

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ

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МЕТОДИЧНІ ВКАЗІВКИ

для вдосконалення навичок аудіювання
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Методичні вказівки призначено для вдосконалення навичок студентів сприймати на слух автентичне англійське мовлення.

Матеріалом для аудіювання стали записи серії “BBC Learning English. 6 Minute English” та “BBC. LearnEnglish : Magazine”, на яких порушено проблеми, актуальні для сучасної студентської молоді. Зокрема, обговорюються здобутки наукової думки та вплив новітніх розробок на довколишнє середовище.

Розроблено було такі види вправ:

- дати відповіді на запитання перед прослуховуванням аудіозапису;
- заповнити пропуски у реченнях під час прослуховування;
- відповісти на запитання після прослуховування аудіозапису;
- знайти серед запропонованих визначення слів та словосполучень за темою;
- обговорити запитання, пов’язані з темою аудіювання;
- прокоментувати цитату, що співвідноситься із темою аудіозапису.

У методичних вказівках також наведено кілька вправ, які супроводжували тексти аудіозаписів у використаних джерелах: співвіднести висловлювання людини із порушеними нею правилами (тема № 1), вказати, чи відповідає твердження змісту тексту (тема № 5), обрати вірне закінчення речення (тема № 8).

Представлений комплекс вправ дозволяє налаштувати студентів на сприйняття певної теми, на прослуховування запису з метою пошуку необхідної інформації та забезпечує ефективне опрацювання лексики за темою.

Запропоновані методичні вказівки сприяють подальшому розвитку навичок студентів сприймати інформацію англійською мовою на слух, аналізувати та систематизувати отримані дані, здійснювати монологічне та діалогічне мовлення.

1. ECOTOURISM

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. What is ecotourism?
2. Is it popular in Ukraine?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

Ecotourism

by L. Baxter

Imagine the scene. You're sitting in the hot sunshine beside the swimming pool of your international luxury hotel, drinking your imported gin and tonic. In front of you is the beach, reserved for hotel guests with motor boats for hire. Behind you is an 18-hole golf course, which was cleared from the native forest and is kept green by hundreds of water sprinklers. Around the hotel are familiar international restaurant chains and the same shops that you have at home. You've seen some local people - some of them sell local handicrafts outside the hotel. You bought a small wooden statue and after arguing for half an hour you only paid a quarter of what the man was asking. Really cheap!

Is this your idea of heaven or would you prefer something different?

Nowadays, many of us try to live in a way that will damage the environment as little as possible. We recycle our newspapers and bottles, we take public transport to get to work, we try to buy locally produced fruit and vegetables and we stopped using aerosol sprays years ago. And we want to take these attitudes on holiday with us. This is why alternative forms of tourism are becoming more popular all over the world.

There are lots of names for these new forms of tourism: responsible tourism, alternative tourism, sustainable tourism, nature tourism, adventure tourism, educational tourism and more. Ecotourism probably involves a little of all of them. Everyone has a different definition but most people agree that ecotourism must:

- 1) conserve the (a) _____ and culture of the area;
- 2) benefit the (b) _____ and involve the local community;
- 3) be sustainable, that is (c) _____ without destroying natural resources;
- 4) provide an experience that tourists (d) _____.

So for example, in a true ecotourism project, a nature reserve allows a small number of tourists to visit its rare animals and uses the money that is generated to continue with important conservation work. The local people have jobs in the nature reserve as (e) _____ and wardens, but also have a voice in how the project develops. Tourists stay in (f) _____ with local people, not in specially built hotels. So they experience the (g) _____ and do not take precious energy and water away from the local population. They travel on foot, by boat, bicycle or elephant so that there is no pollution. And they have a special experience that they will remember all of their lives.

This type of tourism can only involve (h) _____ of people so it can be expensive. But you can apply the principles of ecotourism wherever you go for your holiday. Just remember these basic rules.

- Be prepared. Learn about the place that you're going to visit. Find out about its culture and history. Learn a little of the native language, at least basics like 'Please', 'Thank you', and 'Good Morning'. Think of your holiday as (i) _____ to learn something.

- Have respect for local culture. Wear clothes that will not offend people. Always ask permission before you take a photograph. Remember that you are a (j) _____.

- Don't waste (k) _____. If the area doesn't have much water, don't take two showers every day.

- Remember the phrase "Leave nothing behind you except (l) _____ and take nothing away except (m) _____." Take as much care of the places that you visit as you take of your own home. Don't buy souvenirs made from endangered (n) _____ or plants.

- Walk or use other non-polluting forms of transport whenever you can.

- Be flexible and keep a (o) _____ when things go wrong. Stay in local hotels and eat in local restaurants. Buy local products whenever possible and pay a fair price for what you buy.

Choose your holiday carefully. Don't be afraid to ask the holiday company about what they do that is 'eco'. Remember that 'eco' is very fashionable today and a lot of holidays that are advertised as ecotourism are not much better than traditional tourism.

