

Radio days

Before you read

1 In pairs, answer these questions.

- 1 Do you listen to the radio? Why/Why not?
- 2 Who listens to the radio in your family?
- 3 What do they listen to?

Reading

2 Read the text about BBC radio. If you were in the UK, which stations would you listen to? Why?



BBC RADIO

BBC
RADIO

1

BBC Radio 1 specialises in popular music and chart hits. Radio 1 broadcasts alternative genres after 7:00 p.m., including electronic music, dance, hip hop and rock. It also has interviews. It is aimed at the 15-29 age group, although the average age of the audience is 33! Radio 1 was launched in 1967 as a response to the popularity of illegal 'pirate' radio stations such as Radio Caroline. At first, the station was unpopular with young people because some DJs were too old (in their 40s!) and it was part of an establishment institution, the BBC. Despite this, it was the most popular radio station in the world.

BBC
RADIO

2

BBC Radio 2 is today the most popular station in the United Kingdom. Most of its daytime programmes are for adults. Programmes are broadcast on digital radio, Cable TV and the Internet. However, the station is also known for broadcasting a variety of musical genres: pop/rock, folk, country jazz, big-band music, light classics, and oldies, with lots of comedy and sport. Radio 2 is now called 'the nation's favourite', a title the BBC in the past used for BBC Radio 1.

BBC
RADIO

3

BBC Radio 3 specialises in classical music and opera but jazz, world music, drama, culture and the arts are also included. Its New Generation Artists scheme promotes young musicians of all nationalities. All concerts performed by the BBC orchestras and BBC Singers are also broadcast, either live or recorded. There are regular productions of both classic plays and new drama.

BBC
RADIO

4

BBC Radio 4 broadcasts a wide variety of spoken-word programmes, including news, drama, comedy, science and history. Its name used to be the BBC Home Service. BBC Radio 4 is the second most popular domestic radio station in the UK, and is broadcast in the United Kingdom and the Internet. BBC Radio 4 is known for its reliable news programmes such as Today.

3 Read the text again and recommend a radio station for the following people.

- 1 Emma loves dancing and party music: _____
- 2 Joseph goes to a lot of classical music concerts: _____
- 3 Sean loves folk music from all over the world: _____
- 4 Martin listens to the latest hits: _____
- 5 Isabella likes to know what is happening in the world: _____

- 4**  **7** Listen to some people talking about their favourite radio stations. Which BBC stations do they listen to?

Speaker 1: _____

Speaker 2: _____

Speaker 3: _____

- 5**  **7** **P** Listen again and write **T** (true) or **F** (false).

- 1 Speaker 1 says *Woman's Hour* is a music programme. _____
- 2 Speaker 1 listens to classical music while she is working. _____
- 3 Speaker 2 listens to music while doing the housework. _____
- 4 Speaker 2 avoids listening to the radio in the car. _____
- 5 Speaker 3 usually listens to music on an iPod. _____
- 6 Speaker 3 says Radio 4 is for adults only. _____



STUDY SKILLS

Becoming a better public speaker

We live in a globalised world. One day, you may have to speak in English to people from other countries. Here are some tips for becoming a better public speaker:

- Know your stuff. Know your song well before you start singing!
- Practice! Practice! Practice! Rehearse out loud and revise what you are going to say.
- Know the audience. Who are your listeners? What do they know already? What do they need to know?
- Be enthusiastic: transform your nervous energy into enthusiasm.
- Imagine yourself speaking, your voice loud, clear and confident.
- Remember: people want you to succeed. Audiences want you to be interesting and entertaining.

Speaking

- 6** You are going to present Italian radio to a group of international students. Make notes on the following questions.

- What are the most popular Italian stations?
- What kind of programmes do they specialise in?
- Who are they aimed at, young or older people?
- What are the most popular radio programmes (music, sport, news, talk shows...)?
- Which is your favourite station or programme? Why?

- 7** Now sum up your notes and make your presentation to the class.

Writing

- 8** Write a web page for an Italian Radio, like the one about the BBC. Choose three or four most important radio stations in Italy. Use the questions in exercise 6 to help you. You can also say something about:

- when the station was launched
- interesting historical facts about the station
- the names of the main presenters

