ tempo of between 80 to 116 beats per minute." Eighty beats per minute is (4) _____ a lot of modern-day pop music. However, the Russian (5) _____ played at 76 beats per minute. There has been no word about whether the anthem can be played. It seems likely it will be (6) _____ the new rule.

The (7) _____ and down-tempo music is to protect Chechnya's culture. The Moscow Times said it was, "(8) _____ any hint of Westernization". Chechnya's leader said the ban was to make (9) _____ the Chechen mentality". He said: "Borrowing musical culture from other people's (10) _____." Chechnya's culture minister said: "We must bring to...the future of our children the cultural heritage of the Chechen people." (11) _____ to rewrite their songs to follow the new tempo. People will no longer (12) _____ listen to techno music or many pop songs.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240411-music-tempo-2.html>

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MUSIC SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240411-music-tempo-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about music in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

