

French radio wants to play English songs

2nd October, 2015



Creative Commons
via eek the cat on flickr.com

Radio stations in France have been protesting against a possible new government rule. DJs were already unhappy with a 30-year-old system that requires them to make sure that 40 per cent of the songs they play are in French. Now the government wants them to make sure the songs in French are not the

same popular hits. Radio stations could get a fine if they do not follow these rules. Radio company bosses say the new rule will stop French people from listening to the radio. Many music lovers already choose music streaming services to listen to American or British songs. Moreover, many French artists, such as Daft Punk and Phoenix now sing in English so they can be popular globally.

France's government says the new law is to protect its culture from American and British influences. It especially wants to stop the English language from getting deeper into French culture. A spokesman for the French music industry said the new law is necessary. He said that if the radio stations were allowed to play whatever songs they wanted, "both the French language and the music would lose out". He added that: "[Radio stations] can't just be allowed to do what they want when it comes to language." A union for French musicians said the law is important to protect French musicians. He said: "It remains fundamental for French artists to have the chance of making a career out of music."

Sources: BBC / The Guardian / thelocal.fr

Writing

There should be a limit on the number of English songs on the radio. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

radio stations / protesting / government / rule / popular / bosses / streaming / globally / protect / culture / influences / language / musicians / fundamental / career / music

True / False

- Radio stations are upset with a possible new government rule. T / F
- Radio stations have had to play 40% of songs in French for 30 years. T / F
- The article says radio stations could be fined for playing English songs. T / F
- French music lovers are still not choosing streaming services. T / F
- France is happy that its language is using more English words. T / F
- The French music industry wants the new law. T / F
- A musicians' union said the law would not protect French musicians. T / F
- The union said it wasn't important for French artists to make money. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. protesting | a. particularly |
| 2. possible | b. worldwide |
| 3. popular | c. continues to be |
| 4. follow | d. safeguard |
| 5. globally | e. profession |
| 6. protect | f. objecting |
| 7. especially | g. basic |
| 8. remains | h. well liked |
| 9. fundamental | i. likely |
| 10. career | j. stick to |

Discussion – Student A

- How much English is part of your language?
- Do you prefer songs in English or songs in your own language?
- Why is culture so important to people?
- What are the best things about your culture?
- Is it good that France requires 40% of radio songs to be in French?
- What do you think of a fine for replaying hits again and again?
- Do you prefer streaming music or listening to the radio?
- What advice do you have for French DJs?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Radio stations in France have | a. hits |
| 2. a 30-year- | b. into French culture |
| 3. the same popular | c. old system |
| 4. music | d. out |
| 5. be popular | e. been protesting |
| 6. protect its culture from American | f. career out of music |
| 7. getting deeper | g. lovers |
| 8. the music would lose | h. for French artists |
| 9. It remains fundamental | i. globally |
| 10. have the chance of making a | j. and British influences |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you worry that Hollywood, Starbucks and rap music is making the world the same?
- How important is the English language to you?
- What parts of your culture would you like to protect?
- Should radio stations be allowed to play what they want?
- How should the law protect musicians and singers?
- How can French singers be more successful around the world?
- How important is the radio to you?
- What questions would you like to ask a French radio DJ?

Spelling

- Radio stations in France have been psrtoigtén
- a possible new entvomgrne rule
- a 30-year-old system that ugesrrie them to...
- Radio company osebss
- music ntemgrsai services
- they can be popular lbllgaoy
- protect its uterucl
- American and British ueeicfnlns
- the French music sdrtnyui
- the new law is esryenacs
- French nsiimasu
- making a arrcee out of music

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. h	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. a	8. c	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Rock

You think rock is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, folk or hip-hop.

Role B – Classical

You think classical is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, folk or hip-hop.

Role C – Folk

You think folk is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, rock or hip-hop.

Role D – Hip-hop

You think hip-hop is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, folk or rock.

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best type of music at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| • rock | • folk |
| • hip-hop | • electronic |
| • classical | • opera |
| • jazz | • blues / soul |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.