

Pop music only started to become truly popular when people could listen to it in their own homes. In the old days, families would buy sheet music and gather around a piano, harmonica or accordion and have an evening of “sing song.” They also listened to music on the family gramophone. In the 1930s and 1940s, radios could be found in every home. In the 1960s, stereos were all the rage.

Tiny transistor radios enabled teenagers to enjoy their favourite music in private. Later, there were cassette tapes and then CDs. Perhaps the greatest invention was Sony’s Walkman personal stereo system, which came out in 1978. Television became popular in America in the 1940s and in Britain in the 1950s. Then came videocassettes and DVDs.

The melodies of the 1940s were often simple love songs. They were also often about trivial subjects. For example, Ella Fitzgerald, who became one of America’s most famous singers, sang a song about losing a yellow basket. It was quite a silly song, but it was a huge hit. In the 1950s, Chuck Berry was one of the first big names to sing rock’n’roll. His music had a quick, lively beat that made it easy for young people to dance to.

Rock’n’roll opened the door for a revolution in music. In England a musician named Lonnie Donnegan began playing skiffle, a mixture of jazz and folk songs. Young people loved this noisy new dance music and it soon became part of their culture. Around this time a new pop group started playing in clubs in Liverpool and Germany. The group changed its name several times, but finally became known as the Beatles.

Exercises

I Comprehension

1. When did popular music really become popular?
 - (A) When people could compose it.
 - (B) When people could listen to it at home.
 - (C) When people could sing it.

2. What were the songs like in the 1940s?
 - (A) Simple love songs. (B) Jazz and folk. (C) Rock'n'roll.

3. What group started playing in Liverpool in the late 1950s?
 - (A) The Beatles. (B) Chuck Berry. (C) Lonnie Donnegan.

II Summary



When music was recorded on vinyl records and played on the radio and TV, people could (1)¹ to it at home. After that pop music became popular. In (t)² 1940s songs often had simple (m)³. Chuck Berry started singing rock'n'roll, (w)⁴ had a quick beat. Young people loved to (d)⁵ to this music.

III Composition

1. 私は高校時代、よくロックを聞いたものです。(would, a high school student)

2. その歌は単純だけど、とても人気があります。(simple, popular)



ビートルズ成功の秘訣は？



無名時代のビートルズが演奏していたクラブ (リバプール)

Warm Up!

Track
4

1. This club is () the Cavern Club. T F
2. Several people are () past the club. T F
3. Two women are () the Cavern Club. T F

Do you know?

日本の¹コマーシャルにビートルズの *Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da* が使われましたが、TVドラマの²主題歌や挿入歌には、ジョンの³ソロ時代の歌がよく使用されています。最近では、*(Just Like) Starting Over* が1996年に、*Love* と *Stand by Me* が1998年に使われました。

下線部を英語で書きましょう。

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Check!

Love Me Do ビートルズのデビュー曲。Love me do の正しい語順は Do love me で、do は動詞 love を強調。「ぜひ僕を愛して」という意味。 **Please Please Me** ビートルズの2番目の曲。最初の please は「どうか」という副詞、次の please は「～を喜ばす」という他動詞で「どうか僕を喜ばせて」という意味。 **try one's hand at** 「(初めて) ～に挑戦する」 **icon** 「アイドル」 **owe ... to** 「…は～のおかげである」

Let's Read



In Liverpool in 1956, a 15-year-old musician named John Lennon started up his own band. He called the group the Quarrymen. Another musician, Paul McCartney, who was a couple of years younger than John, soon became a member. George Harrison joined the group next. Ringo Starr eventually replaced the group's original drummer Pete Best. And the Beatles were formed. 5

The band played in clubs in Liverpool and Germany. One day, the German police told George that he had to leave the country because he was only 17 and too young to work. The Beatles' first professional recording was released in 1962. That song was *Love Me Do*. It was a very simple love song, similar to the style of the 1940s. Their second recording, another simple love tune, was *Please Please Me*. It came out the following year and soon shot to Number One on the British charts. 10

The Beatles were the leaders of the pop revolution for almost ten years. They also made movies, wrote books and tried their hand at art. They were icons for the young. Altogether, they made about 500 songs. Their most famous LP was *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. It sold a million copies even before it was released! 15

The Beatles owed their success to several factors. They were of course very talented. But also, the group was formed at just the right time. Record players and transistor radios had become common, and then there was the television boom. Young people could now listen to and even see their favourite pop stars, any time they wanted. Everything was working in favour of the Beatles. 20

