

18-1-2級 筆記問題

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D-3 B The Price of a Song

All around the world people sing the "Happy Birthday" song on people's birthdays. However, for a long time, it was rare to hear the song sung in movies or TV programs. This was because the copyright for the song belonged to a company. If somebody has a copyright for a song, they can charge money when other people use it in their movies or TV programs. In order to reduce their expenses, many directors avoided using the song in their shows.

In reality, though, the complicated history of "Happy Birthday" meant that it is unclear who actually owned the copyright. The music was originally composed in 1893 by Patty and Mildred Hill, two sisters who were teachers. The sisters wrote a greeting song for their students to sing each morning. Sometime later, the words were changed and the song became a birthday song. Nobody knows who wrote the new words, but it was believed that the sisters gave the copyright to a publishing company.

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● Question 30 Why did many directors choose not to use the "Happy Birthday" song?

- 1 It was not popular in many of the countries where movies are watched.
- 2 It cost them money to use it in their movies or TV shows.
- 3 They wanted to use songs that were not used frequently by other directors.
- 4 They thought that people wanted to hear more interesting songs.

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