But before you get too enthusiastic, think about how you are going to get to your dream 'eco' paradise. Flying is one of the biggest man-made sources of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Friends of the Earth say that

one return flight from London to Miami puts as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as the average British car driver produces (p) _____. So don't forget that you don't have to fly to exotic locations for your 'eco' holiday. There are probably places of natural beauty and interest in your own country that you've never visited.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. What is a true ecotourism project like?
2. What is one of the biggest man-made sources of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. basic	a. a. devices used to direct water in order to water plants, grass, etc.
2. benefit	b. a group of establishments which belong to a single company, have the same appearance and sell similar food.
3. fair price	c. skilled activities in which things are made in a traditional way with the hands rather than being produced by machines in a factory, or the objects made by such activities.
4. flexible	d. using natural products so that no damage is caused to the environment.
5. footprints	e. means animals and plants that grow independently of people, usually in natural conditions.
6. handicrafts	f. an area of land which is protected in order to keep safe the animals and plants that live there, often because they are rare.
7. natural resources	g. a person whose job is to take care of a wildlife park and make certain that members of the public obey particular rules.
8. nature reserve	h. the marks made by a person's or animal's feet.
9. restaurant chain	i. one which is reasonable and is what you expect or deserve.
10. souvenirs	
11. sustainable	
12. warden	
13. water sprinklers	
14. wildlife	

	j. materials such as coal and wood which exist or are produced in nature and can be used by people. k. to receive or give a helpful or good effect. l. providing the base or starting point from which something can develop; it also means simple or without complication. m. things you buy, give or receive to help you remember a visit or an event. n. able to change or be changed easily according to the situation.
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Task 5. Dan is a tourist. Match what he said to his friends when he returned from holidays to the seven golden rules of ecotourism that he broke.

1. Think of your holiday as an opportunity to learn something. 2. Don't waste resources. 3. Leave nothing behind but footprints – take nothing away but photos. 4. Use non-polluting forms of transport. 5. Keep a sense of humour when things go wrong. 6. Choose your holiday carefully.	a. "It was so hot that we each had at least eight showers a day. b. They tried to teach us some words in their silly language but we weren't interested. c. We found some lovely old stones at the ruins and brought them home with us." d. "The travel agent said the resort was powered by solar energy but in the end it wasn't true." e. "When we discovered that our hotel room hadn't been booked, I punched the manager." f. "We hired a motorbike and went riding through the forests and on the beaches."
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Task 6. Discuss the following questions.

1. Could you add some rule of ecotourism to the list above?
2. Do you do anything to live in a way that will damage the environment as little as possible?

Task 7. Comment on the quotations.

1. "That which we allow to exist, to flourish freely according to its own rhythms, is superior to anything our little hands create." (W. Powers),
2. "In the middle ages people were tourists because of their religion, whereas now they are tourists because tourism is their religion" (R. Runcie).
3. "The invasion of foreign values can damage a culture more than a bulldozer in some regards" (<http://www.travelsense.org/tips/ecotravel.cfm>)

2. DARK TOURISM

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening to the recording.

1. What is tourism?
2. Have you ever heard about 'dark tourism'?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. But instead of providing (a) _____ in a nice hotel by the sea – this is where tourists travel to sites of (b) _____.
2. And next month I'm planning to go to Chernobyl – the site of (c) _____ in 1986.
3. Robben Island in South Africa is one dark tourism destination. It's where (d) _____ was imprisoned for (e) _____ years.
4. The word 'dark' is used here because it relates to places that are connected with bad or sinister things or things that could be considered (f) _____.
5. And these kinds of trips are (g) _____.
6. Doctor Stone says it's all about (h) _____.
7. He means it is hard to separate going to remember (i) _____ with visiting somewhere as part of a holiday.
8. And you were wrong actually. It was in (j) _____.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. What is dark tourism? Is it new? Is it popular?
2. What is morbid fascination? Is it strange to want to visit places that are connected with bad, sinister or morally wrong things?
3. What are the popular sites for dark tourism?
4. What places do they plan to turn into a tourist destination?
5. What about the ethics of dark tourism – is it wrong to make this trip?
6. How should one perceive such trips?
7. When was the prison on Robben Island closed? How many people visit the site every year?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. depressing	a. interested in wanting to find out about things
2. catastrophic	b. making you feel unhappy and without hope
3. curious	c. an interest in things to do with death and destruction
4. morally wrong	d. doing something because you feel forced to or feel it has to be done
5. morbid fascination	e. (<i>here</i>) using something for financial gain
6. macabre	f. showing good judgment about what is suitable
7. compelled	g. feeling or showing admiration for someone
8. ethics	h. the act of honouring someone or an event
9. exploiting	i. the natural ways of behaving that most people share:
10. human nature	j. what is believed to be the right way to behave
11. tasteful	k. unpleasant or shocking because they are related to death
12. memorialisation	l. against what is generally believed to be the right way of doing something
13. respectful	m. causing huge destruction or suffering

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. Are you interested in dark tourism? Why?
2. If you decided to take such a trip where would you go? Why?
3. What are the good and bad things about dark tourism?
4. What are the major dark tourism sites in Ukraine?
5. Dr. Ph. Stone believes that visiting dark tourism sites people face their own mortality. Do you agree?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. “If we visit dark tourism sites not just to tick a box but because we want to remember a tragedy or be affected by it, it follows that we should want to behave respectfully” (N. Paris).
2. “... turning the location of a tragedy into a profit-making tourist attraction is not something that can be done without proper consideration” (N. Paris).
3. “... visiting dark tourism sites may be a crucial way for us to learn the lessons of the past, whether or not current governments want us to” (J. Lennon).
4. “Dark tourism, like our dark history, occupies an important part of our understanding of what it is to be human” (J. Lennon).

3. IS THERE MORE OF THE WORLD TO EXPLORE?

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening to the recording.

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?
2. Do you think there's any more of the world left to discover?
3. Why have people wanted to explore?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. In this programme we're talking about exploration – that's a journey to a place to learn something new about it. It's a sort of (a) _____.

2. Yes, you may have heard about famous explorers – the people who made these journeys and learned new and amazing things – like (b) _____ or (c) _____.

3. Sometimes it was to find (d) _____ – things like oil, rubber or gold. Sometimes people wanted to find (e) _____ and build on; and sometimes people have just been inquisitive – or interested – in finding out (f) _____.

4. So there are still a few places to explore – places that are not on a map! Christina Lamb called them (g) _____.

5. It would be amazing – but sometimes people are already living in these places – these are the tribes – or groups of people – who (h) _____.

