盲人的数码帮手 Digital help for blind people

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Georgina.

我是乔治娜。

What do Homer, Ray Charles and Jorge Borges all have in common, Georgina?

荷马，雷·查尔斯和豪尔赫·博尔赫斯有什么共同点，乔治娜？

Hmm, so that's the ancient Greek poet, Homer; American singer, Ray Charles; and Argentine writer, Jorge Luis Borges.

嗯，所以荷马是古希腊的诗人；雷·查尔斯是美国歌手；豪尔赫·路易斯·博尔赫斯是阿根廷作家。

I can't see much in common there, Neil.

我看不到什么共同点，内尔。

Well, the answer is that they were all blind.

嗯，答案就是他们都是盲人。

Ah! But that obviously didn't hold them back – I mean, they were some of the greatest artists ever!

啊！但是这并没有妨碍他们 —— 我的意思是，他们都跻身于有史以来最伟大的艺术家。

Right, but I wonder how easy they would find it living and working in the modern world.

好的，但是我想知道他们会发现在现代世界生活和工作会有多么容易。

Blind people can use a guide dog or a white cane to help them move around.

盲人可以用导盲犬或白手杖帮助他们到处走。

Yes, but a white cane is hardly advanced technology!

是的，但是白手杖可不是什么高科技。

Recently, smartphone apps have been invented, which dramatically improve the lives of blind people around the world.

最近，智能手机的发明大大提升了全世界盲人的生活。

In this programme on blindness in the digital age, we'll be looking at some of these inventions, known collectively as assistive technology – that's any software or equipment that helps people work around their disabilities or challenges.

在本期讲解数码时代盲人的节目中，我们将学习这些发明，总称辅助技术 —— 它指的是任何帮助人们应对他们的残疾或挑战的软件或设备。

But first it's time for my quiz question, Georgina.

但是首先要回答我的回答，乔治娜。

In 1842 a technique of using fingers to feel printed raised dots was invented which allowed blind people to read.

1842年一项用手指感觉凸起的点的技术被发明出来，它让盲人可以阅读。

But who invented it?

但是是谁发明的呢?

Was it a) Margaret Walker, b) Louis Braille, or c) Samuel Morse?

是 A。 玛格丽特·沃克，B。 刘易斯·布拉耶，还是 C。 萨缪尔·莫斯?

Hmm, I've heard of Morse code but that wouldn't help blind people read, so I think it's, b) Louis Braille.

嗯，我听说过莫斯码，但是那不能帮助盲人阅读，所以我认为是 B。 刘易斯·布拉耶。

OK, Georgina, we'll find out the answer at the end of the programme.

好的，乔治娜，我们会在节目结束的会后揭晓答案。

One remarkable feature of the latest assistive technology is its practicality.

这个最新的辅助技术的最杰出的特点就是它的可行性。

Smartphone apps like 'BeMyEyes' allow blind users to find lost keys, cross busy roads and even colour match their clothes.

像"BeMyEyes"这样的智能手机应用程序让用户能够找到丢失的钥匙，穿过繁忙的马路，甚至给他们的衣服搭配颜色。

Brian Mwenda is CEO of a Kenyan company developing this kind of technology.

布里安·姆文达是肯尼亚一家开发这种技术的公司。

Here he explains to BBC World Service programme, Digital Planet, how his devices seek to enhance, not replace, the traditional white cane.

以下是他向 BBC 的世界服务节目《数码星球》解释他的设备如何努力加强，而不是取代，白手杖。

The device is very compatible with any kind of white cane.

这个设备可以兼容任何类型的白手杖。

So, once you clip it on to any white cane, it works perfectly to detect the obstacles in front of you, and it relies on echo-location.

所以，一旦你把它装在任何白手杖上，它就能完美运行，探测出你面前的障碍，并且它依赖于回声定位。

So, echo-location is the same technology used by bats and dolphins to detect prey and obstacles and all that.

所以回声定位跟蝙蝠和海豚用来探测猎物和各种障碍的技术一样。

You send out a sound pulse and then once it bounces off an obstacle, you can tell how far the obstacle is.

你发出一个声音脉冲，然后当它从障碍物上反弹回来后，你就能判断障碍物有多远了。

When attached to a white cane, the digital device - called 'Sixth Sense' - can detect obstacles - objects which block your way, making it difficult for you to move forward.

被装在白手杖上后，这个叫做"第六感"的数码设备可以探测障碍物 —— 挡你路的物体，让你很难前行。

'Sixth Sense' works using echo-location, a kind of ultrasound like that used by bats who send out sound waves which bounce off surrounding objects.

"第六感"使用的是回声定位，一种类似蝙蝠会使用的超声波，蝙蝠发出声波，然后从周围的物体上反弹回来。

The returning echoes show where these objects are located.

反弹回来的回声可以表明这些物体的位置。

Some of the assistive apps are so smart they can even tell what kind of object is coming up ahead - be it a friend, a shop door or a speeding car.

