

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

DANCING IN SILENCE

- I Neighbours of the annual Glastonbury music festival in southwest England have learned to cope with the enormous crowds and the loud, live music that goes on late into the evening. But it has been much harder for them to tolerate the dance music that is played at the after-hours parties, which often continue until dawn. So, before the 2005 festival, the organisers promised them quiet nights. How then did thousands of festival-goers still dance to loud music at the traditional all-night parties, but not disturb local residents? They moved to the beat at a “silent disco”.
- II Silent Disco was created by two Dutchmen, a sound engineer and television director named Michael Minten and Nico Okkerse, a musician and theatre producer. In 2002, when they began working as DJs for large, private outdoor parties, they wanted a way to play music all night without breaking Holland’s strict noise laws, and came up with the idea of silencing it to everyone but the dancers and DJs.
- III The idea is simple: dancers and DJs wear wireless headphones that receive the broadcast of the music that the DJs play. Users can adjust the volume, and – unlike when they’re in a place where incredibly loud music is played through speakers – they only have to remove their headphones to have a conversation with someone without shouting.
- IV Minten and Okkerse have brought Silent Disco to the Glastonbury festival and other events in the UK, as well as the rest of Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Often, they offer two different sets of music, broadcast simultaneously on two channels, for the dancers to choose between.
- V Several companies are now getting in on the act and adapting similar types of wireless technology for creating silent discos from stereo systems, MP3 players and even mobile phones. They promise that soon, if you want to hold a dance party at home, you can assure your parents that they won’t hear a thing!

1 Choose the correct answer.

- In Holland,
 - noise laws can be broken by DJs.
 - all-night music is permitted at outdoor parties.
 - it is an offence to play loud music all night.
- The Silent Disco headphones
 - have got special wires.
 - can be controlled by the user to be loud or soft.
 - have got only one channel.

2 Complete the sentences using the information given in the text. Use your own words as far as possible.

- Even though festival-goers danced to loud music all night in the summer of 2005, local residents.....
- Minten and Okkerse came up with the idea of making the music at a dance party
- Several companies are making it possible for silent discos to be

3 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- continues (paragraph I)
- people who play music at a club or party (paragraph II)
- rigid, or strongly enforced (paragraph II)
- becoming involved in (paragraph V)
- promise (paragraph V)

4 Answer the questions according to the information in the text.

- Why was the Silent Disco created?
.....
- What are the advantages of a silent disco?
.....

5 Write a composition of about 100-120 words. Choose one option.

- In your opinion, should noise laws be mandatory? Explain your answer.
- Do you think silent discos will become increasingly popular in your country? Why / Why not?