6. OK, so he talks about culture – that's (i) _____.

Task 3. Answer the question after listening.

Which things keep changing which mean we should never stop exploring?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. exploration	a. going on a journey that may be dangerous
2. explorers	b. (here) large groups of related families who live in the same area and share the same language, customs and beliefs
3. seeking out	c. keen to learn and ask questions
4. circumnavigate	d. to travel all the way around something (particularly the world)
5. natural resources	e. people who go on a journey of exploration
6. inquisitive	f. a set of ideas, beliefs and behaviour held by a particular group of people
7. uncharted territory	g. an area of land not shown in detail on a map
8. tribes	h. valuable things that occur naturally, such as wood or oil, that can be made into things we can use
9. culture	
10. venturing	
11. wanderlust	

	i. finding something by looking for it in a determined way j. a journey to a place to discover something new about it k. a strong desire to travel
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Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'travel'?
2. Is travel an education?
3. Would you like to travel in space or to the moon?

Task 6. Comment on the quotation.

"There are so many problems to solve on this planet first before we begin to trash other worlds" (E. A. Bucchianeri).

4. SPACE

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. What is space?
2. What are your associations with the word 'space'?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

If you point a rifle straight up into the sky and shoot a bullet, what happens? The bullet starts going up really fast. If it's a good rifle it might be doing about 3,000 kilometres an hour. But it will immediately start slowing down, first, because of the (a) _____. You probably studied this in school: falling objects accelerate at (b) _____ and things going up decelerate at the same rate. It will also slow down because of the air, which creates (c) _____. So the bullet will slow down and eventually stop. If you try doing a rapid calculation you can quickly see that the bullet will not get into space, which begins at a height of about (d) _____. (It might

go up 2 or 3 kilometres.) Instead it will come back down again and hit you on the head quite hard.

Mathematically at least, you need something much bigger and more powerful than a rifle to get off the planet. In Jules Verne's story of "The journey from the Earth to the Moon" the travellers cover the distance in a big empty cannonball. According to his figures, the cannon ball had to reach a speed of (e) _____. The modern figure, 11,100 m/s or about 40,000 kilometres an hour, is called "escape velocity". I don't know if it is possible to make such a cannon, but I'm sure no one would get inside it.

So, the only way to fly to a height of 100 kilometres is with (f) _____ that will keep your craft moving upwards after it has left the ground. That way you can start reasonably slowly and just keep going until you get into space. As you go up the air gets (g) _____ and it's harder for you to breathe. On the top of Everest, nearly 9 kilometres up, there is only about one third of the air at sea level. In a jet airliner, flying at a height of 11 kilometres, no-one can breathe without compressed air, or an oxygen mask in emergencies. The jet engine also needs air to burn its (h) _____, but it can still get enough because it is moving along horizontally at high speed. But if your aim is to carry on up - a jet will not take you far enough. The height record for a jet aeroplane is nearly (i) _____. Rockets carry their own oxygen with them so they can fly vertically up through the very thin parts of the upper atmosphere.

Let's suppose that you've done all the training and put on your space suit. You take the lift up to the top of your rocket. If this was a building, your capsule would be on about the thirtieth floor. Get into the capsule and strap yourself into the seat. Now you have to spend a few hours waiting while the countdown continues. The highly explosive fuel and liquid oxygen are pumped into the rocket. This is an extremely (k) _____, during the countdown a series of minor problems will be found, checked and discussed. You read the instructions for what to do in an emergency. Inside your helmet you can hear your breathing get faster.

The engines start. For a few seconds everything shakes. Inside the capsule the noise is terrible but the rocket is still held onto the launch pad. Then the bolts holding you down are released and mission control announces "We have lift-off" The rocket starts to rise very slowly. From this moment, your (l) _____ increases. It is a stronger version of the feeling you can have in a very fast car with a maniac driver when (m) _____ change from red to green. You are pushed back into your

chair. The clouds come straight at your window. After 2½ minutes you are travelling at nearly 10,000 km an hour. You are 61 kilometres above the ground and the sky is changing colour from blue to black and stars are becoming visible. Very soon you will be in space.

The rocket uses an immense amount of fuel very quickly. At lift-off, the Apollo rockets weighed 2800 tons but they used about 2,000 tons of fuel in those first 2½ minutes. As the craft gets lighter, it accelerates more quickly. The feeling of acceleration gets stronger and stronger reaching 3 times gravity. You cannot move. The whole journey into orbit takes about (n) _____. Then the engines stop and, instead of feeling incredibly heavy, you are suddenly (o) _____. There is perfect silence and everything around you in the capsule starts to float. Everyone who has been in space says it's beautiful.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. At what rate do things going up decelerate?
2. What means of travelling was used in Jules Verne's story "The Journey from the Earth to the Moon"?
3. What is "escape velocity"?
4. The height record for a jet aeroplane is nearly 26 km, isn't it?
5. How much fuel did the Apollo rockets use in the first 2½ minutes at lift-off?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. countdown	a. the physical universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere
2. friction	b. (of a body, esp. in an orbiting spacecraft) not apparently acted on by gravity
3. gravity	c. a space vehicle shaped like a long tube
4. rocket	d. the force that attracts a body towards the centre of the earth, or towards any other physical body having mass
5. space	e. the resistance that one surface or object encounters when moving over another
6. space suit	f. a special protective suit worn by astronauts in space
7. velocity	
8. weightless	

	g. an act of counting numerals in reverse order to zero
	h. the speed of something in a given direction

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. Would you like to travel into the space?
2. Should space tourism be encouraged?
3. What benefits will the humans get from space travel? What are its possible negative effects?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. “The second best thing about space travel is that the distances involved make war very difficult, usually impractical, and almost always unnecessary” (R. A. Heinlein).

