

Digital Music



The worksheets in this chapter are based on the following areas:

- understanding digital music,
- language used around digital music,
- measuring file sizes, and
- silent letters.

For help with the worksheets, you can:

- call the NALA Freephone support line at 1800 20 20 65 on Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm, or
- check out the Really Useful Guide to Words and Numbers Web site on www.rug.ie.

Reading: Digital Music

The Beginner's Guide to Digital Music

Where do you keep your music? On a rack of CDs in your front room? Me, I keep all of my 3,000 songs on a little MP3 player the size of cigarette lighter - my CDs are now stored away at the bottom of my wardrobe.

That's the beauty of digital music – it makes your entire music collection portable. But how does it work? It's simple:

1. you take your music CD,
2. put it in a computer, and
3. then use a software programme like Windows Media Player to copy the music onto the computer.

It does this by converting the songs into digital sound files. The most common example of a sound file is MP3. If you don't want to buy a CD, you can also buy songs and download them more cheaply over the Internet.

You can then copy these MP3 files onto your MP3 player.

Reading: Digital Music

Now try to answer these questions on digital music.

1. What is an MP3 file?

2. What advantage does digital music have over music stored on CDs?

3. What does an MP3 player allow you to store?

4. MP3 players are very big and heavy. True or False?

5. How do you get songs from CDs onto an MP3 player?

6. If you don't want to buy a CD, how else can you get digital music?

Note: You are only allowed to convert music that you have bought into MP3 files. **Converting other people's CDs and putting the files on your MP3 player is illegal.**

Reading: Windows Media Player

Here's a simple guide to ripping CDs.

1. Start Windows Media Player.
2. Insert a CD into the CD drive on the computer.
3. At the top of Media Player, you will see six tabs.
4. The Now Playing list should read the name of the artist and songs.



5. Click on Rip and you should see the same list of songs.
6. If Media Player does not recognise the artist or song, it will show unknown under title and artist. If you go online while you are ripping the CD, Media Player will search for and display the information in the Library.
7. The CD can now be 'ripped' onto your computer.

Note: MP3 players have limited space or memory so you may not be able to fit all your songs on them. The more memory you have, the more expensive the player.

Numeracy: MP3 File Sizes

An MP3 file takes up space or memory on your computer. This memory is measured in kilobytes, megabytes and gigabytes.

A **kilobyte** is **1000 bytes** and is normally shown by the abbreviation Kb.

A **megabyte** is **1000 kilobytes** and is normally shown by the abbreviation Mb.

A **gigabyte** is **1000 megabyte** and is normally shown by the abbreviation Gb.

An average MP3 file is around 3 Mb. That means that on a 1 Gb MP3 player, you would fit around 330 songs.

Try to put these file sizes in order, starting with the smallest. Then write out the size using words. The first one is done for you.

1 Kb

1 Mb

50Mb

4Gb

100Kb

1. 1 Kb One kilobyte

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Reading: Digital Music Words

See if you can match the words with their meanings.
The first one is done for you.

MP3	Small device for playing MP3 files
Windows Media Player	A type of sound file that can be stored on computers or MP3 players
To rip	Compact Disc
MP3 Player	Gigabyte – a measurement used to show the size of files
CD	To convert the music on a CD to digital music
Gb	A piece of software on most computers that allows you to play and convert music

Spelling: The silent t, k and b

Silent letters are letters you can not hear when you say the word.

The silent t

The letter **t** can be silent when it appears in the middle of some words, such as **listen**, **castle** and **mortgage**.

The silent k

When you see a word starting with **k** and the second letter is **n**, you never pronounce the **k**. Examples include the words **knock**, **knit** and **know**.

The silent b

b is sometimes silent after the letter **m** in a word as in **climb**, **numb** and **dumb**.

See if you can sort out the mixed up letters to spell words with the silent letters t, k and b.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1. When you close your coat | senatf | _____ |
| 2. You cut bread with this. | fnkei | _____ |
| 3. Sound you make with your mouth | htliswe | _____ |
| 4. This animal is born in the spring. | blam | _____ |
| 5. You tie this in your shoelaces. | onkt | _____ |

Spelling: The Silent g, l and c

The silent g

When **g** comes before **n** you do not hear the **g** sound. You can see this in words like foreign, sign and design.

The silent l

The letter **l** is sometimes silent before **k** or **m**, as in the words walk, talk, calm and palm.

The silent c

The letter **c** can sometime be silent after **s** as in the words scent and scene.

See if you can sort out the mixed up letters to spell words with the silent letters g, l and c.

1. To leave a job enrgsi _____

2. 50% lhaf _____

3. Silver fish msolan _____

4. To go up cenasd _____

5. Small statue for the garden nogem _____

Spelling: More Silent Letters

guest	which	hymn	calf
whispering	folk	thumb	write
solemn	ghost	writer	walk
designer	wrist	calm	biscuit

Put the words into groups that have the same silent letter. The first one is done for you.

1. Silent **b** thumb _____

2. Silent **h** _____

3. Silent **u** _____

4. Silent **l** _____

5. Silent **n** _____

6. Silent **w** _____

7. Silent **g** _____

Spelling: Silent Letters

Put in the silent letters missing from this speech bubble.

Last night I decided to cook lam—
chops for dinner. I had g____ests
arriving and I asked my son to help. I
asked him to hand me a ____nife. He
was not lis____ening because he was
to busy eating bisc____its and
playing his g____itar.

Spelling: Words within Words

When you look at the word Digital. You will also see the smaller words **dig** and **it** within the word.

Look at the words below and see how many smaller words you can find in each one.

1. Download _____

2. Internet _____

3. Portable _____

4. Walkman _____

5. Listening _____
