6:20 am

She woke up frowning. The light from the early morning sunset pierced her eyes, a flaming reminder of how yesterday’s discovery had thrown her entire schedule off, even her ritual of closing the blind to ward off the blinding sun.

6:27 am

She would not be falling back asleep. Stepping gingerly onto the cold linoleum floor, she waited for the buzz to come swarming back to her ears in full force.

6:28 am

No buzzing. Maybe yesterday was just a fluke.

7:21 am

She sat at her kitchen counter, mushing her soggy Corn Flakes into the lukewarm milk. The TV remote sitting just to the left of her elbow taunted her. Her left arm twitched, as if it wanted to grab for the remote and switch on the first channel available, but she held off. The result was a counter drenched in soggy cereal and tepid milk.

7:24 am

She threw down the paper towel, accidently flinging more Corn Flakes across the newly clean counter. Her cracked flat screen TV blared to life as the morning newsman gave his daily weather report. Her finger trembled over the channel button. Another twitched switched the channel to a Spanish documentary. Except she understood almost every word as if it was native English. She held her finger down again and jumped channels until she stopped at the Vietnamese cooking show. She gripped the remote in her hand tighter as her brain automatically translated each word for her.

A few channels over was a Portuguese sports show. She understood it just as well as every channel before.

7:32 am

A Japanese singing contest. No problem.

7:38 am

A Russian singing contest. Less musically appeal, just as comprehendible.

7:45 am

She stares at the crack in the now black screen. The twitch returned to her left hand so she dropped the remote down. The silence seemed to echo throughout her apartment.

7:50 am

Was it really so bad to understand every language? Perhaps not. It could come in handy when traveling. Or when ordering at an ethnic restaurant. Maybe she could even get a job as an interpreter.

But the problem wasn’t the power itself; more that a skill such as this shouldn’t pop up after a bad headache and 5 baby aspirin.