Podcasting

Level
Upper intermediate and above

Tasks
Completing the missing vowels in words which form collocations with 'digital'
Scanning an article for dates in order to complete a timeline
Reading an article about 'podcasting'
Finding words and expressions in the article from their definitions
Scripting a 'podcast' and reading it aloud to the class

How to use the lesson

1   Write the word 'podcasting' on the board and ask students to tell you what they know about this new term. (There is a definition of 'podcast' on the worksheet, which students can check if they are unfamiliar with the term). Hand out the worksheet and ask students to quickly complete the words by filling in the vowels.

   Answers
   radio / music player / broadcasting / revolution / download

   Students can create sentences or ask questions to practise some of the terms. For example: Does anyone own a digital music-player / digital radio? This would be a good time to find out who owns an MP3 player or iPod, and what they think about these products compared to pre-digital players such as a walkman / discman.

2   Ask students to scan the text to find the missing dates on the timeline.

   Answers
   (a) February 2004   (b) October 2004   (c) June 2005   (d) August 2005

3   Students read the whole article. Ask follow up questions, such as: Do you think podvertising will take off?

4   Ask students to find words in the article from the definitions given.

   Answers
   (a) distribution   (b) mainstream   (c) slots   (d) synonymous   (e) enhancing

5   Divide the class into small groups. Students choose one of the suggested topics for their podcast or agree an alternative with the teacher. Students will need to practise reading short sections of the text. Students can sound-script their text, marking on word stress and intonation. As an alternative to reading their podcast, groups can record their text onto an audiotape to play to the class at the delivery stage. Provide language feedback.

Related websites
Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podcasting
http://www.ipodder.org/
http://www.mum.edu/podcast/
http://www1.nasa.gov/returntoflight/crew/robinson_podcast.html

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