

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210313-k-pop.html>

Pop music from South Korea (K-pop) has become very popular around the world. In 2012, the South Korean artist Psy received the most views ever on YouTube with his song Gangnam Style. In the past few years, the Korean boy band BTS has had considerable success in America and Europe. They became the first K-pop band to have a number one on the US music charts. The popularity of K-pop has caused major record labels to put more money into Korean acts. The world's biggest music label, Universal Music Group, has said it will join a live-streaming platform set up by Korea's major record labels. Universal will invest in the platform launched last year by Big Hit Entertainment, the company BTS belongs to.

Another Korean pop group, the girl band BLACKPINK, is also set to become popular worldwide. Universal has teamed up with their label, YG Entertainment. The chairman of YG said: "We will work closely with the biggest music company, Universal Music Group, globally for the successful global debut and promotion of BLACKPINK. In addition, we will do our best to help other YG artists to break through into the North American and European markets." YG added: "Music and real talent rise above culture and language and have no boundaries. Through this partnership we feel we can truly showcase our artists' potential on a bigger scale. We look forward to what's to come in the future."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55993098>  
<https://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/universal-signs-k-pop-girl-band-to-intercope-can-they-repeat-bts-success/>  
<https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/music/universal-music-group-joins-forces-with-k-pop-labels-for-livestreaming-platform-40073719.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. POP MUSIC:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pop music. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

pop music / worldwide / success / number one / song / record / music / company / label / girl band / debut / promotion / talent / culture / language / partnership

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. THE BEST:** Students A **strongly** believe pop music is the best form of music; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. ARTISTS:** Who are your favourite artists? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Who?	Why?
Band		
Male singer		
Female singer		
Musician		
Dancer		
Rapper		

**5. POPULAR:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "popular". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. MUSIC GENRES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Pop
- Opera
- Country
- Hip-hop
- Electro
- Jazz
- Rock
- Soul

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. popular      | a. Put money into shares, property, etc. in the hope of getting more money back.                         |
| 2. artist       | b. Liked by many people.   |
| 3. views        | c. Getting done or completing an aim or goal.  |
| 4. considerable | d. A person who does any of the creative arts, such as a singer, sculptor, film-maker, actor, or dancer. |
| 5. success      | e. Very large in size or amount.   |
| 6. platform     | f. Numbers of times people looked at a website page.   |
| 7. invest       | g. The hardware of a computer system or a kind of social media site or other site to do things.          |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8. set         | h. About to.   |
| 9. debut       | i. Having or showing the capacity to develop into something in the future. |
| 10. promotion  | j. A person's first appearance or performance in a movie, concert or role. |
| 11. talent     | k. The limits of or to something.  |
| 12. rise       | l. Activity that supports or encourages a cause, business, or aim.         |
| 13. boundaries | m. Natural skill.  |
| 14. potential  | n. Move from a lower to a higher position.                                 |



# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210313-k-pop.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Music from South and North Korea has become popular. **T / F**
- b. In 2016, a South Korean artist got the most YouTube views ever. **T / F**
- c. BTS are the first Korean band to be number one in the USA. **T / F**
- d. The world's biggest music company is called Universal. **T / F**
- e. BLACKPINK is the world's most successful girl band. **T / F**
- f. A Korean music company wants to move to the USA. **T / F**
- g. A Korean music company said culture rises above music. **T / F**
- h. A Korean music company is looking forward to the future. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>popular</b>      | a. great          |
| 2. <b>received</b>     | b. skill          |
| 3. <b>considerable</b> | c. put money into |
| 4. <b>set up</b>       | d. got            |
| 5. <b>invest</b>       | e. premiere       |
| 6. <b>worldwide</b>    | f. limits         |
| 7. <b>debut</b>        | g. well-liked     |
| 8. <b>talent</b>       | h. possibilities  |
| 9. <b>boundaries</b>   | i. started        |
| 10. <b>potential</b>   | j. globally       |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. K-pop has become very popular     | a. popular worldwide   |
| 2. received the most views           | b. charts              |
| 3. BTS has had considerable          | c. best to help        |
| 4. have a number one on the US music | d. ever on YouTube     |
| 5. Universal will invest in          | e. come in the future  |
| 6. set to become                     | f. up with their label |
| 7. Universal has teamed              | g. around the world    |
| 8. we will do our                    | h. the platform        |
| 9. showcase our artists'             | i. success             |
| 10. We look forward to what's to     | j. potential           |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210313-k-pop.html>

1. When did the artist Psy have a big YouTube hit?
2. Where does the article say BTS has had considerable success?
3. How many K-pop bands had a U.S. number one before BTS?
4. What are major record labels putting into Korean acts?
5. What is the name of the label BTS belongs to?
6. What is the name of the label BLACKPINK belongs to?
7. Who said he would work closely with Universal?
8. Who does a chairman want to help break through into the U.S. market?
9. What did a record label say rises above culture and language?
10. What does the label feel the partnership can do to its artists?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210313-k-pop.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'pop' and 'music'.

pop	music

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• become</li><li>• views</li><li>• success</li><li>• major</li><li>• join</li><li>• belongs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• girl</li><li>• teamed</li><li>• debut</li><li>• break</li><li>• feel</li><li>• future</li></ul>
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# POP MUSIC DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'pop music'?
3. What do you know about K-pop?
4. What do you think of the pop music from your country?
5. Why do you think K-pop is becoming more popular?
6. What do you think of boy bands?
7. What is your favourite kind of music?
8. Who are your favourite artists?
9. How important is it for songs to be in English?
10. Do you prefer artists from your country or from America?

*World's biggest music company to invest in K-Pop – 13th March, 2021*  
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# POP MUSIC DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'music'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about BTS and BLACKPINK?
15. Would you like to be a pop star?
16. Would you prefer to be a singer or musician?
17. How important is music to you?
18. How important is it that singers can dance?
19. Why are bands from the US and UK so popular?
20. What questions would you like to ask BTS?