

Exercise 4

- 14** Read the article about podcasts, which are digital audio programmes that people can download and listen to.

Write a summary about the advantages of listening to podcasts AND tips for making your own podcast.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 8 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Podcasts

Podcasts are digital programmes that are downloaded by millions of people every day. Making podcasts, previously known as ‘audioblogging’, first came about in the 1980s. It wasn’t until the mid-2000s, however, that it became a more popular, mainstream activity as broadband speeds increased and various devices became more affordable. Many people are getting involved with podcasts now – either by listening to them or even making podcasts of their own.

Not everyone is a fan of podcasts though. In the same way that reading a lot of text, or watching an online video doesn’t appeal to everyone, there are those who find it hard to focus on a form of media that’s just audio based. But for those who don’t feel this way, there’s a good chance that somewhere out there is a podcast on their own topic of interest, no matter how specialised. In fact, from a presenter’s point of view, an unusual topic makes it easier to attract an audience for a podcast than, say, a radio programme. And of course, radio programmes are often only broadcast in one country, whereas podcasts can generally be accessed from all around the world. It’s also true that for many of us, listening to someone talking can be more engaging than reading about a subject on our own.

Uploading audio content to the internet might sound simple, but for presenters, creating regular podcasts is not as easy as you would think. A lot of time and effort goes into making them. For this reason, you will generally find that podcasts deal with a topic in far more detail than a one-off radio programme ever could. Podcasts can, in theory, last for as long as the presenter wants, but most podcasts are generally recorded in time slots of half an hour, or an hour. If you want to run a series of podcasts, however, it is sensible to keep to a similar length for each recording. And the great thing for listeners, of course, is that podcasts can be enjoyed at any time, in any place, once they have been downloaded.

Well-known radio broadcasters and presenters of popular podcasts share certain skills. If you’re wondering what it takes to be a successful presenter, then listening to a wide range of podcasts can be a useful way to hear different styles from different presenters – after all, most podcasts are free. The range of podcast topics is extensive, with everything from sports interviews, fashion and music to scientific discussions and even political debate. Regardless of the subject, what all good presenters have in common is that they talk directly to the listeners as if they were in the same room.

And if you are a presenter, you are bound to get a great deal of satisfaction as you watch the list of people who regularly listen or subscribe to your podcast growing week by week. It’s great to know that all your efforts are paying off!

There are various advantages of listening to podcasts. To begin with, a person can usually access podcasts whenever they want anywhere all around the globe. Moreover, listening to someone speak can be more appealing and captivating. Not only do podcasts dive deep into a vast variety of topics, but the majority are also chargeless.

If you want to begin your own podcast, heed the following advice. Firstly, hear diverse ways of presenting from various presenters. Additionally, speak directly to the listeners as if you were face-to-face, and present an odd and uncommon topic as it makes it easier to gain viewers. Lastly, make sure that each recording is the same duration.

Exercise 5



15 You recently took part in a photography competition.

Write an email to a friend telling them about the competition.

In your email, you should:

- explain how you found out about the competition
- describe the photograph you took for the competition
- tell your friend how you felt about the competition result.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your email, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

Dear Sara,

Sorry for not keeping in touch recently but guess what! I've taken part in a photography competition!

As you know, I was never interested in taking part in competitions, but this one was different. As I was walking in the school corridor trying to reach to my next class, a gigantic poster caught my eye. The school was organizing a photography competition and the winner will get a huge money prize. This was my only chance to save enough for the new PS5 before summer; I was raring to go!

I knew most people would capture a natural scenery, so I thought outside the box and got the idea of photographing children joyfully playing together. Later that day, I headed to the children's park that's just a stone's throw away from my home, and to my luck, it turned out well — the azure sky beaming with scintillating rays of warm splashing sunlight and the children's playfulness made the picture phenomenal (at least in my eyes).

As you might have guessed, I didn't win. But surprisingly, I got third place! Can you believe that? I was over the moon — after all, I'm still a beginner! I've even decided to take professional photography courses and see how it unfolds. I guess you now know how much it inspired me!

Anyway, I've got to go. Update me on your trip to London!

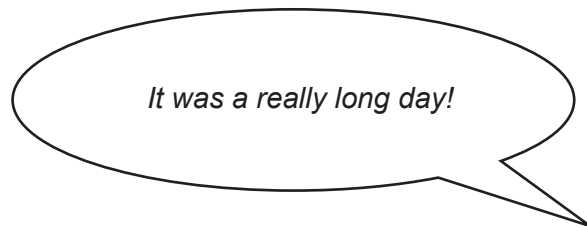
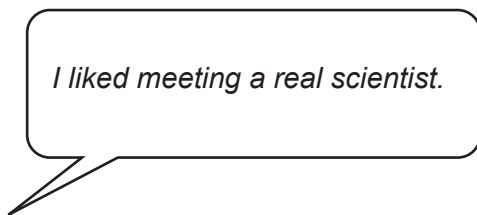
With love,
your name

Exercise 6

- 16** You and your class recently spent the day at a science exhibition, and now your teacher has asked you to write a report about it.

In your report, say what you learned from the trip **and** how it could be improved if it is repeated next year.

Here are two comments from your classmates:



Write a report for your teacher, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your report should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your report, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

A visit to the science exhibition

Introduction

Last week, our class spent the day at a science exhibition in the town. This report aims to detail what we learned from the visit and provide recommendations for improvement if it is repeated next year.

The Learning Experience

Most students have stated that they gained a deep insight into various scientific topics such as human and plant biology. We were especially fascinated with the interactive simulations, which showed bizarre and unusual natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions. Additionally, an in-depth knowledge of how it happens and its detrimental effects on people and the environment was also gained. Moreover, the interactive question and answer session with the marine biology expert proved to be extremely beneficial as many students noted. We gained a lot of interesting new information that will significantly help us in our upcoming school projects. For example, despite occupying just 1% of the seabed, coral reefs, which are one of the most biodiverse ecosystems, support more than a quarter of all marine life!

Conclusion

The trip was ultimately a success; however, I recommend splitting the visit over two days to enhance the educational experience. Consequently, pupils can explore more and satisfy their curiosity about science, which is unquestionably a favorable outcome. In addition, I suggest incorporating a wider range of interactive experiences to make students more captivated, and thus contribute to the long-term retention of learned concepts.