

Real-time translation could end need to learn languages

New technology from Apple could transform language learning and global communication. The tech giant says its new AirPods Pro 3 earbuds can translate foreign languages in people's ears in real time. In addition, transcripts of conversations will automatically appear on the screens of users' devices. This might affect the language teaching industry. Instant translation could deter people from investing the time and finance to learn another language. The technology is another example of the impact AI could have on jobs. Many teachers will be concerned about how real-time translation might affect their industry and their future.

Apple wrote on its website that its AirPods Pro 3 would help people communicate "seamlessly" in other languages. It added: "For those moments when a language barrier gets in the way, Live Translation can help users talk in different languages when messaging or speaking". The technology is another example of science fiction becoming science fact. For the past century, people have imagined new ways to translate languages in real time. The 1979 novel "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" envisaged a fictional "Babel fish" that is put in one's ear to understand foreign tongues. The Japanese manga and anime character Doraemon used a special jelly to magically translate any language.

Read the text again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- The article said Apple made new headphones that translate languages. **T / F**
- The new translation tool only translates the spoken word. **T / F**
- The English language teaching industry welcomed the new tool. **T / F**
- Many English teachers are worried about their futures. **T / F**
- Apples new translation technology could enable perfect communication. **T / F**
- The new tool is an example of science fiction becoming science fact. **T / F**
- A 1979 book described a translation fish that is put in the ear. **T / F**
- A Japanese manga character uses a cookie to translate languages. **T / F**