

Developing English Vocabulary Skills Through Podcasting

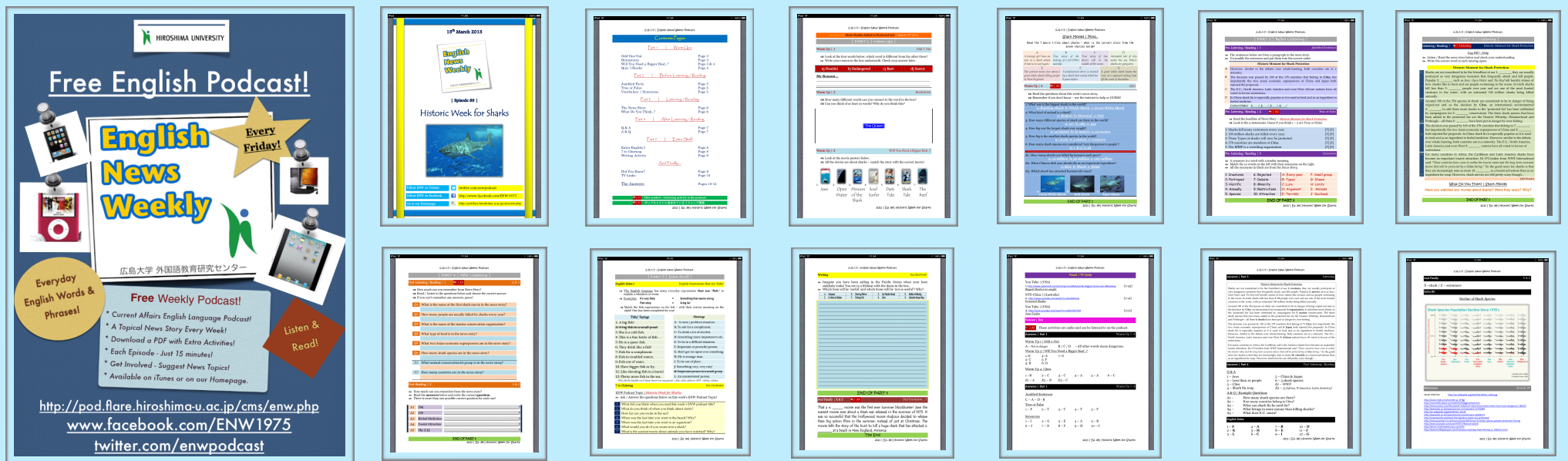
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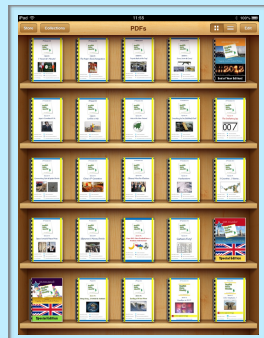
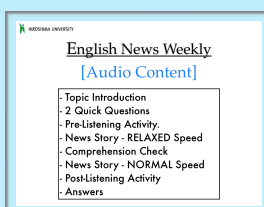


INTRODUCING - ENGLISH NEWS WEEKLY PODCAST



English News Weekly - Aims

- * Improve all-round English Skills.
- * Include 'real-life' English language.
- * Cover a wide of international news topics.
- * Incorporate the podcast into an asynchronous learning process.
- * Imbed Hiroshima University's standard 6,000 English word list.
- * Provide the language-learner with language relevancy that aids in their understanding of the contents and themes of the podcast episodes.



Importance of Real-Life Language

- * Language content includes English from the UK, North America, Australasia, Africa, the Caribbean & Europe.
- * Follows applied-linguistic theory that the English vocabulary content in the podcast be as realistic as possible.
- * A desire to highlight colloquial/realistic phrases or English slang (flicks = movies) that can emphasise national English language differences.

Potential Problems

- * Different operating systems of mobile-devices.
- * Mobile-device cost / screen size / memory
- * Internet connection / fees.
- * Passive learning-environment.
- * Podcasts content is too difficult / easy.
- * Learner disengagement with podcast content / themes.
- * Monitoring of Learners interaction with podcast activities.
- * Mobile-devices are not seen as 'language-tools'.

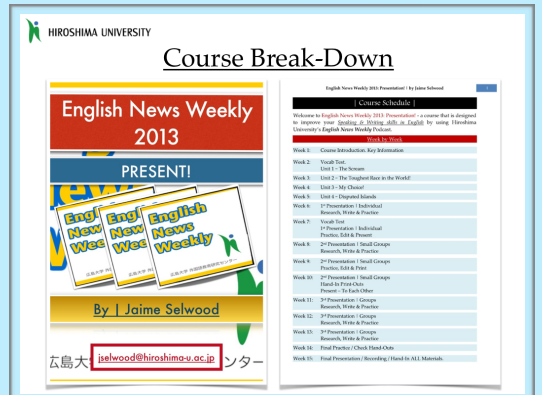
AN INTEGRATED PODCAST COURSE

Course: Aims

- * To increase students 'real-life' language knowledge through podcasts - specifically Hiroshima University's ENW podcast.
- * To encourage students to use mobile-devices to assist with the learning process inside & outside of the classroom.
- * For students to develop their own podcasts using their own ideas, themes and activities.

Course: Background

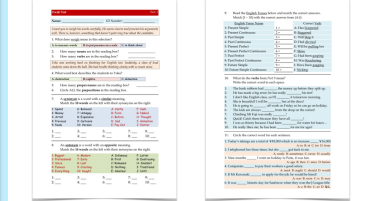
- * 2 x 2nd year classes of non-English majors.
- * Total number of students: 61 (34 male / 27 female).
- * Mixed ability, mixed motivation.
- * Combined Science & Education Faculty students.
- * 1 x 90 mins / 15 classes / 1 semester course.
- * Speaking & Writing course.



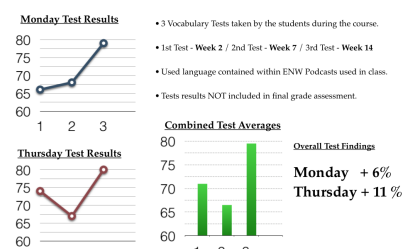
Unit Examples



Vocabulary Test Examples



Vocabulary Test Results



THE FUTURE OF PODCASTING IS SMART

The Future is Mobile!

- * 2013 - Smartphones overtook Feature Phones in world-wide sales figures for the first time.
- * From April - June 2013, Smartphones sold 225 million units. Feature Phones 210 million units.
- * 2013 represents an increase of 46.5% of Smartphones sold compared to 2012. Feature Phone sales are down 21% from 2012.

(BBC News Website, 15th August 2013)

And Mobile's are Taking Over!

- * 2013 - A survey of 320 1st & 2nd year students conducted at a national university in Japan found:
- * 92% (294/320) owned a Smartphone.
- * An increase of 35% on the 2012 survey and 61% on the 2011 survey results.
- * 46% of students listen to podcasts through their Smartphone. (Selwood, 2013)

References

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<http://podflare.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/cms/enw.php>