Hey you! What song are you listening to?

Language level:	Beginner - Pre-intermediate (A1; A2)
Learner type:	Teens; Adults
Time:	30 minutes
Activity:	Listening for detail
Topic:	Music
Language:	Present continuous; Question and replies; Intonation
Materials:	Video; Worksheet

Preparation, materials and equipment

1. For this activity, you will need a video titled ***Hey you! What are you listening to?*** To access the video on YouTube, click on the following link:

   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvHRUY0tBcs

2. For each student, make a copy of the worksheet on page 5.

Decide how you are going to display the clip in class. Possibilities include:

- Mobile device (For one-to-one situations)
- Laptop, desktop, tablet computer (For small groups)
- Computer, projector + screen (For larger classes)

Don't forget the loudspeakers.

If you don't have Internet access in class, you could download or 'capture' the video from YouTube. Use www.savevid.com or a similar site. Note, however, that in doing so, you will be breaching YouTube's Terms of Use.

Lesson plan

1. If possible, show students a pair of earphones or headphones and teach them the words.

   Note: Like *scissors*, *clothes* and *sunglasses*, the words *headphones* and *earphones* are uncountable plurals.

2. Ask students the following questions:

   - Do you listen to music on the street?
   - What equipment to you use? (mp3 player, mobile phone, etc.)
   - Where do you wear earphones or headphones?
   - What are you listening to at the moment?

3. Tell students that they are going to see a YouTube video in which a man with a camera stops people who are wearing headphones in the street. Write the following questions on the board and ask students to predict which one he asks:

   a. **Hey you! What song do you listen to?**
   b. **Hey you! What song are you listening to?**

Note I: Question (a) sounds very strange in this situation. If we substitute the word *song* for *music*, it would make sense (*Hey you! What music do you listen to?*): This present simple question would serve to enquire about the listeners' musical tastes in general.

Note II: This is an opportunity to illustrate the semantics of the present continuous.

- **Happening right now**: See question (b) above.
- **Happening around about now:** See fourth question on page 2, step 2.

4. Ask students to suggest possible reactions – verbal or nonverbal – from the people on the street. Write all ideas on the board.

Examples:

- People are surprised.
- People don't hear the man.
- People ignore him.
- People stop and speak.
- People think that they have misunderstood the question and say, "What?"
- People say, "Sorry I can't hear you!"
- People say, "I'm not listening to a song. I'm listening to the radio."

5. Give out copies of the worksheet on page 5. Make sure that students understand the listening task. See note on intonation below.

Note: At this stage, you may want to drill the utterances in the table to clarify meaning. Different intonation patterns can result in different functions. Consider the utterance "What's that?"

	Intonation pattern	Function
"*What's that?*"	Rise at end	"*What did you say? I didn't hear you.*"
"*What's that?*	Fall at end	"*I don't know what that is. Can you identify it for me?*"

6. Play the video clip.

7. Let students compare answers.

8. Go over the answers. If necessary, play the clip again, making use of the pause button to stop and start.

The replies that are not heard in the clip are:

- "Excuse me?"
- "What did you say?"
- "Why are you asking?"
- "You want to know what song I'm listening to?"

Follow up

Refer students to the video so that they can access it at home. Set them the following questions for homework:

- Which person in the clip do you like the best and why?
- Which person in the clip surprised you the most with their musical taste? Why?
- Did you hear any other useful language in the video? What was it?
- How many people had to look at their mp3 players to answer the question? Describe them.
- How many people refused to answer the question? Describe them.

Hey you! What are you listening to? is the title of a video clip on YouTube. Filmmaker Ty Cullen stops people in the street who are wearing headphones. He asks them what song they are listening to.

Watch the video. Listen carefully. Which of the following replies do you *not* hear?

Replies	I heard it ☑ I didn't hear it ☒
• "Huh?"	☐
• "What?"	☐
• "What song am I listening to?"	☐
• "What's that?"	☐
• "I'm sorry?"	☐
• "Excuse me?"	☐
• "You want to know what song I'm listening to?"	☐
• "I'm listening to … by …"	☐
• "Right now I'm listening to …"	☐
• "I don't know. Hold on. Let me see."	☐
• "What did you say?"	☐
• "Why are you asking?"	☐
• "I *was* listening to …"	☐
• "Right now I listen Buffalo Soldier"	☐
• "It's not a song" (= I am listening to the radio)	☐
• "You're welcome!"	☐