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Level 5

One in five songs "advertises" alcohol

5th October, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131005-pop-songs-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131005-pop-songs-5.html>

Pop songs could be encouraging young people to drink alcohol. A study from the John Moores University in England looked into the extent to which lyrics refer to drinking. Researchers said public health warnings on liquor may be of little value because of how many references there are to alcohol in pop songs. One in five songs in the UK music charts describes drinking intoxicating beverages. This figure is double that from a decade ago. Songs from 1981 contained much fewer references to alcohol. John Moores said some of the rise is because of American songs.

Researchers say young people listening to songs about alcohol is "a major concern". Professor Karen Hughes warned that some songs are a "form of advertising and marketing for alcoholic products." She said alcohol advertisements are already a worry for young people, and that references to alcohol in pop songs could give a positive message to young people about drinking. Dr Hughes added that health and other professionals should watch carefully to ensure that popular music does not become a way of "reinforcing and extending cultures of intoxication and alcohol-related harm".

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/10346297/One-in-five-UK-top-ten-songs-have-alcohol-related-lyrics-study-finds.html>
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130930101844.htm>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131005-pop-songs-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. encouraging young people | a. charts |
| 2. which lyrics | b. a decade ago |
| 3. warnings on liquor may be | c. to drink alcohol |
| 4. the UK music | d. of American songs |
| 5. intoxicating | e. refer to drinking |
| 6. This figure is double that from | f. to alcohol |
| 7. much fewer references | g. beverages |
| 8. some of the rise is because | h. of little value |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a major | a. for young people |
| 2. a form of advertising | b. concern |
| 3. alcoholic | c. message to young people |
| 4. already a worry | d. other professionals |
| 5. pop | e. cultures of intoxication |
| 6. give a positive | f. songs |
| 7. health and | g. and marketing |
| 8. reinforcing and extending | h. products |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131005-pop-songs-5.html>

Pop songs (1) _____ young people to drink alcohol. A study from the John Moores University in England looked (2) _____ which lyrics refer to drinking. Researchers said public health warnings on liquor may (3) _____ because of how many (4) _____ to alcohol in pop songs. One in five songs in the UK music charts describes drinking intoxicating beverages. This figure is (5) _____ a decade ago. Songs from 1981 (6) _____ references to alcohol. John Moores said some of the rise is because of American songs.

Researchers say young people listening to songs about alcohol is "a major concern". Professor Karen Hughes (7) _____ songs are a "form of advertising and marketing (8) _____." She said alcohol advertisements are (9) _____ for young people, and that references to alcohol in pop songs could (10) _____ to young people about drinking. Dr Hughes added that health and other professionals should watch (11) _____ that popular music does not become a way of "reinforcing and (12) _____ intoxication and alcohol-related harm".

MUSIC AND ALCOHOL SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131005-pop-songs-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about music and alcohol 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

