
ProTalk
Discussion Files
C1. Music genres influenced by technology
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Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about music and technology.
- Can discuss the role of technology in modern music making and speculate on the future of music.



What do you think?

Innovative and **experimental music** has always been linked to **technology**, but criticism is ramping up at the overuse of technology in certain musical **genres**.

Your taste

What is your favourite **genre** of music? Has your musical **taste** always been the same?



Listening to music

Where and when do you like listening to music?



World music

Do you listen to artists from different countries? How many languages and nationalities are represented in your music collection?



Karaoke

Do you ever sing **karaoke**?

Do you think you sound good or would you like to change your voice?

Read the text and summarize it.

Music genres influenced by technology

From ambient and breakbeat, through jungle to speed garage, electronic music and its **subgenres** are growing every year. The **proliferation** of electronic music **attests** to its popularity among listeners and consumers, but not all musicians and critics have been so quick to **embrace** this genre.



Read the text and summarize it.

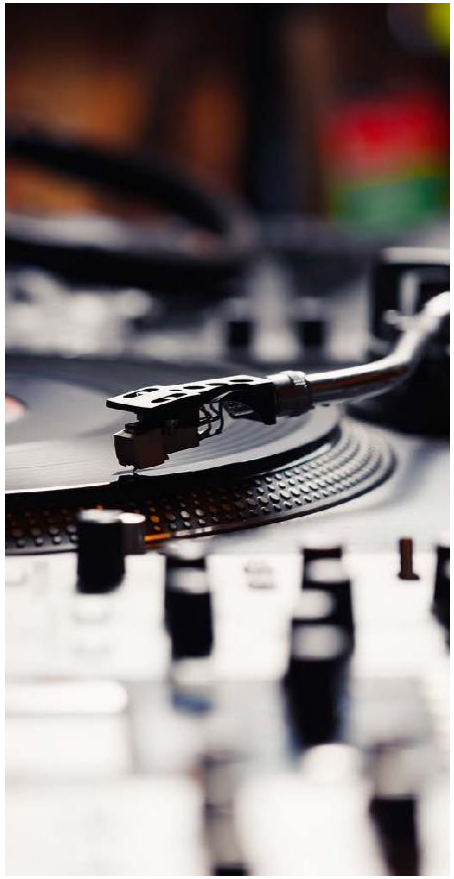
Music genres influenced by technology

Electronic music is really nothing new, and electronic instruments have been used in creating music for over 100 years. The electric guitar is perhaps the best known and most widely-used electric instrument, but there are also the electric piano, harp, and violin, among many others. There is very little **controversy** surrounding these instruments, and in pop and rock music the electric guitar dominates the acoustic, both in recording studios and live performances. Other genres, such as country and bluegrass, still prefer the acoustic guitar.



Read the text and summarize it.

Music genres influenced by technology



It is the tools which are used to help us create music that are most often criticised. Software can now be used to tune and perfect notes, **chords**, and voices so that any of our mistakes can be immediately erased. Some critics say that this makes creating music too easy, and not a job for anyone with special talent. Others have noted that the creation of music is now solely about ideas rather than the ability to play an instrument to an extremely high level – this could be **interpreted** positively or negatively.

New vocabulary: Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

subgenre

proliferation

attest (to)