2. “I don't think the human race will survive the next thousand years, unless we spread into space. There are too many accidents that can befall life on a single planet. But I'm an optimist. We will reach out to the stars” (S. Hawking).

3. “Space travel is life-enhancing, and anything that's life-enhancing is worth doing. It makes you want to live forever” (R. Bradbury).

4. “In my mind, public space travel will precede efforts toward exploration – be it returning to the moon, going to Mars, visiting asteroids, or whatever seems appropriate. We've got millions and millions of people who want to go into space, who are willing to pay. When you figure in the payload potential of customers, everything changes” (B. Aldrin).

5. WORMHOLES

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. What is a wormhole?
2. What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'wormhole'?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

Wormholes

by L. Baxter

Have you ever read Carl Sagan's 1985 science fiction novel (a) _____? Or have you seen the film of the same name starring Jodie Foster? If you have, then you will remember the scene near the end of the film, when the heroine travels to the star (b) _____, twenty-six light years away from Earth, through a wormhole in space. Just a story, you think. But is it?

The truth is that the scene described above is a serious scientific picture of travel through spacetime using a wormhole. When Sagan was writing the book, he asked an American scientist, Kip Thorne, to give him an idea for a way of travelling long distances through space that was scientifically possible. Thorne thought about it for a long time and then had the idea of using a wormhole. He then looked again at Einstein's theories and the accepted rules of (c) _____ and was surprised to see that wormholes really could be used (d) _____.

But what is a wormhole?

A wormhole is a passageway between (e) _____ in a 'folded' universe. The easiest way is to imagine a big piece of paper, with A written at one end and B written at the other. It will take a small insect a long time to walk from A to B. But now fold the paper in half, so that A and B are near to each other. Now connect A and B with a small tube pushed through the paper - the wormhole. The distance between A and B is now only a few millimetres, and the insect can walk along the tube and make the journey in a fraction of the time. So distances of many (f) _____ in space could become just (g) _____.

So, did Kip Thorne invent wormholes?

No he didn't. Kip Thorne proved that there is nothing in the laws of physics and the general relativity theory to say that they're (h) _____. Einstein talked about 'folds' in the universe. He also thought that if these folds existed, then there might be (i) _____, or shortcuts connecting them. He thought that there might be passages like these connecting two black holes, so that something could enter one black hole, travel through the wormhole and come out again at the other end. He called them (j) _____. But for some reason, nobody thought very much about them until the (k) _____.

But isn't it impossible for anything to escape from a black hole?

True. A black hole has such strong (l) _____ that nothing, not even light, can escape from it. Everything is crushed at the centre point of the black hole. But mathematicians have proved that things are different if the hole (m) _____. Then, it may be possible for a doorway to open at the centre point, where the wormhole begins. And some people believe that white holes exist too. These are the opposite of black holes. Instead of holding everything inside, a white hole (n) _____ everything (o) _____. So you could enter a rotating black hole, travel through a wormhole, and then come flying out of a white hole at the other end.

But is it really possible?

Theoretically, yes. But there are a few problems. Wormholes are not very stable. They only exist for a few seconds before they (p) _____. And something travelling through one would probably make it break up anyway. And a wormhole would be full of x-rays and gamma rays, which would burn you. And of course, you would never be sure where you were going and almost certainly, you wouldn't be able to come back again the same way. So if we can find a natural wormhole, we then need the (q) _____ to control and stabilise it. Which is exactly what the advanced civilisation in 'Contact' were able to do.

Could we use wormholes to travel through time?

There are people who think exactly that. Einstein's equations treat space and time in exactly the same way. So a wormhole can link two different (r) _____ as well as two different (s) _____. According to Einstein's theories, time travel would be (t) _____ but not (u) _____. Scientists now take the idea very seriously. But there are some big problems of logic. For example, if you went back in time and killed your grandmother, you would then never be born. So you never

existed, so you couldn't travel back in time because you didn't exist! To explain this problem (known as 'the granny paradox') people have invented theories to say that you can only travel back in time to the moment when the time machine was invented. This theory also explains why we don't have lots of 'time travel tourists' visiting us now.

So, in conclusion, wormholes have never been found in nature. No astronomer has ever seen things come flying out of one in the middle of space. But we do know that, according to the rules of physics that we use, they are possible. And if we could find one and control it, travel through space and maybe even time would be a (v) _____.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. What's the problem with wormholes?
2. What is the 'granny paradox'?

Task 4. Decide if the following statements about the text are true or false.

1. Carl Sagan used the idea of wormhole travel in his novel 'Contact'.
2. Kip Thorne invented the idea of wormholes.
3. A wormhole is a fold in space.
4. Einstein said that wormholes were impossible.
5. You can only enter a wormhole if the black hole is rotating.
6. You need advanced technology to be able to travel through a wormhole.
7. The 'granny paradox' proves that time travel is impossible.
8. Astronomers have found a wormhole in space.

Task 5. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. light year	a.the basic level of practical knowledge and wisdom that we all need to help us live in a reasonable and safe way.
2. shortcut	b.a situation, fact or statement which seems impossible and/or difficult to understand because it contains two opposite facts or characteristics.
3. rotate	
4. theoretical	
5. paradox	
6. common sense:	

	c. according to the facts of a formal statement of the rules on which a subject of study is based or of ideas which are suggested to explain a fact or event. d. to (cause to) turn in a circle, esp. around a fixed point. e. a quicker and more direct way of getting somewhere or doing something. f. the distance that light travels in one year (about 9,500,000,000,000 kilometres).
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Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. “If you have a wormhole, then you can turn them into time machines for going backward in time” (K. Thorne).

