

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

Level 2: Intermediate / Upper 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: Compound nouns

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. Ask students to do the exercise individually and compare their answers in pairs or small groups. As an extension, you can ask students to scan the text to find these words and identify words that they collocate with. These are shown in brackets below.

Key:

1. *extract (technology to extract a voice from a demo)*
2. *demo, demos (an old demo)*
3. *release (release a song)*
4. *cassette (song on cassettes)*
5. *lyrics (the lyrics are typical of love songs)*
6. *reconstruct (use AI to reconstruct the demo)*
7. *reunion (reunion song)*
8. *chorus (the song had a chorus)*
9. *verse (the song doesn't have verses)*
10. *rubbish (he called (the song) rubbish)*
11. *fake (a fake CD)*
12. *stream, streams (fakes receiving thousands of streams)*

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. He's finished working on it.*
2. *False. It was written in 1978.*
3. *False. They were apologetic.*
4. *False. He got it from the technology that was used to make the documentary.*
5. *True*
6. *False. There were no verses, but it had a chorus.*
7. *False. There was background noise on it.*
8. *True*
9. *True*

4. Key language

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

Key:

1. *artificial intelligence*
2. *New York flat*
3. *love song*
4. *dialogue editor*
5. *background noise*
6. *reunion song*
7. *band member*
8. *electricity circuit*

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

Key:

1. *electricity circuit*
2. *New York flat*
3. *background noise*
4. *reunion song*
5. *artificial intelligence (AI)*
6. *dialogue editor*
7. *band member*
8. *love songs*

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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.

As an extension, students can discuss the ethics of using AI to create new music.