

## AI used to create new and final Beatles song, says Paul McCartney

### Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

#### 1 Warmer

a. Discuss these questions.

1. What Beatles songs do you know?
2. Why do you think the Beatles are so famous?
3. Do you think a computer can create music?

#### 2 Key words

a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. Then complete the example sentences with the same words. You may have to change the form of the word.

available

cassette

lyrics

record

typical

1. If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it means people have access to it.  
*Do you know if this book is \_\_\_\_\_ online?*
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a small, flat plastic case containing an audiotape.  
*Before CDs, people listened to music on \_\_\_\_\_.*
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to save music using electronic equipment to be played or listened to later.  
*I am nervous about singing because they will \_\_\_\_\_ the concert.*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are the words of a song.  
*The \_\_\_\_\_ of this song are beautiful and romantic.*
5. When something shows the usual characteristics that you expect from a group of people or things, it is \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Popcorn is the most \_\_\_\_\_ cinema snack.*

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appear

fake

remove

separate

track

6. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to divide something into different parts.  
*They \_\_\_\_\_ the money so that each band member got the same amount.*
7. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to become available for the first time.  
*An article with new information about the Beatles will \_\_\_\_\_ in the magazine next month.*
8. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a copy of something that looks like the original, but it is not.  
*I didn't know that Lennon and Einstein were friends! Or is that photo a \_\_\_\_\_?*
9. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to get rid of something or to take something away.  
*Many people thought the video was terrible, so they decided to \_\_\_\_\_ it from the website.*
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a song on a CD or other musical recording.  
*I love the first \_\_\_\_\_ of their new album. It's so romantic.*

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- 1 Sir Paul McCartney has said that a new and final Beatles song will be available in 2023 using artificial intelligence (AI).
- 2 McCartney did not name the song, but it may be a 1978 Lennon song called 'Now and Then'. It was one of several songs on cassettes with "For Paul" written on them. Lennon made these cassettes just before he died in 1980.
- 3 Lennon recorded the song as he sat at a piano in his New York flat. The lyrics begin, "I know it's true; it's all because of you." They are typical of the love songs Lennon wrote near the end of his life.
- 4 The idea to use AI to make the song came from Peter Jackson's eight-hour film, *Get Back*. For it, editor Emile de la Rey used AI to separate the Beatles' voices from background noise.
- 5 They did the same thing to let McCartney sing with Lennon on his recent tour. McCartney said, "We had John's voice and a piano, and Jackson could separate them with AI. They tell the machine: 'That's the voice. This is a guitar. Lose the guitar.'"
- 6 'Now and Then' was a possible song for the Beatles to sing in 1995. The three band members who were still alive that year made two of the songs from Lennon's cassettes available – 'Free As A Bird' and 'Real Love'. It was the band's first "new" music in 25 years.
- 7 They also tried to make 'Now and Then', but they didn't finish it. McCartney later said George Harrison didn't want to work on it.
- 8 "It didn't have a very good title, it needed a bit of reworking, but it had a beautiful verse, and it had John singing it," he said. "But George didn't like it." The song on the cassette also had background noise from Lennon's flat.
- 9 McCartney has often said he wanted to finish it.
- 10 The news of the new song comes while more AI music appears online. Hundreds of thousands of people listen to fakes of Drake, the Weeknd and Kanye West before they are removed.
- 11 McCartney said some uses of AI worried him.
- 12 "People will say to me: 'Oh, yeah, there's a track where John's singing one of my songs,' and it's just AI ... It's kind of scary but exciting because it's the future. We'll just have to see where that leads."

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#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Are these statements True (T) or False (F) according to the article? Correct any that are false.

1. There will be no more new Beatles songs.
2. Before he died, Lennon made cassettes for Paul McCartney.
3. Lennon's latest love songs were similar.
4. Jackson used AI to create new voices for the Beatles.
5. In 1995, they released the first 'new' Beatles music in over twenty years.
6. When they tried to record 'Now and Then', McCartney didn't like it.
7. People use AI to make fakes of famous musicians and share them online.
8. McCartney is excited and not worried about AI.

#### 4 Key language

a. Which words and phrases below can be used with the word 'song'? Check ✓.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> be available  | <input type="checkbox"/> make      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> appear online | <input type="checkbox"/> finish    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> on cassettes  | <input type="checkbox"/> work on   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> record        | <input type="checkbox"/> remove    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> worry         | <input type="checkbox"/> love      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> write         | <input type="checkbox"/> do        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> voice         | <input type="checkbox"/> listen to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sing          |                                    |

b. Now complete the questions with words from task a.

1. Is your favourite song \_\_\_\_\_ on streaming services?
2. Did you use to listen to music on \_\_\_\_\_ or CDs?
3. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ songs in the car?
4. Do you like listening to \_\_\_\_\_ songs?
5. What was the last song The Beatles \_\_\_\_\_?

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#### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “AI will make music better.”
- “AI is just another technology like an electric guitar.”
- “People shouldn’t use AI to make music with someone’s voice without permission.”

#### 6 In your own words

a. Look for a short video of a song made with AI. Read the questions and make notes on the answers:

- Who does it sound like? Is it really them?
- Whose voice/music/lyrics were used? Did they agree to this?
- Is it a good song? Why?
- How do you feel about it? Do you like it? Why?

b. Present your ideas.