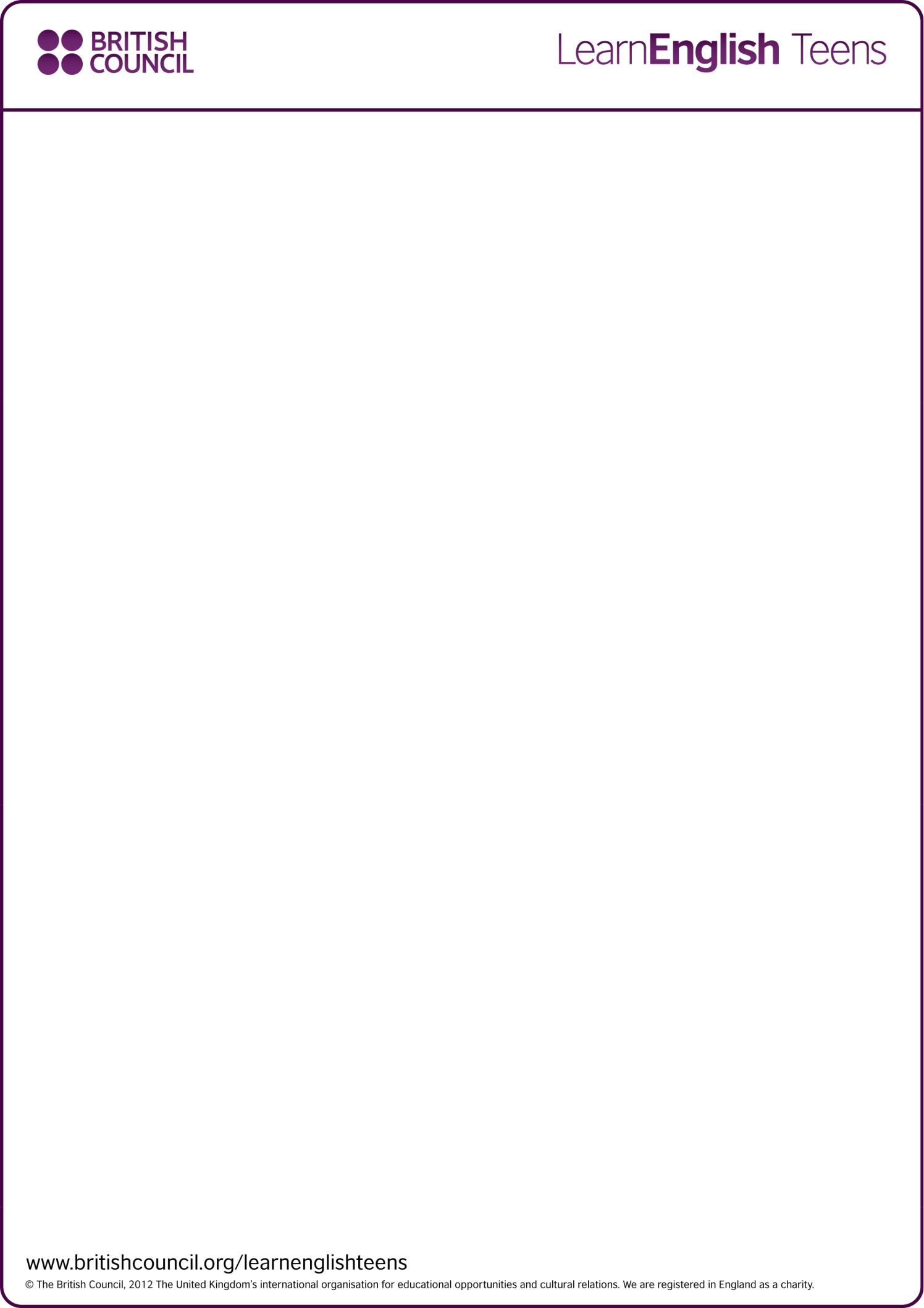
**Listening skills practice: Boy bands – exercises**

Listen to the radio interview about boy bands and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

**1. Check your understanding: gap fill**

Do this exercise before you listen. Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| reality | music | ‘look’ |
| feel-good | record | good-looking |
|  |  |  |

**How to create a boy band**

good-looking

* 1. Find four or five \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ boys.

music

* 1. Check they have at least some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ability.

‘look’

* 1. Decide on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the band.

feel-good

* 1. Write them some songs with safe, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lyrics.

music

* 1. Ideally, get them on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TV show.

