

Developing English Skills Through Podcasting

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THE ENGLISH NEWS WEEKLY PODCAST

Free English Podcast!

English News Weekly

Every Friday!

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- * Current Affairs English Language Podcast!
- * A Topical News Story Every Week!
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16th March 2013

English News Weekly

[Episode 89]

Historic Week for Sharks

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Warm Up 1

Look at the four words below, which word is different from the other three?
a) Warm b) Hot c) Cold d) Cool

Warm Up 2

How many different words can you connect to the word in the box?
a) Can you think of at least 10 words? Why do you think this?

Warm Up 3

Look at the movie posters below.
a) All the stories are about sharks - match the story with the correct movie!

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Shark Models & Photos

Read the 7 movie titles about sharks - what is the correct story from the seven choices below?

1. What was the biggest shark in the world?
a) A megalodon b) A shark c) A great white d) A hammerhead

2. What kind of animal is a shark?
a) A mammal b) A fish c) A reptile d) A bird

3. How many different species of sharks are there in the world?
a) 100 b) 1000 c) 10000 d) 100000

4. How big was the largest shark ever caught?
a) 10m b) 20m c) 30m d) 40m

5. How big is the smallest shark species in the world?
a) 10cm b) 20cm c) 30cm d) 40cm

6. How many shark species are considered 'very dangerous to people'?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

7. How many sharks are killed by humans each year?
a) 100 b) 1000 c) 10000 d) 100000

8. What Chinese dish uses shark fins as an important ingredient?
a) Shark fin soup b) Shark fin salad c) Shark fin soup d) Shark fin soup

9. Which shark has attacked humans the most?
a) Great white shark b) Hammerhead shark c) Tiger shark d) Bull shark

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Pre-Listening / Reading 1

Read the sentences below and put them into the correct order.

Historic Moment for Shark Protection

1. However, similar to our Atlantic coast, where shark hunting was not a priority.
2. The decision was passed by 100 of the 178 countries that belong to CITES, but importantly the two Asian economic superpowers of China and Japan both rejected the proposal.
3. The E.U., North America, Latin America and even West African nations have all voted in favour of the proposal.
4. In China, shark fins are especially popular as a delicacy and as an ingredient in traditional medicine.
5. The WWF is a worldwide conservation organisation.

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Listening / Reading 1

Read the news story below and check your understanding.

Historic Moment for Shark Protection

Sharks are not considered to be the friendliest of sea creatures. They are usually portrayed as very dangerous predators that frequently attack and kill people. People 1. _____ such as Great White and Tiger sharks have been responsible for shark attacks like to hunt and eat people swimming in the ocean. In truth, sharks kill far less than 3. _____ people every year and are one of the most hunted animals in the water, with an estimated 100 million sharks being killed annually.

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Post-Listening / Reading 1

Read the news story below and answer the questions.

Historic Moment for Shark Protection

1. How many people are usually killed by sharks every year?
a) 10 b) 100 c) 1000 d) 10000

2. What is the name of the marine conservation organisation?
a) WWF b) IUCN c) UNEP d) UNESCO

3. How many shark species are in the world?
a) 100 b) 1000 c) 10000 d) 100000

4. What type of food is the shark's favourite?
a) Fish b) Seals c) Dolphins d) Humans

5. How many shark species are in the news story?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

6. What animal conservation group is in the news story?
a) WWF b) IUCN c) UNEP d) UNESCO

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English Extra 1

Read the news story below and answer the questions.

Historic Moment for Shark Protection

1. How many people are usually killed by sharks every year?
a) 10 b) 100 c) 1000 d) 10000

2. What is the name of the marine conservation organisation?
a) WWF b) IUCN c) UNEP d) UNESCO

3. How many shark species are in the world?
a) 100 b) 1000 c) 10000 d) 100000

4. What type of food is the shark's favourite?
a) Fish b) Seals c) Dolphins d) Humans

5. How many shark species are in the news story?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

6. What animal conservation group is in the news story?
a) WWF b) IUCN c) UNEP d) UNESCO

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POSTER ABSTRACT

Developing Skills Through Podcasting

Podcasts can offer language-learners the opportunity to access materials in a convenient manner. This poster will offer insight into how one podcast, produced weekly by a Japanese university, is developed to incorporate a wide-range of current-affairs topics. The poster will also highlight details of a synchronised learning course that will show how students completed a project to create their own podcasts versions.



What Do You Think? / Check Models

Have you watched any movies about sharks? Were they scary? Why?

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PODCASTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Pedagogy...Podagagy!

- * Harnessing the 'net-generation' of 'digitally-native' students with increased mass ownership of mobile-devices. (Maag, 2009. Preskey, 2001)
- * Podcasts, especially those produced through educational institutions have the power to focus attention and assist language learners to acquire useful language content. (Bishop, Amankwatia & Cates, 2008)
- * Podcasts can be highly beneficial to secondary language acquisition when the podcast materials are thoughtfully integrated with a clear purpose and rationale for its implementation. Copley, 2007)
- * The effectiveness of podcasts is that they can provide authentic materials, (vocabulary, syntax & intonation) whilst at the same time providing students control as to *how, when and where* they access the materials they listen to. (Selwood, 2012)

The Future is Mobile!

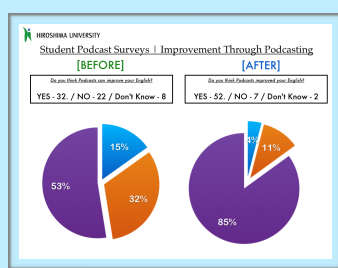
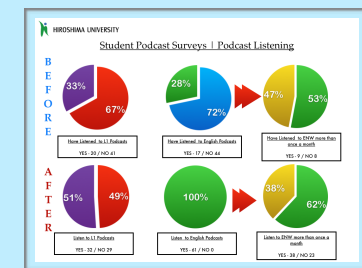
- * 2013 - Smartphones overtook Feature Phones in world-wide sales figures for the first time. (BBC News Website, 15th August 2013)
- * 2013 represents an increase of 46.5% of Smartphones sold compared to 2012. Feature Phone sales are down 21% from 2012.
- * 2013 - A survey of 320 1st & 2nd year students 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)

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.



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