

Listening skills practice: New inventions – exercises

Listen to the radio programme and do the exercise to practise and improve your listening skills.

Preparation

Do this exercise before you listen. Write the inventions in the correct group. If you don't know, have a guess!

Time travel machine	Indoor cloud-maker machine	Sign language translation gloves	Wingsuits (that enable you to fly)
Air-maker (for use on other planets)	Bio-fabric clothes (that change colour according to the wearer's mood)	Solar water distiller	Digital running shoes (that give you performance statistics)

Real inventions	Fictional inventions

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Wingsuits allow people to fly or glide. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Wingsuits are getting cheaper. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Gabriele Diamanti's water distiller is powered by the sun. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | The 'enable talk gloves' help people to use sign language in really cold conditions. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | James Cameron invented a new underwater camera. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | MIT students have invented a new type of ketchup. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The last invention is a way of producing clouds indoors. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | The science correspondent thinks the clouds are ugly. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise while you listen. Write the word to fill the gaps.

1. Wingsuits are not very _____, but the modern ones are better than ever.
2. Last October was the first ever wingsuit world _____ in China.
3. You can buy a wingsuit for 600 to _____ dollars.
4. The water distiller is for places where it's hard to get clean _____ water.
5. To produce the water distiller properly, they still need help with _____.
6. The 'enable talk gloves' were invented by some Ukrainian _____.
7. The gloves use sensors to turn sign language into _____ and then into spoken _____.
8. James Cameron was part of a team which designed a submarine capable of descending to _____ kilometres down.
9. James Cameron was the first person to do a solo _____ so deep under the sea.
10. MIT students have invented a product that helps people get the contents out of _____.
11. A Dutch _____ has found a way of creating clouds indoors.
12. You can't make clouds for yourself at _____ yet.

Discussion

Which of these new inventions would you most like to try out?