

To stream, or not to stream?

A Piracy, illegal downloads, and falling CD sales – the music business has had many problems over the last decade. But then along came streaming. (1) However, not everyone agrees.

B On streaming websites, such as Spotify, you can listen to as many songs as you like for free. If you pay a monthly **subscription**, you can also download individual songs and you don't get adverts. You can even make your own playlists. **Music labels** are paid each time a song is streamed or downloaded. (2)

C Companies such as Spotify say streaming is good for everyone. It's cheaper and more flexible for music fans. If you don't like a song or album, you just stream another one. Streaming has also reduced piracy. (3) It can also give publicity to new bands, so more people go to their concerts.

D So, who is against streaming? Some artists say they aren't paid enough money. Millions are made by big music labels, but songwriters and musicians often receive a very small percentage of this money. Streaming was criticized in the news recently by Thom Yorke, lead singer of the band Radiohead. (4) But he has also said that streaming won't last and that new forms of listening to music will appear.

E What do you think? Is streaming positive or negative? Is it the future or is it just another chapter in the history of music?



In your notebook, match the sentences (a–e) with the gaps in the text (1–4). There is one extra sentence.

- a) He says that musicians can get good publicity from music streaming services.
- b) Why download music illegally when you can listen online for free?
- c) For many people, it has saved the music industry.
- d) The artists are then paid by the music labels.
- e) He thinks that it will be impossible for many bands to survive.