



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Technology: File Sharing 技术:文件分享



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## Technology: File Sharing 技术:文件分享

### Viable in the Long Term? 是否长期可行?

It has been 10 years since the birth of Napster and the global spread of **file-sharing** sites. Back in 1999, Shawn Fanning, then a 19-year-old student, could never have **predicted the extent to which** his simple computer program would change the music industry forever.

Napster's **peer-to-peer** file sharing system was perhaps the most highly **publicised** of its time and it was not always good publicity.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) was **less than impressed** at how easy Napster made it for people to download music free of charge. They were quoted in the media at the time calling Napster "an **instrument of shoplifting**".

The RIAA proceeded to **sue** Napster saying "Napster knowingly and **wilfully set out** to build a business based on **copyright infringement** on an **unprecedented** scale."

Shawn Fanning says his original **intention** was never to make money from the site. He claims he had only been trying to make it easier for his friends to share digital music files.

A few years later, the lawsuit was dropped but a new ruling meant Napster was effectively unable to continue **legally** operating under their existing **business model**.

One thing Napster had proved was the enormous global appetite for sharing and downloading music. And where there is a **healthy demand**, there is usually a **healthy profit** to be made too.

So, unsurprisingly, the music industry **followed suit** and the big **record labels** now play a key role in hugely successful ventures such as Apple iTunes, Yahoo Music and Spotify. Napster has also relaunched itself with a more **viable** and legal business model in which people pay a small fee for downloading songs.

Turning your home PC into a **modern-day jukebox** has never been so easy. But with illegal file sharing still easily accessible, it is yet to be seen how viable in the long term these new legal music sharing sites are.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>file sharing</b> 文件分享	<b>predicted the extent to which</b> 预测其程度
<b>peer-to-peer</b> 点对点/对等网络	<b>publicised</b> 公开宣传和曝光的
<b>less than impressed</b> 不喜欢/不屑一顾	<b>instrument of shoplifting</b> 入店行窃的工具
<b>sue</b> 起诉	<b>wilfully</b> 故意的
<b>set out</b> 有目的的开始做某事	<b>copyright infringement</b> 侵犯版权
<b>unprecedented</b> 前所未有的	<b>intention</b> 意图/目的
<b>legally</b> 法律的	<b>business model</b> 商业模式
<b>healthy demand</b> (健康) 合理的需求	<b>healthy profit</b> (健康) 合理的利润
<b>followed suit</b> 效仿	<b>record labels</b> 唱片公司
<b>viable</b> 可行的	<b>modern-day jukebox</b> 现代自动播放机

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Napster was originally started by a 19-year-old student. **True / False**
2. Napster has always charged users for sharing and downloading music from its site. **True / False**
3. The Recording Industry Association of America was sued by Napster. **True / False**
4. Napster now operates using a more viable and legal business model. **True / False**
5. Record labels are completely against online music download sites. **True / False**

## 2. Vocabulary 词汇

Match the adjectives with the correct definition.

请为以下的形容词从a至e中选出正确的定义。

a. modern

c. microscopic

e. startling

g. ancient

i. infinitesimal

b. pioneering

d. immense

f. novel

h. astonishing

j. enormous

1. \_\_\_\_\_ extremely large
2. \_\_\_\_\_ very small and difficult to see
3. \_\_\_\_\_ extremely small
4. \_\_\_\_\_ extremely large in size or degree
5. \_\_\_\_\_ very surprising
6. \_\_\_\_\_ surprising and sometimes worrying
7. \_\_\_\_\_ new – unlike anything before
8. \_\_\_\_\_ from a very long time ago
9. \_\_\_\_\_ being the first to do something
10. \_\_\_\_\_ something from recent times

### 3. Adjectives 形容词

First look at each set of adjectives (a-c) and pick the odd one out. Then complete each sentence with one of the three given adjectives (a-c).

首先从每一组 (a-c) 形容词里选出最个别的一个。然后从每组(a-c)中选出一个完成句子填空练习。

1	a. big	b. microscopic	c. enormous
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1.1 There is an \_\_\_\_\_ demand for sharing and downloading music.

2	a. immense	b. infinitesimal	c. small
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2.1 People can legally download music so long as they use a reputable website and pay a \_\_\_\_\_ fee.

3	a. astonishing	b. unsurprising	c. startling
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3.1 It was \_\_\_\_\_ that the big record labels wanted to become involved in the online sale of music.

4	a. novel	b. ancient	c. original
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4.1 Napster had to abandon its \_\_\_\_\_ business model and find a more viable and legal way to run the business.

5	a. up-to-date	b. modern	c. pioneering
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5.1 Some people would describe Napster as \_\_\_\_\_. It is a company which has influenced the way people buy, sell and listen to music.

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with this week's topic in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请找出和本周题目相关的英语单词。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→)垂直的(↓)或对角的(↘)形式出现。

r	p	r	o	g	g	r	a	m	m	e	p
e	d	p	e	e	r	t	o	p	e	e	r
c	o	p	y	r	i	g	h	t	j	d	o
o	n	l	i	n	e	f	s	f	u	d	g
r	a	u	p	l	o	n	d	o	k	e	r
d	o	w	n	l	o	a	d	f	e	d	a
l	d	i	g	i	t	a	l	s	b	w	m
a	f	m	u	s	i	c	f	s	o	s	f
b	f	i	l	e	s	h	a	r	x	i	n
e	d	d	i	g	i	t	a	n	i	b	g
l	f	s	f	s	d	s	a	d	f	s	g
f	f	i	l	e	s	h	a	r	i	n	g

peer-to-peer file sharing record label  
copyright download program digital  
music jukebox online

## Answers 答案

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

1. Napster was originally started by a 19-year-old student. **True**
2. Napster has always charged users for sharing and downloading music from its site. **False**
3. The Recording Industry Association of America was sued by Napster. **False**
4. Napster now operates using a more viable and legal business model. **True**
5. Record labels are completely against online music download sites. **False**

### 2. Vocabulary 词汇

1. **enormous (J) / immense (D)**  
extremely large
2. **microscopic (C)**  
very small and difficult to see
3. **infinitesimal (I)**  
extremely small
4. **immense (D) / enormous (J)**  
extremely large in size or degree
5. **astonishing (H)**  
very surprising
6. **startling (E)**  
surprising and sometimes worrying
7. **novel (F)**  
new – unlike anything before
8. **ancient (G)**  
from a very long time ago
9. **pioneering (B)**  
being the first to do something
10. **modern (A)**  
something from recent times

### 3. Adjectives 形容词

1. b. microscopic
  - 1.1 There is an **enormous** demand for sharing and downloading music.
2. a. immense
  - 2.1 People can legally download music so long as they use a reputable website and pay a **small** fee.
3. a. unsurprising
  - 3.1 It was **unsurprising** that the big record labels wanted to become involved in the online sale of music.
4. b. ancient
  - 4.1 Napster had to abandon its **novel/original** business model and find a more viable and legal way to run the business.
5. c. pioneering
  - 5.1 Some people would describe Napster as **pioneering**. It is a company which has influenced the way people buy, sell and listen to music.

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

r												p
e		p	e	e	r	t	o	p	e	e	r	
c	o	p	y	r	i	g	h	t	j			o
o	n	l	i	n	e					u		g
r										k		r
d	o	w	n	l	o	a	d			e		a
l	d	i	g	i	t	a	l			b		m
a		m	u	s	i	c				o		
b										x		
e												
l												
	f	i	l	e	s	h	a	r	i	n	g	