

READING UNIT 2

PASSAGE 1

Theme focused: Technology



In 1983 a new type of phonograph disc reached the marketplace, which showed promise of eventually taking over the recording industry. It was called the compact disc and made use of two technical systems: digital recording and laser beams. All recording until the advent of the compact disc was analog recording, which recorded the vibrations of sound waves on a track. With analog recording, there was always a bit of slippage, which added distortion. Digital recording is a completely different process, one in which the distortion is so small that it can be said to be effectively eliminated. Thus, the fidelity of the compact disc is extremely high.

Because the indentations on the compact disc pass under a laser beam, no solid device is in contact with the disc, and therefore there is no friction, and wear is eliminated. With a minimum of care, the compact disc should last indefinitely. This is in contrast to the relatively short life of an analog recording. Another advantage of the compact disc is the system of identifying numbers that allows for random access to any song on the recording with the push of a button.

Because of the improved qualities and advantages of the compact disc, production has increased significantly since its introduction. Although analog recording continues, it is expected to be relegated to a nostalgic past as the CD becomes the recording format of the future.

Question 1. Why did the author write this passage?

- A. To present the advantages of the compact disc
- B. To compare recent improvements in recording
- C. To criticize analog recording
- D. To support the idea of change in the music industry

Question 2. The tone of the passage could best be described as ____.

- A. positive
- B. negative
- C. humorous
- D. argumentative

Question 3. The paragraph that precedes this passage most likely deals with ____.

- A. the other uses of laser beams
- B. nostalgia in the 1990s
- C. major stars in the recording industry
- D. recording methods before 1983

Reading Unit 2 Teachers Editoin

Karin Nielsen-Saines



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