

I. Piccoli
WIRELESS ENGLISH
English for Electricity, Electronics and Telecommunications

Music and the internet

Technically, even making copies of your own music collection for personal use is a form of piracy, but so far the authorities have turned a blind eye to it.

While making a digital copy of a CD for your personal use is generally allowed, distributing a digital copy on the internet or to a friend may have legal consequences.

Obtaining pirated music from the internet is also illegal. Copyright law applies to downloading, sharing and streaming music just as in the world of physical CDs and DVDs. Copyright laws protect artists, musicians and producers, allowing them to be rewarded fairly.

There are other risks involved in the illegal downloading of music. Along with media files, users may inadvertently download viruses or spyware.

There are, however, more than 400 legal music web-sites available worldwide, offering millions of tracks at great prices. Some services also provide music for free, as they are supported by advertising. A full list of these services and links to them can be found at www.pro-music.org.



ACTIVITIES

1 Decide if the following statements are true or false, then correct the false ones.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Copying your own music collection is illegal but has been tolerated so far. | T | F |
| 2 Giving a digital copy of your CD to a friend is legal. | T | F |
| 3 Music on the internet is protected by copyright laws. | T | F |
| 4 Viruses may also be downloaded along with illegal music files. | T | F |
| 5 There are more than 400 legal music services worldwide. | T | F |
| 6 No legal music website provides music for free. | T | F |