2. “Wormholes were first introduced to the public over a century ago in a book written by an Oxford mathematician. Perhaps realizing that adults might frown on the idea of multiply connected spaces, he wrote the book under a pseudonym and wrote it for children. His name was Charles Dodgson, his pseudonym was Lewis Carroll, and the book was *Through The Looking Glass*” (Michio Kaku).

6. THE SUN

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. What does the sun mean to you?
2. Do you like sunbathing?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. The sun is our nearest star – although it’s a staggering (a) _____ away.
2. Its volume is so large you could fit (b) _____ Earths inside it.
3. Heat and light energy is created all the time in the sun’s core as a result of (c) _____ or (d) _____.

4. In fact, it takes only (e) _____ for light energy from the sun to reach the Earth.

5. So, the sun is going to stay the same for another (f) _____.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. How hot is the surface of the sun?
2. What is the sun made of?
3. How long does it take for the light energy to travel from the sun's core to the sun's surface?
4. How old is the sun?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. orbit	a.the end
2. core	b.to be created
3. energy	c.comfortably warm
4. matter	d.to cover completely
5. photosphere	e.a circle around a bigger object, e.g. another planet or star
6. to come into being	f.the central part of an object
7. curtains for smth.	g.the surface of a star
8. toasty	h.the ability of a physical object or a process to work
9. to envelop	i.what something is made of: solid, liquid or gas

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think of solar panels?
2. Have you ever seen a sun eclipse?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. The sun is new each day (Heraclitus).
2. You can always find the sun within yourself if you will only search (M. Maltz).

3. The sun, too, shines into cesspools and is not polluted (Diogenes).

4. Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows (H. Keller).

5. To be happy, you must be your own sunshine (C. E. Jerningham).

7. STAR SIGNS

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. Who are astrologers?
2. Who are astronomers?
3. Do you believe that stars predetermine the destiny of every person?

Task 2. Answer the questions after listening.

1. Which of these famous people were publicly criticised for relying too much on horoscopes to take decisions:
 - Margaret Thatcher,
 - Nancy Reagan,
 - Michael Jackson?
2. When did newspapers and magazines start to offer horoscopes to their readers?

Task 3. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. Astrologers are people who say they can find out about your personality, and maybe your future, by (a) _____.
2. This became a metaphor for the idea that we live (b) _____ and we are all very insignificant.
3. If you believe in something, you'll look for evidence (c) _____ and you'll ignore evidence that (d) _____.
4. People believe (e) _____.

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. adaptable	a. the collection of thoughts, behaviours and feelings which make you who you are
2. belief	b. quick at noticing things
3. domestication	c. getting to new things and situations very easily
4. evidence	d. of little importance
5. insignificant	e. process or put something under human control
6. observant	f. (here) an indication that something you believe is true
7. personality	g. something you think is true without proof

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you know the signs of the Zodiac in English?
2. What's your star sign?
3. Do you know the characteristics someone with your star sign should have?
4. Do you think astrology is an art, a science or something else?
5. What would it take to convince you that astrology works?
6. Would you like to know your future?
7. If you had a consultation with an astrologist, what would you want to know?
8. Do you ever read horoscopes?
9. Do you think politicians should listen to the advice from astrologers / astronomers before making any political decisions?
10. What does your religion say about horoscopes?
11. Why do you think many religions frown on astrology?
12. Why isn't astrology a commonly taught university subject?
13. What kinds of people believe in and follow horoscopes?
14. Do you agree that people who think horoscopes are true do so because the predictions seem to confirm what they already think about themselves?
15. Can astrology be useful?
16. Do you think horoscopes could be dangerous?
17. Do you believe in other fortune telling, such as palm reading or determining character by blood type, etc.?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. "I believe in horoscopes. I was born under the sign of the Ram, which means I'm headstrong, don't like people telling me what to do" (L. Lynn).
2. "I don't believe in astrology; I'm a Sagittarius and we're sceptical" (A. C. Clarke).
3. "I've studied astrology for many, many years, and I feel like it's an incredibly challenging art" (L. Collins).
4. "I don't differentiate much, except in degree, between people who believe in religion from those who believe in astrology, magic or the supernatural" (A. Rooney).
5. "So few people admit to belief in astrology, but I am yet to meet anyone who doesn't know their star sign" (P. K. Shaw).

8. CALENDARS

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. What is a calendar?
2. How often do you refer to a calendar?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

Are you looking forward to summer? In Saint Petersburg, where this article was written, a day can be less than (a) _____ long in the middle of winter and nearly (b) _____ in summer. At this time of year, you can easily see in people's faces that they are ready for brighter, sunnier days to come round again.

To the first people it was obvious that time went in circles. The sun rises (comes up in the morning) and sets (goes down in the evening). The moon waxes (gets fatter or wider) and wanes (gets thinner or narrower). The seasons follow each other in order. These things happen because we are all going round in circles ... the earth spins round in (c) _____, the moon goes around the Earth, and the Earth goes round the Sun in about (d) _____ days. The most natural kind of calendar comes from the

sun and the moon. You can count the number of days and nights in the moon's cycle from New Moon (when it is all dark) to Full Moon (a bright disk), and back again: (e) _____.

The basic problem for calendar makers is how to get the months (which come from the moon) to stay in synch with the years. The years all have a bit more than (f) _____ New Moons in them. Maybe you read about the Chinese New Year in Claire Powell's article in January. If you did, you already know that some years, the Chinese calendar has an extra month, so they have exactly (g) _____ months in every period of (h) _____ years. This article is about how the western world solved the same problem by adding an extra day in leap years (and having longer months the rest of the time.)

