

Listening skills practice: New inventions – exercises

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

1. Preparation: grouping

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	Wing-suits (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

2. Check your understanding: true or false

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

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Wing-suits allow people to fly or glide. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Wing-suits 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> |

3. Check your understanding: gap fill

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

1. Wing-suits are not very _____, but the modern ones are better than ever.
2. Last October was the first ever wing-suit world _____ in China.
3. You can buy a wing-suit 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.