

Pocket Playstation the 'must have' of 2005 (Fri 4 Mar, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Playstation / PSP / games / gadgets / Nintendo / X-Box / digital lifestyle ...Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

PLAYSTATION BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Playstation. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MUST HAVE GADGETS: Which of the following gadgets must you have and which ones can you live without:

- a. Electronic dictionary
- b. iPod (or other MP3 player)
- c. Digital camera
- d. Mobile phone
- e. Watch
- f. Computer
- g. Radio
- h. Television
- i. Games console
- j. Calculator

2-MINUTE DEBATES: Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. Games consoles are bad for kids. vs. More interactive than watching TV all day.
- b. The new PSP will make us antisocial. vs. It will give us more to talk about.
- c. Gaming is just for kids. vs. Gaming tests our intelligence and skill.
- d. Games design is a new art form. vs. Games? Art? Don't be ridiculous.
- e. PlayStation 2 is the best console around. vs. No way man.
- f. Games will become more popular than movies. vs. Movies will always be more popular.
- g. Soon everyone will have a PSP – just like we all have a watch. vs. I don't think so.
- h. iPod is still the best gadget. vs. PSP has it all – music, movies, photos, and games.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'top' and 'ten'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Every year has a 'must have' gadget. T / F
- b. Last year the 'must have' gadget was a digital camera. T / F
- c. PSP means 'Pocket-sized PlayStation. T / F
- d. A PSP can play games, movies and songs, and show photographs. T / F
- e. In the USA it is being launched with the movie Spiderman 2 as a free gift. T / F
- f. People in their forties will have PSP fever. T / F
- g. PSP will make trains noisier with people playing games. T / F
- h. PSP could revolutionize our lives. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| (a) 'must have' | grips |
| (b) gadget | similarly |
| (c) pocket-sized | youthful |
| (d) as well as | handy |
| (e) launched | device |
| (f) young-at-heart | released |
| (g) packing | change |
| (h) takes hold of | essential |
| (i) revolutionize | carrying |
| (j) likewise | in addition to |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) 'must have' | hold of a country |
| (b) pocket-sized | our lives |
| (c) entertainment | playing games |
| (d) It's easy to see | in record numbers in Japan |
| (e) As well as | version |
| (f) young-at-heart | increased production |
| (g) PSP fever takes | why |
| (h) It could revolutionize | gadget |
| (i) The device has already sold | console |
| (j) Sony has already | fortysomething |

GAP FILL

Pocket Playstation the 'must have' of 2005

BNE: Every year has a 'must have' _____. Last year it was the Apple iPod. This year, according to *Stuff Magazine* from the UK, it is Sony's PSP (PlayStation Portable) – a pocket-sized _____ of the PlayStation2 (PS2) entertainment console. *Stuff Magazine* has just put the PSP at number one in its top ten _____ list for this year. It's easy to see why. As well as playing games, the PSP also allows users to download music, _____ photographs and watch movies. In the USA it is being launched with the movie Spiderman 2 as a free gift. It is likely that every teenager and young-at-heart fortysomething will be _____ the device in his or her school bag or briefcase when PSP fever takes hold of a country. Trains will become silent, with passengers _____, head down, in their latest games, movies and songs. It could revolutionize our lives as there will be no more need to go to the cinema, CD stores or photo developing stores. The device has already sold in _____ numbers in Japan, and is set to do likewise around the rest of the world. Sony has already increased production to sell one million PSPs in United States, where it will be _____ on March 23rd. That may not be enough.

engrossed version view released gadget record essentials packing

DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Do you want a PSP?
- c. Do you like gadgets?
- d. What was the last gadget you bought?
- e. Do you play video games?
- f. What are your favorite games?
- g. Are games worse than TV for kids?
- h. Would you rather have an iPod or PSP?
- i. Do you think all of these digital gadgets are too expensive?
- j. What one gadget in your life could you not live without?
- k. Do men like gadgets more than women? (If yes, ask why?)
- l. What are the essential things you would take on a 2-week vacation?
- m. Will hand held video screens really replace movie theatres?
- n. Will downloaded music replace CD stores?
- o. Will digital photos replace photo-developing stores?
- p. Will trains become quieter because of passengers using PSP?
- q. Do you think games are the next great art form, after movies?
- r. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCAB EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on the PSP. Share your findings with your class next lesson.

3. PS3: You are the designer of the next generation portable entertainment device. Your new product – PS3 – will be released on the first of next month. Make a small information sheet advertising its merits.

4. PROS / CONS: Make a list of the pros and cons of gaming. Be prepared to use your list in a discussion in the next class.

FULL TEXT

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