有些辅助应用程序非常智能，以至于它们甚至能够辨别出哪种物体在前面 —— 可能是朋友、商店的门或加速的汽车。

I guess being able to move around confidently really boosts people's independence.

我想能够自信地到处移动可以真正地增强人们的独立性。

Absolutely.

没错。

And it's challenging stereotypes around blindness too.

而且它也会挑战人们对盲人的刻板印象。

Blogger, Fern Lulham, who is blind herself, uses assistive apps every day.

盲人博主费恩·鲁尔汗每天都使用辅助应用程序。

Here she is talking to BBC World Service's, Digital Planet.

以下是她对话 BBC 的世界服务节目《数码星球》。

I think the more that society sees blind people in the community, at work, in relationships, it does help to tackle all of these stereotypes, it helps people to see blind and visually-impaired people in a whole new way and it just normalises disability - that's what we need, we need to see people just getting on with their life and doing it and then people won't see it as such a big deal anymore, it'll just be the ordinary.

我认为社会越在社区里、工作中、人际交往中看到盲人，这确实能够帮助解决所有的刻板印象，它帮助人们以一种全新的方式看待盲人和视觉受损的人，而这会让残疾变得平常 —— 这正是我们所需要的，我们需要看到人们正常生活，这样人们就不会再把它看得很严重了，这就是很普通的事。

Fern distinguishes between people who are blind, or unable to see, and those who are visually impaired - experience a decreased ability to see.

费恩不同于那些盲人，或无法看见的人，以及那些视力受损的人 —— 视力下降的人。

Assistive tech helps blind people lead normal, independent lives within their local communities.

辅助技术帮助盲人在他们的社区里过上正常、独立的生活。

Fern hopes that this will help normalise disability - treat something as normal which has not been accepted as normal before... ...so being blind doesn't have to be a big deal - an informal way to say something is not a serious problem. ......

费恩希望这能有助于让残疾变得平常 —— 正常对待以前不认为是正常的事情......所以眼盲不再是什么大事了 —— 这是表达某事不是严重的问题的非正式说法。

Just keep your eyes closed for a minute and try moving around the room.

请闭上眼睛一分钟，然后试着在房间里走动。

You'll soon see how difficult it is...and how life changing this technology can be.

你很快就会知道这有多难......以及这项技术能给生活带来多大的变化。

Being able to read books must also open up a world of imagination.

能够阅读书籍肯定也能够开启想象的世界。

So what was the answer to your quiz question, Neil?

所以你问题的答案是什么呢，内尔？

Ah, yes.

啊，是的。

I asked Georgina who invented the system of reading where fingertips are used to feel patterns of printed raised dots.

我之前问乔治娜是谁发明了用手指去感觉突出的点的规律来阅读的体系。

What did you say, Georgina?

你说的是什么，乔治娜？

I thought it was, b) Louis Braille.

我认为是 B。 刘易斯·布耶尔。

Which was...of course the correct answer!

当然是正确答案啦！

Well done, Georgina - Louise Braille, the inventor of a reading system which is known worldwide simply as braille.

干得漂亮，乔治娜，刘易斯·布耶尔，世界闻名的阅读体系布拉耶盲文的发明者。

I suppose braille is an early example of assistive technology - systems and equipment that assist people with disabilities to perform everyday functions.

我想布耶尔盲文就是辅助技术 —— 协助有残疾的人进行日常活动的系统和设备 ——的一个早期范例。

Let's recap the rest of the vocabulary, Neil.

我们一起来回顾剩下的词汇吧，内尔。

OK. An obstacle is an object that is in your way and blocks your movement.

好的。障碍指的是挡住你的路不让你移动的物体。

Some assisted technology works using echo-location - a system of ultrasound detection used by bats.

有些辅助技术利用回声定位 —— 蝙蝠使用的超声探测系统 —— 工作。

Being blind is different from being visually impaired - having a decreased ability to see, whether disabling or not.

眼盲跟视觉受损 —— 视力下降，无论是否残疾 —— 不一样。

And finally, the hope is that assistive phone apps can help normalise disability – change the perception of something into being accepted as normal... ...so that disability is no longer a big deal - not a big problem. ......

最后，让人有希望的是辅助手机应用程序有助于让残疾平常化 —— 让对于某事的看法变成平常的......所以残疾不再是什么大事了 —— 不是个大问题。

That's all for this programme but join us again soon at 6 Minute English... ...and remember you can find many more 6 Minute topics and useful vocabulary archived on bbclearningenglish. com. ......

这就是本期节目的所有内容，但是请再次收听六分钟英语......还有请记住你可以在 bbclearningenglish。 com 上找到更多存档的六分钟英语的话题和词汇。

Don't forget we also have an app you can download for free from the app stores.

不要忘记我们还有一个你可以从应用商店免费下载的应用程序。

And of course we are all over social media, so come on over and say hi.

当然，我们在各种社交平台上都有账号，所以来跟我们打招呼吧。

Goodbye for now!

再见！

Bye!

再见！