

File sharing on the Internet

Level

Upper intermediate and above

Tasks

Sharing opinions about downloading songs from the Internet without paying royalties
 Reading an article about the current court case on the legality of file-sharing
 Completing collocations taken from the article
 Participating in a class meeting on issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask students to tell you if they have downloaded songs or films from the Internet. Get students to tell you more – did they use a shop such as 'itunes'? Do they listen to the songs on their computer, or use a music player such as an MP3 player? Hand out the worksheet and allow students to complete their answer and discuss with a partner.
- 2 Check students understand the verb 'to swap'. Ask them to scan the article and underline the names of the companies mentioned. Do a quick check as to what each company does.

Answers

MGM – makes Hollywood films

Grokster / StreamCast Networks – produce peer-to-peer software for sharing music files across the Internet

Napster – company whose file-server was shut down in 2001, as it was used for illegally distributing songs

Sony Pictures – makes films

Apple – sells digital music legally in shops and produces the iPod digital music player

- 3 Students read the article again. Ask them to summarise the positions of both sides in the dispute. Deal with any useful vocabulary at this point, such as: to sue, bootlegged, infringe copyright.
- 4 Ask students to complete the collocations from memory and then check their answers in the article.

Answers

Adjective – Noun: (a) illegal activity / illegal downloads (c) digital theft / digital stores
 (b) lost revenues (d) technological innovation(s)

Verb – Noun: (e) to download films (f) to infringe copyright

Noun – Noun: (g) record sales (h) copyright infringement

- 5 Divide the class into two groups. Group A represent the entertainment industry; group B represent the consumers. Students read the agenda and prepare for the meeting. After the meeting, hold a vote on the three issues. Finish the lesson by providing any language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.grokster.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napster>

<http://www.mpaa.org/home.htm>

<http://www.mgm.com/home.do>