

THEME 8 DIGITAL ERA LISTENING SKILL (SUNSHINE)

A. Listen to the podcast about two latest smart phone applications for learning a foreign language and complete the following chart. (Tapescript 41)

Languages	Levels	Price
LingoPower		
LingoRise		

B. Listen again and tick the statements that are true. (Tapescript 41)

1. You get awards if you're successful in your lessons on LingoRise.
2. LingoPower has a dictionary for six languages.
3. LingoRise uses pictures to help people remember new words.
4. LingoPower has a premium membership for free.
5. LingoRise has quizzes at the end of each unit.

C. Listen to the following news report and answer the following questions. (Tapescript 43)

1. What is the topic of the news report?
a. Robots and animals controlling the world b. A Project Group c. Science-fiction films
2. What is "dystopia"?
A place with _____
3. What does Ed think about advancing technologies?
a. He believes we shouldn't trust technologies.
b. He thinks that they will be helpful in the future.
c. In his opinion, they make people insensitive.
4. Project Hieroglyph _____ .
a. believes the world will be a bad place in the future
b. doesn't like science-fiction stories
c. writes stories to bring people together
5. Ed prefers _____ .
a. reading stories
b. writing his own applications
c. watching documentaries

D. Listen again and complete the following chart. (Tapescript 43)

Who?	Project Hieroglyph
What?	
When?	
Why?	

Tapescript 41

Steve: Hello, digital natives out there. For today's podcast, I picked two smart phone applications. I know you use your phones for everything, so why not use them for studying? Especially for learning a foreign language.

OK, ladies and gentlemen: My first new application is called LingoPower. With this application, you can learn English, Spanish, French, German, Italian and Portuguese. It allows you to plan your lessons and when you finish your lessons successfully, LingoPower gives you awards. For example, when you finish elementary level, the application gives you a new title: Champion. Don't you think it's great? With each level, your title changes. There are four language levels in this application: Starter, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate and Intermediate. And, the thing you want to know the most: Yes, it is for free. You don't have to pay any money to download this application. Oh, by the way, it has a huge dictionary for the six languages I told you about.

Now, let's move on to our second application. It is called LingoRise. At first, this application only had Chinese in it, but then, the programmers included German, French and Russian, too. There are many pictures for words. I think this is very helpful for remembering new words. Don't you think? Also, for each unit there is a quiz. You can test yourself by doing the quizzes at the end of each unit. There are five language levels in LingoRise: Starter, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, and Upper-Intermediate. Now, if you download LingoRise, it's free like LingoPower. But, there is also premium membership for LingoRise. That membership offers some extra tests and videos. It's for 10 dollars a month. Well, it's all up to you. If you want, you can try it for a month and then, decide.

OK, digital natives! That's the end of this week's podcast. I'll upload the new episode next weekend. Stay tuned!

Tapescript 43

Sylvia: This is Sylvia Johnson from WMTS news. Today, I'm reporting from our studio and our topic is "Is there hope for the future?" We discuss this topic again and again in our day. In fact, science-fiction films show the future worlds as dark and scary. In those films we see robots or animals trying to control the world. These movies are hopeless, sad, and frightening. The name for this kind of dark and scary future is dystopia. In other words, a place with unpleasant and bad things.

But some people think that the future will not be that depressing. I'm talking about a group of people who are writers, scientists, engineers, and artists. The name of the group is Project Hieroglyph. They came together in 2014. They write science-fiction stories about things, which can happen in the near future. They have already written a book about some environmentalists who fight against pollution in Antarctica. Everything about this story is realistic and can happen in the real world, too.

But what is the purpose in writing stories and books about the future? The editor of the project group is with me in the studio now. Hello, Ed. Before you tell us about the project, let me ask you this: What do you think about advancing technologies? Do you think they are good for humanity or not?

Ed: Of course, I believe improving technologies are here to help us in the long term. I know most people don't trust technology and in their opinion, technology makes people insensitive, but as far as I'm concerned, that's not the case.

Sylvia: I see. I think you have a point there. So, can you tell us about the project?

Ed: We believe that good science fiction stories can be very powerful. I mean good stories can bring people together and they can work together to make the world a better place. We can also teach people that technology can be a powerful tool for the future.

Sylvia: Don't you think a documentary could be more powerful than a story?

Ed: Maybe. But, in my opinion, stories are more effective. For example, I watched a documentary which was about technology and use of social media two years ago. And now, I can't remember anything about it. But stories that I read stay

with me all the time. I still remember stories about doing good things. So I'd rather read a story than watch a documentary about the future of the world.

Sylvia: What can I say? I prefer stories, too. So, Ed, what do you think about advancing technologies?

Ed: Well, I strongly believe that technology will be extremely important; therefore, everyone should have basic computer skills.

Sylvia: I agree. For example, my cousin Gary, who is only 14 years old, can design his own tablet applications.

Ed: See? And he can help humankind in the future with the applications he designs.

Sylvia: You're right. So, there is hope for the future. Let's give a commercial break and when we come back, we'll talk more about Project Hieroglyph.