

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Tech that refuses to die



1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?
2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.
 - What do the presenters say the episode is about?
 - What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?
3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

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5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. Which old tech is still used by the CERN physics laboratory in Switzerland?
 - a) floppy disks
 - b) magnetic tape reels
 - c) music cassette

2. What is the meaning of the idiom 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'?
 - a) you can't mend old technology
 - b) it's good to keep your devices up-to-date
 - c) only change something if it doesn't work

3. What does 'QWERTY' refer to?
 - a) a computer or typewriter keyboard
 - b) a type of computer chip
 - c) a smartphone

4. "Brad has an amazing memory. He can remember whole conversations_____."
 - a) verbatim
 - b) verbally
 - c) virtually

5. Which phrasal verb means 'to continue using or doing something'?
 - a) stick up
 - b) stick over
 - c) stick with

6. What is the meaning of 'obsolete'?
 - a) no longer in use
 - b) very fat
 - c) egg shaped

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. obsolete - no longer in use, having been replaced by something newer, better or more fashionable
- b. if it ain't broke, don't fix it - (idiom) used to say that if something is working satisfactorily, there is no reason to try to change it
- c. clockwork - machinery using metal springs and wheels which move when wound up with a key
- d. QWERTY - the traditional typewriter arrangement of keys in which the top line begins with the letters *q, w, e, r, t* and *y*
- e. verbatim - using exactly the same words as were originally used
- f. stick with - continue using or doing something

5. 1b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5c, 6a

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet, and adapt it as necessary.

Expansion activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.