

Gadget heaven ... or hell

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Deciding which statement on buying electronic gadgets best reflects the students' own opinion

Scanning a podcast transcript in order to sequence a list of new products

Reading a podcast transcript about the 2009 consumer electronics show in Las Vegas

Identifying words from the transcript by their definitions

Discussing electronic products and gadgets

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the word 'gadget' on the board and check students know what it means. (Teacher's note: a small, useful and cleverly designed tool). Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to choose the statement (a-d) which best reflects their own opinion. Students compare their answers with a partner. Elicit a quick show of hands on how many students chose each answer.
- 2 Ask students to read the product names and then scan the podcast transcript and note down the numbers (1-6) in which the products are mentioned.

Answers

smartpen [3] / *mp3 player*[4] / *netbook* [6] / *data projector* [5] / *internet TV* [2] / *smartphone* [1]

- 3 Students read the whole transcript. Ask them to tell you a bit about each of the products. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary, such as: *co-ordinating* / *merges* / *hooking up with* / *uploaded* / *genre*.
- 4 Ask students to identify the words from their definitions.

Answers

(a) *unveiled* (b) *groundbreaking* (c) *social networking*
 (d) *convergence* (e) *bid* (f) *ultra-portable*

- 5 Allow students to discuss the questions in small groups. Elicit a summary of the group work. Encourage whole class discussion. Finish the lesson by giving language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.cesweb.org/>

<http://www.livescribe.com/smartpen/index.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGrBsJV4oiE>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumer_Electronics_Show