



WEB PIRATES

Internet users who distribute movies before they are sold in shops could face up to five years in prison under a proposed USA bill, that is to say, a plan for a new law. Video recording of movies in cinemas would also be prohibited. Those supporting the proposal say unauthorised copying costs film-makers an estimated \$3 billion in lost sales.

The Motion Picture Association of America has tried to restrict the distribution of DVD previews to judges in film festivals. Illegal copies of movies end up being sold on street corners and made available through online networks just after they are shown in cinemas for the first time. This is due to audience members entering cameras into theatres and recording the film. If the bill becomes law, the maximum sentence for such practices will be five years plus financial damages.

Unauthorised video recording in cinemas is currently a crime in four states and the District of Columbia but it is legal in other states. "The person who puts online copyrighted material which is not legally available to the public should be penalized," said California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein. The law proposal has received strong support from the movie and music industries. They also hope to have permission to explore personal computers to search for illegal material.

COMPREHENSION

1. **Answer** questions 1-2 according to the information given in the text. **use your own words**.
 - a) What is the bill against?
 - b) How do web pirates get illegal copies of movies?
2. Are these statements **true or false? justify** your answers with words or phrases from the text.
 - a) Film makers lose \$3 billion due to illegal copying.
 - b) Web pirates could be imprisoned and sentenced to pay a sum of money.
 - c) Video recording in cinemas is illegal all over the United States.
 - d) The movie and music industries are examining personal computers to find illegal material.

USE OF ENGLISH

3. Answer the next questions:

- a) Give one **opposite** for PROHIBIT (verb) (line 3)
- b) Find in the text a **synonym** for PUNISHED (verb)
- c) Find in the text the word which has the following **definition**:
"accessible and capable of being used" (adjective)
- d) Give an noun with the same root as RESTRICT (verb) (line 8)

GRAMMAR



4. Answer the next questions:

a) **Join** the following sentences using a **relative pronoun**. Make changes if necessary.

Jane Halifax is the president of the committee. She does not support the proposal.

b) **Turn** the following sentence into **active**:

Many illegal copies are being sold on street corners.

c) **Complete** the following sentence:

If George had been a film star, ...

d) **Turn** the following sentence into **reported speech**:

Last week Julia said: "We will meet our new instructor tomorrow"

PRODUCTION

Write a **composition (80-100 WORDS)** Choose **ONE** of the following options. **Specify** your option.

- Advantages and disadvantages of the Internet.
- Would you buy an illegal copy of a film or music album? Why?

