

Reports contain news and information. They are found in newspapers, magazines, and other publications. Read the following report about downloading music from the Internet. Then answer the questions on page 61.

---

# Decrease in Music Sales Due to Free Downloads

In 2001, America saw a four percent decrease in music sales. Who is to blame for the slump? According to recording companies, it's consumers with computers. High-speed Internet connections allow people to download music easily. Anyone with a fast computer can get a free copy of their favorite new song.

The issue of free music has recently been taken to court. The record companies won most of their battles. The courts ruled that the music is protected by copyright laws.

Newer Internet companies have come up with a clever solution. They offer a "pay by the song" option. On their sites, people can download single songs for a small fee. Part of that fee goes to the recording companies. For singers and musicians, this means getting their fair share too.

But can music stores survive the threat to their sales? Now people don't have to go to a store to buy the latest CD in order to hear their favorite song. They can download it from the Internet. Some music stores are responding with lower prices and more advertising. They hope that loyal customers will keep returning.

And what about the singers and musicians? What do they think about selling music on the Internet? Most singers are happy with the free advertising. They want people to listen to their music and tell their friends about it. Other musicians would rather have people buy entire albums instead of single songs. They say that's the way their less popular songs get heard and appreciated.

Only one thing is for sure. Music fans will always buy music. How they get it will keep changing. For businesses that are looking toward the future, that means changing with the times.



## Reading: Comprehension

Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- 1 What is the article mainly about?
- (A) creativity in music writing
  - (B) copyright laws in the music industry
  - (C) the latest free download sites on the Internet
  - (D) how downloading music is affecting the music industry
- 2 What are two opinions held by singers and musicians about downloading music?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 According to the article, what is the cause of the decrease in music sales?
- (A) Music stores have increased their prices.
  - (B) People don't want tapes and records anymore.
  - (C) People have less money to spend on music, toys, and games
  - (D) People are downloading music from the Internet instead of buying it in stores.
- 4 What effect did the decrease in music sales have on music stores?
- (F) Music stores made less money and lost business.
  - (G) Music stores closed down and went out of business.
  - (H) Music stores were not affected by the decrease in sales.
  - (J) Music stores started providing Internet service to customers.



### Cause and Effect

Events in stories and a character's changed feelings have to do with cause and effect relationships. Things happen for a reason. The effect is what happened and the cause is why it happened.