**听说训练（十九）BBC 6 Minute English**

﻿**要求：听录音，补全空格所缺的词、表达或句子，录音播放两遍。录音播放完成后，请核对答案。2分钟后，全班同学朗读材料。**

BBC英语六分钟 第234期：随时说各种语言

**Neil:** Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English: the programme in which we talk about a story in the news and learn some vocabulary while we're doing it. I'm Neil and joining me today is Jen. Hi there, Jen.

**Jen:** Hi Neil.

**Neil:** Now, this sounds like every struggling language student's dream...

**Jen:** A piece of technology which could \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_hours and hours of study…

**Neil:** It sounds like something from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…

**Jen:** A machine which allows you to speak any language in the world… instantly!

**Neil:** OK, well not quite, but we are talking about an app – a piece of software common on smartphones - developed in Japan. This app allows you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_another person speaking in a different language translated in real time – in other words, instantly.

**Jen:** This could put us out of a job, Neil! Now come on, it must be time for a language-related quiz.

**Neil:** Yes, that's exactly what we'll do now. I want to know, how many languages are there in the world? Is it: a) about 100b) about 1,000c) about 6,000

**Jen:** Well, I think there are a lot but maybe not 6,000, so I'll go for b) about 1,000.

**Neil:** OK, well we will find out, as ever, at the end of the programme. Back now to our app.

**Jen:** This, of course, isn't the only \_\_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ translation technology in the world.

**Neil:** No, Google have something similar, though it's less advanced than this Japanese app. Listen to the first part of a report from the BBC's correspondent, Richard Taylor. How does the Google technology work?

You simply talk into your smartphone. That's then sent to the server from Google, which does real-time voice recognition and then machine translation on it and then that data \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_your phone either as a script or, if you pay a little bit extra in terms of data charges, as \_\_\_\_\_\_6\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Neil:** He says when you talk into your smartphone, it's sent to the server – a central computer which other computers get their information from.

**Jen:** The server does real-time translation and then sends back a text or voice file.

**Neil:** So you read the translation or, if you pay a little bit more, listen to a translation sent as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Jen:** Amazing stuff!

**Neil:** Indeed, but this new app in Japan, developed by the company NTT Docomo,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Jen:** That's right. With this technology, you can have an actual conversation with someone on the other side of the world, speaking a different language to the one which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**Neil:** Incredible! Now listen to the second part of the report from the BBC's Richard Taylor.

But they've actually taken the concept and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_10\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ normal phone calls. So, you're making a phone call to somebody from Japan in Japanese, on the other side of the world, for example in Britain. It will take that Japanese voice, do the real-time machine translation on the server, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_11\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ later it would bring it back down to you in English. Or at least that's the idea.

**Neil:** So, the difference is that this app allows people to speak to foreigners \_\_\_\_\_\_\_12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– with a slight pause while the real-time translation \_\_\_\_\_\_13\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Jen:** So, which languages does it convert?

**Neil:** At the moment, Japanese to English, Mandarin and Korean. But more are to follow.

**Jen:** I suppose the big question is “\_\_\_\_\_\_14\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is the translation?”

**Neil:** Yes, that is the big question. The BBC's Richard Taylor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_15\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with the help of a Japanese translator. What did he ask and how good does the translator think the app is?

Hello, how are you? Are there any good restaurants around here?

How well did that do as a translation, first of all?

Well, it's \_\_\_\_\_16\_\_\_\_\_\_\_but it's not perfect.

**Neil:** The reporter asked if there is a good restaurant nearby.

**Jen:** And the Japanese translator says the app was understandable but not perfect.

**Neil:** Is this technology going to sweep the world, I wonder?

**Jen:** Well, there are some other companies hot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_17\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the Japanese company NTT Docomo. For example, France's Alcatel-Lucent is developing a rival product which will \_\_\_\_\_\_18\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on landlines.

**Neil:** And Microsoft is working on something it's calling the Translating Telephone. Now the question I want to ask you Jen is, “Do you think this will put an end to language learning forever?”

**Jen:** Well, I hope not. I think these types of technologies are always helpful but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_19\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ learning a language. I know I'm biased but speaking a foreign language is one of life's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_20\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**Neil:** And I agree with you but, of course, I would because it's my job.

**Jen:** Before we go, Neil, aren't you going give the answer to the quiz?

**Neil:** OK, yes. I wanted to know how many languages there are in the world. Is it: a) about 100b) about 1,000c) about 6,000

**Jen:** And I said b) about 1,000.

**Neil:** And you are wrong. I know you speak about 1,000 languages, Jen, but the answer is about 6,000.

**Jen:** Wow!

**Neil:** Now, time for a recap of some of the words we heard in today's programme.

**Jen:** They are: app, smartphone, in real time, server, hot on the heels.

**Neil:** Join us again soon for more 6 Minute English from bbclearningenglish.com.

**Jen:** And don't forget to find us on Facebook and Twitter.

**Neil:** Bye for now.

**Jen:** Bye.

1. put an end to 2. science fiction 3. have conversations with 4. Instant 5. was sent to 6. a voice file 7. audio recording 8. goes even further 9. coming out of your mouth 10. applied it to 11. couple of seconds 12. in real time 13. takes place 14. How accurate 15. tried it out 16. Understandable 17. on the heels of 18. operate 19. nothing will ever replace 20. great pleasures