You can't find any cycles of seven days by looking at the sky. However, the ancient world knew five planets apart from the sun and moon: Venus, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. They probably made the week seven days long to give one day for each. In English, the first days of the week clearly come from The Sun (Sunday) and The Moon (Monday). The last day comes from Saturn (Saturday). Just like the rest of our language, an English week is a mixture of Latin and words from other places ... Germanic gods: Tiw (an Anglo-Saxon god of the sun and war) and Wodin (the head of Anglo-Saxon gods) for Tuesday and Wednesday and Scandinavian gods Thor (another god of war) and Frigg (goddess of love) for Thursday and Friday.

Our names of months all come from (i) _____. Janus, a god with two faces, the god of doors and gates gives us January; and February comes from a Roman festival of spring cleaning. Mars, who didn't get a day of the week in English, got the whole month of March. Jupiter, well, his wife was Juno – which makes the month of June. Most of the later months just come from the Latin words for numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 septem, octo, nove, decem. But why isn't September month number seven? It was for the Romans, because they started the year with March.

July is occupied by Julius Caesar, who also occupied part of Britain. And August by Augustus Caesar who was the next Roman emperor. These two men both played an important role in creating the modern calendar. The Julian calendar (which Julius introduced in (j) _____) had a leap year every four years, when one day was added onto the end of the year (as it was then) on February 29th. Julius' calendar was much (k) _____ than the old one, and it was pretty (l) _____, although not as good as the

Chinese one. It was only (m) _____ minutes and (n) _____ seconds a year too slow. Somehow, the people in charge of the calendars in Rome didn't understand their instructions and added an extra day every three years. Augustus, the next emperor, corrected that mistake but left the leap years as they were, so the calendar went on being 11 minutes a year too slow for centuries. Russia only introduced the Julian calendar in 1700 and changed to the Gregorian one after the revolution.

Over the centuries those 11 extra minutes in the Julian calendar added up to quite a lot. Our modern "Gregorian" calendar goes more quickly because we don't have leap years at the end of most centuries - only 1600 and 2000. When Pope Gregory brought it in (o) _____, they had to take out 10 days to catch up. The year jumped directly from 4th to 15th October. In the same year, William Shakespeare got married in Stratford-upon-Avon, but Britain went on for another 180 years with the old calendar. By 1752, when Britain changed to the new Gregorian calendar, they needed to miss (p) _____ days to catch up. This caused violent protests ... people thought the government was making their lives 11 days shorter, or even worse, stealing their wages for the 11 missing days. Here in Russia, the years carried on being a bit too long right into the twentieth century. On the 25th October 1917, when the Bolsheviks pushed their way into the Winter Palace it was already 7th November across the rest of Europe ... a difference of 13 days. As a result, in 1918 Russia missed the whole first half of February: going directly from 31st January to 14th February. Maybe they were pleased to get closer to the summer.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. What does the most natural calendar come from?
2. What is the basic problem for calendar makers?
3. How many planets apart from the Sun and the Moon did the ancient world know?
4. What is the origin of the names for the days of the week?
5. What is the origin of the names for the months of the year?
6. When was the Julian calendar introduced? Did it have a leap year?
7. When did Britain change to the new Gregorian calendar? Why did it cause violent protests?

Task 4. Select the correct ending for each sentence.

1. The moon waxes ...
 - a. after a full moon.
 - b. when the moon is full.
 - c. until the moon is full.
2. The year really has ...
 - a. a bit more than 365 days.
 - b. a bit less than 365 days.
 - c. exactly 365 days.
3. 12 cycles of the moon are ...
 - a. about 354 days.
 - b. about 365 days.
 - c. about 365 and a quarter days.
4. The Chinese calendar has ...
 - a. more months than the western one.
 - b. the same number of months as the western one.
 - c. less months than the western one.
5. In English, the Moon is the origin of our word for ...
 - a. Monday.
 - b. November.
 - c. nothing in the calendar.
6. In the Roman calendar, December ...
 - a. was the last month of the year.
 - b. was the tenth month of the year.
 - c. was in the summer.
7. Julius Caesar started a calendar which was ...
 - a. less accurate than the Chinese one.
 - b. as good as the Chinese one.
 - c. more accurate than the Chinese one.
8. The Roman Leap year had ...
 - a. an extra day at the start.
 - b. an extra day in the second month.
 - c. an extra day at the end.

Task 5. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. Full Moon	a. (<i>here – about the moon</i>) to get fatter or wider
2. Janus	b. (<i>here – about the moon</i>) to get thinner or narrower
3. Juno	c. the phase of the moon when it first appears as a slender crescent, shortly after its conjunction with the sun
4. New Moon	d. the phase of the moon when its whole disc is illuminated
5. to wane	e. a god with two faces
6. to wax	f. the wife of Jupiter

Task 6. Discuss the following questions.

1. Would you remove any month(s) from the calendar? Which one(s)?
2. Would you have any extra month(s) in the calendar?

Task 7. Comment on the quotations.

3. “Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of” (Ch. Richards).
4. “Tomorrow is only found in the calendar of fools” (O. Mandino).
5. “I've found a formula for avoiding these exaggerated fears of age; you take care of every day - let the calendar take care of the years” (E. Wynn).
6. “I refuse to believe in three things: cash, clock, and calendar. You should never be enslaved by these three” (Sh. V. Sagar).

