

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

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: Sir Paul McCartney has used AI to extricate John Lennon's voice from an old demo and complete a decades-old song.

Time: 60–90 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Listening (online in class or for homework)

Language focus: Collocations with 'song'

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to introduce and get students engaged in the topic. You can note down emergent language related to the theme on the board. If possible, have some Beatles music playing in the background.

2. Key words

- a. Divide the class into two groups and ask each group to complete half of the items (1–5; 6–10) in pairs. Have them compare their answers in different pairs before regrouping and sharing them with someone who completed the other items.

Key:

1. available
2. cassette
3. record
4. lyrics
5. typical
6. separate, separated
7. appear
8. fake
9. remove
10. track

3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to complete the task individually and then compare their answers in small groups before checking with the whole class. Encourage students to read each statement first and scan the text to find relevant information.

Key:

1. False. McCartney will make a final song available in 2023.
2. True
3. True
4. False. He used AI to separate the voices from the background noise on a cassette.
5. True
6. False. Harrison didn't like it.
7. True
8. False. He is also worried.

4. Key language

- a. Ask students to complete this activity in pairs or small groups.

Key:

Collocations:

*A song ... is available, appears online, on cassette
Do, record, write, sing, make, finish, work on,
remove, listen to ... a song
A love song*

Not collocations:

worry, voice

- b. Ask students to work in pairs to complete the statements. Then check answers with the whole class before they discuss the questions in pairs.

Key:

1. available
2. cassettes
3. sing/listen to
4. love
5. worked on / recorded ("The End" is the last song the four Beatles recorded together; "I, Me, Mine" was recorded later without John.)

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5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one. Then put them into small groups and ask them to share their ideas.

6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to research an AI-generated song online and find a short video about it. Have them prepare notes that they will use to present to the class by answering the questions. You can have students practise what they are going to say in pairs and give each other feedback before their final presentation.
- b. Regroup students so that pairs are split into groups of four or five. Ask students to take turns to present. After they have presented, they can show each other the videos.

Alternatively, students can share their recorded presentations and links to the songs on an online platform.