

LESSON 82 : LISTENING

Transcript for New inventions

Presenter: Welcome to Tech Today! This week it's National Science and Engineering Week, so to celebrate we asked Jed our science correspondent to give us a round-up of new inventions.

Jed: Hi, yes, I've got some very interesting things to tell you about today, starting with a fun one: wingsuits, those suits that look like bats and allow people to fly, or glide, at least. They're the ultimate in cool.

Presenter: But they're not very new, are they?

Jed: Well, no, but the modern ones are better than ever and last October was the first ever world championship in China. The price is coming down, too. Now you can buy one for 600 to 2,000 dollars. It's still too expensive for me, but I suppose it'll keep coming down.

Presenter: OK, what about useful new inventions?

Jed: There are lots of those. There's a new solar water distiller created by Gabriele Diamanti aimed at parts of the world where it's hard to get clean drinking water. You pour in salty water and let the sun do the work for a few hours. Then, hey presto! You have clean water! It's a very simple device and fairly cheap to produce.

Presenter: Can I hear some doubt in your voice?

Jed: Well, they still need help with investment to start producing the distiller properly. So if anyone out there has money to invest in a great product ...?

Presenter: Absolutely. Get in touch with the designers.

Jed: Another useful invention which it would be good to see in production are 'enable talk gloves'. These were invented by some Ukrainian students to allow people with speech and hearing impairments to communicate with people who don't understand sign language. The gloves use sensors to translate sign language into text, then into spoken language using a smartphone. A brilliant invention!

Presenter: Yes, that could benefit thousands of people.

Jed: Another useful invention comes from a surprising source, James Cameron, the film director.

Presenter: The *Titanic* director?

Jed: The very same. Cameron was part of a team, headed by engineer Ron Allum, which designed the Deepsea Challenger Submarine, capable of descending to the lowest parts of the sea, 10km down. Last year Cameron went down to the bottom of Challenger Deep, the deepest part of the sea in the world. He was the first person to do a solo dive there, and he stayed for three hours, the longest time so far.

Presenter: That sounds impressive!

Jed: Yes. We know so little about what's at the bottom of the ocean, and it's important to find out more. OK, so now for something useful in a different way. You know that feeling when you're trying to get tomato ketchup out of a bottle and it won't come out, but you're sure there's lots more in there?

Presenter: Yeah, of course. It's really annoying.

Jed: Well, a team of students at MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have come up with a new product that you use to coat a glass or plastic bottle, and then what's inside, hair gel or mustard, or whatever, comes out really easily.

Presenter: So, it saves hours of frustration trying to get stuff out of bottles?

Jed: Exactly. Right, now for my favourite invention. This is really silly, but I love it. It's a way of producing clouds indoors.

Presenter: Clouds?

Jed: Yes. A Dutch artist has come up with a way of forming perfect, small, white clouds inside. They're just beautiful. I don't think you can do it yourself at home yet, though.

Presenter: I don't think I'd want to.

Jed: Oh, you would if you'd seen the photos. They're amazing.

Presenter: OK, Jed, thanks for that. We'll leave you with your head in the clouds and see you again next week!

LESSON 82 : LISTENING

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.

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

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?