



The big debate

Should lip-synching be allowed?

Some people think it's sneaky when artists don't sing live while onstage.

What you need to know

- Lip-synching is mouthing the words to a song so you appear to be singing.
- In 2021, China banned singers from lip-synching, saying it was misleading. Artists caught lip-synching may have to pay a fine of nearly \$15,000 as a punishment or be banned from performing.
- Mayday, a rock band from Taiwan, has recently been accused of lip-synching by Chinese authorities. Mayday's lead singer, named Ashin, has denied this.



DID YOU KNOW?

People often say they're "tone deaf" if they can't sing well, but only 4% of people actually have this condition.

In 2013, Beyoncé was criticized for lip-synching the national anthem at a ceremony for President Barack Obama. The superstar singer said she did it because she hadn't had time to rehearse but wanted it to be perfect. In 2023 and 2024, some people accused Taylor Swift of lip-synching during her record-setting Eras Tour, which they said wasn't fair to fans who paid high prices to see the sold-out shows. Others came to her defense, however, saying Swift may have used backing tracks to fill in occasionally but otherwise sang live. They were just happy to see her and didn't care because the songs still sounded good. What do you think? Should lip-synching be allowed?

Yes—there are good reasons for it

Performing live can be exhausting for musicians, especially when they're on tour and have to perform shows night after night. Lip-synching instead of singing means they can protect their voices from being damaged. If an artist has a sore throat or isn't feeling confident, lip-synching ensures that they sound the best they can. And some musicians put on shows that involve energetic dance moves—it can be almost impossible to do this and sing well at the same time. Lip-synching allows them to put on an amazing performance for their fans, which is what the concert experience is all about.

No—it's not honest

Fans pay good money to see their favorite songs performed live, not to hear a recorded version played on speakers—they can do that at home! There's no point going to a concert if the music doesn't sound any different than it does at home. Besides, it's dishonest and misleading to pretend to be singing, especially for fans who might not notice that a musician is lip-synching. If a singer isn't able to perform their own songs live, then perhaps they shouldn't be a singer in the first place. They certainly shouldn't be charging money for people to see them in concert. Only those with the talent to sing live should perform on a stage.

YES Three reasons lip-synching should be allowed

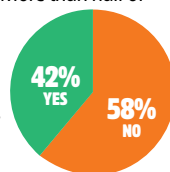
- 1 Live performances are very tiring for musicians, so lip-synching helps them to protect their voices.
- 2 Dancing and singing well at the same time is nearly impossible.
- 3 Lip-synching allows artists to put on a great show for their fans, which is why they're attending the concert.

NO Three reasons lip-synching should not be allowed

- 1 Fans aren't paying to listen to a recorded version of a song they love—they can do that at home.
- 2 It's misleading when an artist pretends they're singing their songs live.
- 3 If a singer can't perform their own music in front of a live audience, they might be in the wrong business.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if we should always root for the same team. More than half of you said it's OK for our loyalty to change over the years.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think lip-synching should be allowed or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.