Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about Keeping the beat and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation
Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-h next to the number 1-8.

1…….. rigid a. the rhythm of music
2…….. the beat b. programs used by a computer
3…….. software c. a sound recording that contains a series of ‘click’ noises which is used to keep the musical rhythm constant
4…….. a metronome d. a concert
5…….. a gig e. a device that marks regular spaces with a clicking sound, used by musicians
6…….. a rehearsal f. a practice session before performing in public
7…….. Java g. not flexible
8…….. a click track h. the name of a programming language that is used on the internet

1. Check your understanding: true or false
Circle True or False for these sentences.

1. The Beat Keeper software helps musicians not to lose the rhythm of a song or tune when they are playing. True False
2. Doctor Andrew Robertson plays the drums in a band. True False
3. The conventional click track allows musicians to speed up or slow down when they are playing. True False
4. The click track is a kind of electronic version of a metronome. True False
5. Doctor Robertson says that creating music can be difficult when a band are concentrating on keeping the tempo. True False
6. Some bands use a car alarm to help them keep the beat. True False
7. The B-Keeper program can follow a drummer who goes faster or slower. True False
8. This software is used only with the bands Doctor Robertson plays in. True False
2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word which appears in CAPITAL LETTERS. You must not change the word in capital letters. Use a maximum of five words. For example:

Doctor Andrew Robertson finds music interesting.

INTERESTED

Doctor Andrew Robertson is interested in music.

1. The new software will help bands to play more freely when they use pre-programmed music.

ABLE

The new software means bands __________________________ play more freely using pre-programmed music.

2. Doctor Andrew Robertson likes music very much.

ON

Doctor Andrew Robertson __________________________ music.

3. The click track was not flexible so a new program was needed.

NOT

If the click track had been more flexible, a new program __________________________ needed.

4. The B-Keeper software is more flexible than the conventional click track.

AS

The conventional click track __________________________ the B-Keeper software.

5. With the B-Keeper program, it is not necessary for the drummer to listen to the click.

NEED

The drummer __________________________ listen to the click with the B-Keeper software.

6. Doctor Robertson has made his invention available to other music groups.

MADE

The invention __________________________ to other bands.

Discussion

How do you think technology is going to change music in the future?