9. ARE COMPUTERS MAKING US DUMB?

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. How much do you depend on your computer?
2. Can you imagine your life without it?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. The first commercially produced 'desktop computer' was designed and produced by (a) ____ and presented at an event in (b) ____.
2. The ability of computers to do things we used to do is (c) ____.
3. Computers are here to stay and they'll become more and more (d) ____, but we have to remember they are (e) ____.
4. They sold (f) _____ units all over the world.
5. The initial price in the US was (g) _____.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. When was the first commercially produced 'desktop computer' presented?
2. What do we lose if we rely on computers too much?
3. What was the first smartphone called?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. app	a. a natural ability to do something well
2. to crash	b. a computer programme for a specific purpose
3. skill	c. the ability to do something well because you have practised it
4. talent	d. the ability to imagine and understand what another person might be feeling
5. empathy	e. software which prevents us from making spelling mistakes when we type a text on a computer
6. spellchecker	f. to stop operating

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you agree that using computers we're losing some of the things that make us human?
2. Is it important to talk to people face to face? Why?
3. What is the best thing about a computer?
4. Do you control computers or do they control you?
5. What is the worst thing about computers?
6. What would you like computers to do that they can't do now?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. "A computer will do what you tell it to do, but that may be much different from what you had in mind" (J. Weizenbaum).
2. "Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid: humans are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant; together they are powerful beyond imagination" (A. Einstein).

10. DO YOU FEAR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?**Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.**

1. What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
2. What science fiction movies have explored the idea of bad computers who want to harm the humankind?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. Artificial is similar in meaning – we use it when something is (a) _____ to look or behave like something (b) _____.
2. Well, Professor Hawking has said recently that efforts to create thinking machines are (c) _____.
3. But technology is developing quickly and maybe we should (d) _____.
4. In many movies and books about robots that think, the robots end up (e) _____.

5. Their problem is related to (f) _____.
6. The bulk of the risk is not in machines being (g) _____ or (h) _____ humans but rather that they are (i) _____ to humans.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. Who is Professor Stephen Hawking?
2. What good things could come from the creation of Artificial Intelligence?
3. What was the name of the computer that defeated the World Chess champion Gary Kasparov in 1997?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. artificial	a. to have to think very quickly
2. genius	b. man-made to look or behave like something natural
3. moral compass	c. someone very intelligent
4. to need all one's wits about one	d. something made artificially
5. to pursue one's goals	e. something which can put us in danger
6. to surpass	f. to have superior abilities
7. synthetic	g. to try and meet one's objectives
8. threat	h. a natural perception people have about what is right and what is wrong

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you fear Artificial Intelligence?
2. What do you expect from AI?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. "By far the greatest danger of Artificial Intelligence is that people conclude too early that they understand it" (E. Yudkowsky).

2. “Thinking is a human feature. Will AI someday really think? That's like asking if submarines swim. If you call it swimming then robots will think, yes” (N. Chomsky).

3. “Yet, it's our emotions and imperfections that makes us human” (C. DeSouza).

4. “The real danger is not that computers will begin to think like men, but men will begin to think like computers” (S. J. Harris).

11. HUMAN MICROCHIPS

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. Have you heard of human microchips?
2. What can human microchips be used for?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. I'm going to tell you about a futuristic commercial building in (a) _____.
2. He uses an expression to say that the technology is not working perfectly yet because (b) _____.
3. The new offices will soon host a shifting population of (c) _____.
4. And amongst the people working here I found some (d) _____ but also (e) _____.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. What was the most common password used in 2014?
2. What does the microchip under your skin allow you to do inside the futuristic building?
3. Why is the technology not working perfectly yet?
4. What are the researchers concerned about when linking biology and electronic devices?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. to know smth. by heart	a. to raise doubts about something
2. microchip	b. a very small device with an electronic circuit which can do particular things
3. teething problem	c. when something new doesn't work properly the first time it is used
4. caution	d. to memorise
5. to question	e. care not to be exposed to danger or risk

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. What are the possible benefits and dangers of inserting microchips under your skin?
2. Would you like a microchip inserted under your skin?

Task 6. Comment on the quotation.

“Man is still the most extraordinary computer of all” (J. F. Kennedy).

12. COMPUTER GLASSES

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. Which action movie character had special eyes that were like computers – giving information about the world around him?
2. Have you heard about Google Glass?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. Their new product Google Glass is a kind of (a) _____.
2. How do I say (b) ‘_____’ in Japanese?
3. I'm worried that (c) _____ if I have a computer on my head.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. What three things does the journalist do with the computer glasses?
2. Why do some people find Google Glass creepy?
3. Why could this device be dangerous?
4. Why are casinos concerned about the usage of Google Glass?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. wearable tech	a. a being that is part human and part machine, or a machine that looks like a human being.
2. action movie	b. technology you can wear
3. science fiction	c. a film about events that take place in the future or in other parts of the universe
4. creepy	d. eyesight
5. private life	e. glasses
6. cyborg	f. a public room or building where gambling games are played
7. vision	g. causing an unpleasant feeling of fear or unease
8. to combine	h. a film in which a lot of dangerous and exciting things happen
9. specs	i. a person's personal relationships, interests, etc., as distinct from their public or professional life
10. casino	j. to join, to unite

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. The West sees robots as menacing, Japan sees them as helpful – what about you?
2. Will robots take over the world one day?
3. Which movie robot is your favourite?
4. Do you think robots will ever have emotions or be able to love?
5. What name would you give to your robot?
6. Will robots have rights?

7. Do you think people will have robots as companions, instead of pets?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. “If we were to lose the ability to be emotional, if we were to lose the ability to be angry, to be outraged, we would be robots. And I refuse that” (A. Roy).

2. “We humans have a love-hate relationship with our technology. We love each new advance and we hate how fast our world is changing ... The robots really embody that love-hate relationship we have with technology” (D. H. Wilson).

13. MALE VS. FEMALE BRAIN

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. Do you know any difference between the brain of a man and that of a woman?
2. What are men better at?
3. What can women do better than men?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

1. Now, this research says that men are better at some things, like (a) _____.
2. But women are better at other things – like (b) _____.
3. No, Professor Heidi Johansen-Berg from the University of Oxford says the connections inside the brain are not '*hard-wired*': in other words, that means (c) _____.
4. The answer was in fact (d) _____. This compares with the average of (e) _____ for whales and (f) _____ for dolphins.