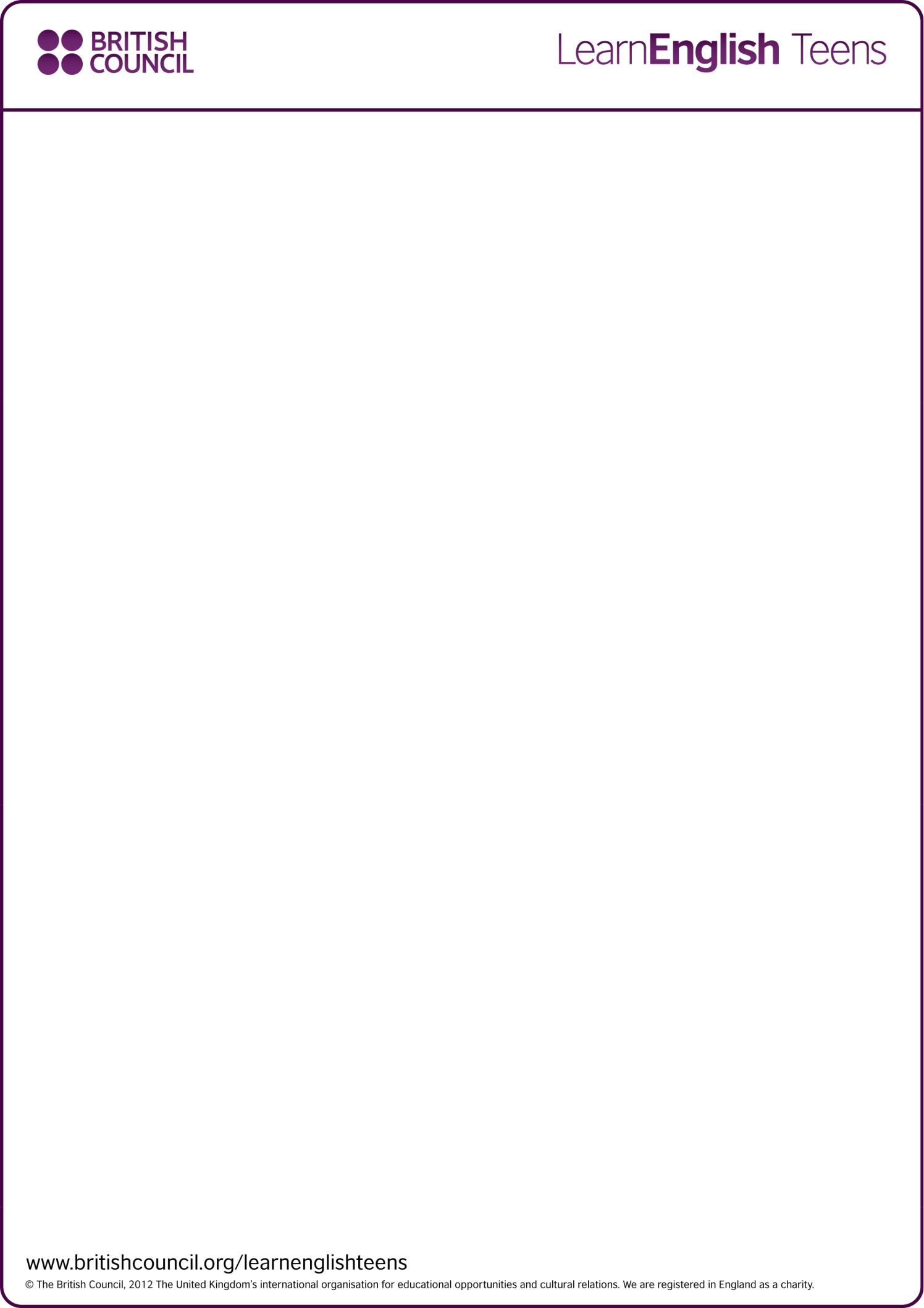
record

* 1. Make as much money as possible from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sales, concerts and merchandising.

1. **Check your understanding: true or false**

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Many boy bands are not successful. | *True* | *False* |  |
| 2. | In the past, boy band members dressed differently but had similar | *True* | *False* |  |
| personalities. |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Having different types of boy in the group is supposed to appeal to | *True* | *False* |  |
| different girls. |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4. | One Direction first became famous on YouTube. | *True* | *False* |  |
| 5. | One Direction lyrics are written for girls who like rebellious boys. | *True* | *False* |  |
| 6. | One Direction's stylists try to give each band member an individual look. | *True* | *False* |  |
| 7. | One Direction became famous in the US by clever use of social media. | *True* | *False* |  |
| 8. | One Direction have not tried to make money from merchandising. | *True* | *False* |  |



**3. Check your understanding: multiple choice**

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle the best phrase to complete these sentences.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | The most important thing for boy bands in the past was that they had some musical ability / they |  |
| could dance well / they had different personalities . |  |
|  |  |
| 2. | Things have changed because people wanted something different / the media and new |  |
| technology influence things differently / both of the above . |  |
|  |  |
|  | Starting on a reality show like X Factor is great for a band because appearing on TV is the |  |

1. quickest way to get famous / the many viewers who vote every week become loyal fans / people

feel a personal connection with bands they see on TV .

The words to One Direction songs are designed to make teenage girls feel good about

1. themselves / appeal to mums by being a bit cheeky / communicate universal messages about love

.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5. | One Direction's clothes are very individual and they each have a strong look / create a clean-cut, | |  |
| safe and non-threatening image / are casual and fashionable with a touch of rebelliousness . | |  |
|  |  |
| 6. | Lots of people said One Direction wouldn't | be regarded as serious musicians / get famous in the |  |
| US as well as the UK / have a number one record . | |  |
|  |  |
|  | One Direction were the first British band to | have their first album go to number one in the US / sell |  |

1. so many copies of their first album in just one week / break into the US market by using social media .

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8. | The boys have also made money from selling One Direction products like dolls and phones / |  |
| performing as many sell-out concerts as possible / giving talks about their success . |  |
|  |  |