



## The Charts (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are you interested in music?
2. If so, do you prefer pop music, classical music or any other kind of music?
3. Do you know who is at the top of the pop music charts in your country?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The first music chart appeared in a US magazine in 1930.
2. In 1936, Billboard published the first music chart based on the sales of discs.
3. A similar chart appeared in the UK in the early 1950s.
4. Perry Como won the first Gold Disc for a million copies of one of his discs.
5. The same number of disc sales is required for a Gold Disc in the UK.
6. Technological developments have changed the way the charts are calculated.
7. Nowadays songs only stay in the charts for a very short time.
8. In the UK charts, an artist can't have more than three songs in the top 100.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What were music charts based on before 1936? Why?
2. Why were radio DJs sometimes paid to play particular discs?
3. When did this practice become illegal?
4. How was the first UK chart produced in 1952?
5. What awards are higher than a Gold Disc?
6. When are there usually a lot of old songs in the charts? Why?
7. What is the negative effect of this for some artists?
8. What has been done in some countries to stop old songs from filling the charts?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Mark's dad accused him of breaking the new printer but Mark \_\_\_\_\_ he'd never used it.
2. That company got lots of government contracts by \_\_\_\_\_ a corrupt local politician.
3. Mia has been promoted to sales manager. It's a great \_\_\_\_\_ for someone so young.
4. I was thinking of buying an electric car, but charging points are \_\_\_\_\_ in this area.
5. You can't take food into the school library. It's against the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The security guard \_\_\_\_\_ himself in front of the shoplifter to stop him from running away.

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

The first platinum disc for a single was not awarded to a world-famous artist or band like Elvis Presley or The Beatles, but to a now <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (very/almost/rather/most) forgotten singer called Johnnie Taylor, for his single *Disco Lady*. Platinum Discs were received for singles that sold 2 million copies or more.

The song is about a boy who is <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*watching/seeing/staring/looking*) an attractive girl dancing in a disco. Discos were <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*yet/hardly/only/just*) becoming popular at that time and Taylor's record was the first to have the word "disco" in the title. However *Disco Lady* was soul music not disco music, as it was not a good tune <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*with/for/of/to*) dance to.

Ironically, Taylor was opposed to recording it. He pointed out to producer Don Davies: "My voice is too low, the record doesn't <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*make/suit/fit/match*) me and I think we need to go with something else." Luckily, Davies didn't take any <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*attention/care/notice/thought*) of Taylor's opinion. The sales of *Disco Lady* exceeded 2.5 million and it remained at number 1 in the US charts for four weeks.

### **F – Write about it**

*Write about a famous singer or musician from your country. Mention:*

- the kind of music he/she is famous for;
  - any instruments he/she plays;
  - whether he/she is also a song-writer or composer;
  - what his/her most famous recordings are;
  - any awards he/she has won.
-

## Answers

### B – Listen and answer

1. F – It appeared in 1913. 2. T 3. T 4. F – He won it for half a million copies. 5. F – In the UK only 100,000 sales are needed for a Gold Disc. 6. T 7. F – Some songs stay in the charts for over a year. 8. T

### C – Read and answer

1. They were based on the sales of sheet music, because recordings weren't available and few people had radios. 2. Because early *Billboard* charts were also based on radio airplay (i.e. the number of times a disc was played on the radio). 3. It became illegal in the late 1950s, following an FBI investigation. 4. The editor of the magazine *New Musical Express* phoned a few record shops to find out what songs were popular that week. 5. The awards higher than a Gold Disc are a Platinum Disc and a Diamond Disc. 6. There are usually a lot of old songs in the charts at Christmas because the charts are now largely based on downloads and streaming. 7. They don't manage to get onto the charts despite being popular. 8. Some countries have banned songs more than 18 months old from the charts.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. claimed 2. bribing 3. achievement 4. scarce 5. rules 6. placed

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. almost 2. watching 3. just 4. to 5. suit 6. notice