

Explicit Lyrics Warnings on Online Music (21st December, 2011)

A new scheme has been put into place online to warn parents of explicit lyrics on music downloads. There has been a similar warning on CDs and DVDs for many years. It is now the turn of songs that are available for purchase on the Internet. Apple's iTunes Store has led the way online for several years by stating whether or not a download contains words unsuitable for children's ears. It places the word 'explicit' next to songs parents need to be warned about. It also puts the logo 'clean' next to songs that people might mistake for being explicit. The warning for explicit lyrics will now appear next to music and video files on sites such as Amazon and Napster. This will allow parents to monitor

The scheme was set up by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI). It comes after calls from parents concerned about the increasing volume of songs available online that contain foul, explicit or offensive language. BPI chief executive Geoff Taylor said: "We know that the parental advisory logo on CDs and DVDs has been a useful tool for parents.... We believe that parents need the same guidance when their children are downloading or streaming songs or videos online, so we have extended the logo to digital music services." Singer Jamelia said she worried about what her two children listen to online and agreed that the logo "gives parents the ability to quickly and easily judge whether a song or music video is right for their child".

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. scheme | a. puts |
| 2. explicit | b. enlarged |
| 3. suitable | c. established |
| 4. places | d. satisfactory |
| 5. monitor | e. graphic |
| 6. set up | f. disgusting |
| 7. concerned | g. check |
| 8. offensive | h. plan |
| 9. extended | i. power |
| 10. ability | j. worried |

LYRICS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'lyrics'.

BAD LANGUAGE: Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote again.

Bad language from	What would you think?	What would you do?
a 5-year-old		
a 16-year-old		
your mother		
a singer		
a politician		
a shop assistant		

OFFENSIVE: Which of these do you hate hearing or seeing bad language? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- songs
- movies
- newspapers
- graffiti
- computer games
- spam mail
- documentaries
- CD covers

GENRES: Tell each what you think of the following music genres:

- Hip-hop
- Rock
- Blues
- Jazz
- Reggae
- Pop
- Folk
- Country and Western
- Grunge
- Other

MUSICAL PHENOMENA: With your partner(s), discuss how the following musical genres have changed society. It might be a good idea to change the genre to ones that have changed your society.

	Society before	Society after
Rock 'n' Roll		
60s		
House / Electro		
Punk		
Grunge		
Disco		
Hip-hop		