Task 3. Answer the questions after listening.

1. How much does the average human brain weigh:
 - a) 1.4 kg,
 - b) 2.2 kg,
 - c) 3.6 kg?
2. What difference did Dr. Ruben Gur find between the connections in the brain hemispheres of men and women?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1. brainy	a. a statement that is often true but based on limited information
2. rack my brains	b. the maximum amount of time that you can concentrate on one thing
3. hemisphere	c. designed to work in a particular way which cannot be changed
4. to navigate	d. to find your way around a new place, often using a map
5. multi-tasking	e. doing several things at the same time
6. attention span	f. half (of something round in shape)
7. hard-wired	g. think very hard to answer a question or solve a problem
8. generalisation	h. <i>(informal)</i> clever, intelligent

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think of cloning?
2. What is stem cell research?
3. Do you support stem cell research?
4. What are the potential benefits of stem cell research?
5. Why are so many people against stem cell research?
6. Would you help fund stem cell research if it helped cure people you know from illness?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations:

1. “Our bodies are our gardens – our wills are our gardeners” (W. Shakespeare).
2. “Our bodies are ... our autobiographies” (F. G. Burgess).
3. “The human body is the only machine for which there are no spare parts” (H. M. Biggs).
4. “When men and women agree, it is only in their conclusions; their reasons are always different” (G. Santayana).

14. EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION

Task 1. Answer the questions before listening.

1. What is ‘extra-sensory perception’?
2. Do you experience extra-sensory perception?

Task 2. Complete the sentences while listening.

ESP or Extra Sensory Perception is a catch-all expression for the alleged ability of certain people (a) _____ transmitted thoughts from others, (b) _____ their own thoughts, (c) _____ what will happen in the future or to be able (d) _____ objects from one place to another without physically touching them. These special people are called psychics or sensitives. Some believe that we all have this ability to some degree but that most of us choose not to develop it.

Some people are happy to believe in ESP while others are firm disbelievers. Parapsychologists who are dedicated to scientifically studying the claims that are made, lend a certain seriousness to the subject. They have identified (e) _____ distinct types of ESP:

Clairvoyance describes the act of being able (f) _____ of a person or event without the use of the normal senses.

Telepathy is the process by which a person is able (g) _____ without the use of any of the normal senses.

Psychokinesis is the ability (h) _____ a physical object just by thinking about it.

Precognition is the term applied when somebody is able (i) _____ future events.

Many people are sceptical about ESP. Alongside the existence of documented evidence there are plenty of claims that have turned out to be fraudulent. For most people it is difficult to accept such claims without having had first hand experience. The lack of (j) _____ is another factor to take into account. On the other hand, most of us have, at some time, experienced a seemingly inexplicable occurrence; hearing the telephone ring and knowing who will be on the other end of the line or cases of coincidence that seem to be (k) _____ to be accidental.

Over the years there have been numerous ESP experiments conducted by serious scientists in serious institutions. Joseph Banks Rhine, a botanist at Duke University (l) _____ a famous book in 1934 called "Extra-Sensory perception" in which he claimed to have overwhelming evidence of ESP. However, other scientists have been unable to duplicate his results since, which has resulted in the book losing much of its original credibility and fame.

The Ganzfeld experiments are considered to have been the most carefully scrutinised ESP experiments. Alleged psychics had their eyes covered and ears blocked while a "sender" attempted to transmit messages. Later the psychics would compare the (m) _____ received to the original (n) _____ sent out. There was a great deal of excitement and interest at the time but the research failed to produce convincing results.

One of the strongest criticisms against ESP is that in order for it to exist, the fundamental laws of physics would necessarily have (o) _____.

Human beings are attracted to the whole spectrum of (p) _____ phenomena. ESP will always continue to fascinate. This becomes clear when we see how much of the media is dedicated to the topic; magazines, journals, web sites, television and radio programmes. Some of the most successful (the reader says '*sensible*') films in recent years have fuelled interest among (q) _____ who are starting to ask the same questions and to look for explanations for the same phenomena as their (r) _____ and (s) _____ before them. Who knows? One day we might just find these answers because one thing is certain: "The truth is out there"!

Task 3. Answer the question after listening.

1. What types of ESP can you name?
2. Why are many people sceptical about ESP?

Task 4. Match the words and word combinations with their definitions.

1.alleged	a. a person who refuses to believe something or lacks religious faith
2.criticism	b. a person who deals with the investigation of purportedly psychic phenomena, as clairvoyance, extrasensory perception, telepathy, and the like.
3.evidence	c. not easily convinced, having doubts
4.disbeliever	d. the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid
5.parapsychologist	e. said, without proof
6.sceptical	f. a statement that expresses disapproval
7.supernatural	g. attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature

Task 5. Discuss the following questions.

1. Do we all have ESP?
2. Can ESP be developed?
3. Have you met any people with ESP?

Task 6. Comment on the quotations.

1. "It is one of the commonest mistakes to consider that the limit of our power of perception is also the limit of all there is to perceive" (C. W. Leadbeater).
2. "Intuition comes very close to clairvoyance: it appears to be the extrasensory perception of reality" (A. Carrel).
3. "Sense of place is the sixth sense, an internal compass and map made by memory and spatial perception together" (R. Solnit).

4. “This term intuition does not denote something contrary to reason, but something outside the province of reason” (C. Jung).

5. “We have five senses in which we glory and which we recognize and celebrate, senses that constitute the sensible world for us. But there are other senses - secret senses, sixth senses, if you will – equally vital, but unrecognized, and unlauded” (O. Sacks).

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