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## **Level 1**

# **Britney Spears' music scares off pirates**

**31st October, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131031-loud-music-1.html>

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Try Level 0 (easier), Level 2 (harder) & the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131031-loud-music-1.html>

Ships near Somalia are playing Britney Spears songs to keep pirates away. A ship's officer said the songs were good against Somali pirates: "[Britney's] songs were chosen by the security team because they thought the pirates would hate them most. These guys [hate] Western culture or music." A security expert said loud pop music stopped pirate attacks. He added: "Each security company will have its own music choice."

Loud music is often used to scare people. It is also used for torture. Guantanamo Bay played loud music for weeks and months non-stop to keep prisoners awake. One prisoner said the loud music in his cell was worse than being beaten up. He said: "It makes you feel like you are going mad." A human rights charity has started a campaign to end it. It wants rock stars to stop prisons using their music for torture.

Sources: <http://www.ibtimes.com/britney-spears-scares-somali-pirates-hit-songs-used-fend-thieves-1443454>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/britney-spears-music-blasted-out-2646660#ixzz2j6E6qXZh>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andy-worthington/a-history-of-music-tortur\\_b\\_151109.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andy-worthington/a-history-of-music-tortur_b_151109.html)

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131031-loud-music-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. a ship's                            | a. hate Western culture   |
| 2. the songs were good                 | b. pirate attacks         |
| 3. chosen                              | c. against Somali pirates |
| 4. they thought the pirates would hate | d. officer                |
| 5. These guys                          | e. its own music choice   |
| 6. security                            | f. them most              |
| 7. loud pop music stopped              | g. expert                 |
| 8. Each security company will have     | h. by the security team   |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Loud music is often                       | a. for torture             |
| 2. It is also used                           | b. rights charity          |
| 3. played loud music for weeks and           | c. beaten up               |
| 4. keep                                      | d. their music for torture |
| 5. worse than being                          | e. used to scare people    |
| 6. It makes you feel like                    | f. months non-stop         |
| 7. a human                                   | g. prisoners awake         |
| 8. It wants rock stars to stop prisons using | h. you are going mad       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131031-loud-music-1.html>

Ships near Somalia are playing Britney Spears songs to keep pirates away. A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ said the songs were good against Somali pirates: "[Britney's] (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by the security team because they thought the pirates would (3) \_\_\_\_\_. These guys [hate] Western (4) \_\_\_\_\_." A security expert said (5) \_\_\_\_\_ stopped pirate attacks. He added: "Each security company will have (6) \_\_\_\_\_ choice."

Loud music is often (7) \_\_\_\_\_ people. It is also used for torture. Guantanamo Bay played loud music for weeks and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to keep prisoners awake. One prisoner said the loud music (9) \_\_\_\_\_ worse than (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "It makes you feel like you are going mad." A (11) \_\_\_\_\_ charity has started a campaign to end it. It wants rock stars to stop prisons using their (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131031-loud-music-1.html>

Ships near Somalia are playing Britney Spears songs to keep pirates away. A ship's officers said the songs were good against Somali pirates: "[Britney's] songs were chosen by the security team because they thought the pirates would hate them most. These guys [hate] Western culture or music." A security expert said loud pop music stopped pirate attacks. He added: "Each security company will have its own music choice." Loud music is often used to scare people. It is also used for torture. Guantanamo Bay played loud music for weeks and months non-stop to keep prisoners awake. One prisoner said the loud music in his cell was worse than being beaten up. He said: "It makes you feel like you are going mad." A human rights charity has started a campaign to end it. It wants rock stars to stop prisons using their music for torture.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*Britney Spears' music scares off pirates – 31st October, 2013*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131031-loud-music-1.html>

Write about **loud music** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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