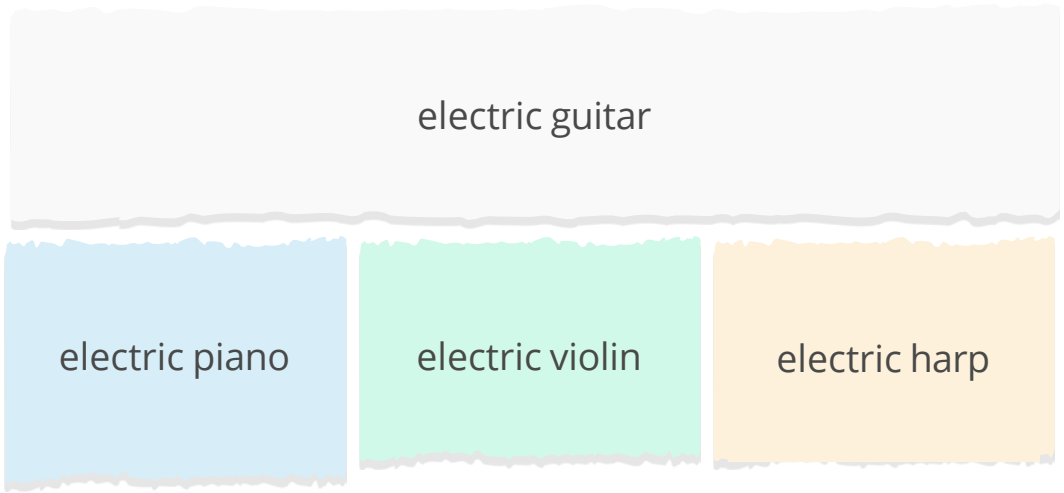
embrace

controversy

chords

Electronic music

Do you play any of these instruments or know someone who does?
If you could play any instrument, what would it be and why?
Do you listen to music which uses these instruments?



Acoustic instruments

Which genres of music are mentioned in the text as retaining a preference for the acoustic guitar? Do you like that kind of music? Do you know any other genres which use acoustic instruments?



Unscramble and then answer the questions

A

think it is

and not talent?

music is now

Do you

all about ideas

true that



B

thing or

thing?

a positive

a negative

Would

this be

EDM

Answer these questions.



1. Do you think most modern-day musicians produce their music without the help of technology?

2. Can you think of a solo musician or band who have not used some kind of electronic assistance in their work?

3. Has electronic music reduced music creation to the feat of pushing buttons?

Your band...



You have decided to have a career change and start a band! Describe what kind of music you would like to produce and whether or not you will have any electronic influences. Will you be a solo artist using a loop pedal or a Saxophonist? The music world is your oyster!

The future

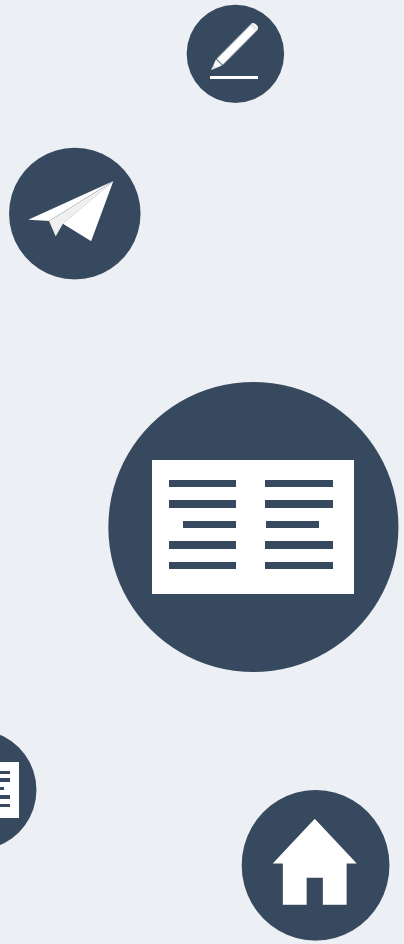
Can you imagine how music will sound in 50 years' time?

- Will we have reverted to the past and gone acoustic, or will technology have changed the sound completely?



Fill in the gaps with information from the text

1. Ambient and breakbeat are subgenres of _____ music.
2. Electronic instruments have been used for over _____ years.
3. Country and bluegrass prefer the _____ guitar.
4. One musician claimed EDM cannot be enjoyed without _____.
5. In the final line of the text, electronic music is described as _____.



Exercise p. 30

1. electronic, 2. 100, 3. acoustic, 4. mind-altering substances, 5. experimental

Presentation

Music is devolving because technology is making it easier and easier to produce.

Prepare a two-minute presentation about this topic. Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.



