

## Need a translation?

(Length: 1:37)

### Language

translating  
explaining how something works

### Level

Pre-Intermediate; A2

### Programme details

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEUujtZQSFA>

This is a video from the Business section of the Los Angeles Times. In the video, David Sarno and Tiffany Hsu try Google's new translation app for phones.

### Comment

In the final exercise, students can visit the Google online application to try translating a text into their own language. If you have Internet access, students can do this in class or as a homework assignment.

### Before you watch

- 1 Write the phrase 'I have a dream' on the board. Can the students tell you the name of the person who famously spoke the words? (Answer: Martin Luther King, Jr.). Ask some students to translate the phrase into their own language.
- 2 Give students copies of the worksheet and ask them to do exercise 1 in pairs. In the exercise students have to match some quotes with famous names. If students aren't sure what a *droid* is, encourage them to use the glossary. Note: The character C-3PO appeared in the *Star Wars* films.
- 3 In exercise 2 students try to translate the quotes into their own language. They will probably need the aid of a dictionary by the time they reach number 4. The exercise is designed to illustrate how difficult it can be to translate some phrases.
- 4 If your students share a common language, ask them to compare their translations with another pair. Are the translations the same or similar? Students then do exercise 3, indicating the tools they used to help them with their translations. Discuss which of the tools they regularly use out of class when they have to translate something.

### While you watch

- 5 Explain that they're going to watch a video related to translations. You want them to watch the complete video and choose the best title for the video from exercise 4. Point out that this is an authentic video produced by the Los Angeles Times newspaper so they shouldn't worry about understanding every word. Play the complete video.
- 6 Check the answer, inviting students to explain their choice. Then ask students to work in pairs again and complete exercise 5. They must choose the correct words from the

## Video e-lesson

Week starting 22 March 2010

box to complete the sentences from the video. Note that there are extra words in the box.

- 7 Check the answers to exercise 5 by playing the first half of the video (0:00-0:50), pausing the video whenever necessary. Then ask students to read the statements in exercise 7 before playing the rest of the video. Students watch the video and decide if the statements are true or false. Check through the answers and play the sequence again to check answers. If you want, you can then play the complete video a final time.

### After you watch

- 8 Either use the news story in exercise 8 as a dictation or ask students to read the story. Go through any comprehension problems then divide the students into small groups. The groups go through the questions together. When they have finished, invite some students to share their answers with the rest of the class.
- 9 If your students have Internet access in the class, ask them to follow the instructions in exercise 8 and use the Google application to translate the text in exercise 8 into their own language. Discuss the results. How accurate was the translation?
- 10 For homework, ask students to think of a famous quote or short passage from a book in their own language. Ask them to try translating it into English using a dictionary to help them. Then ask them to use the Google application to translate the same piece of text. How do the two translations compare?

### Answer key:

#### 1

- 1 Barack Obama
- 2 Woody Allen
- 3 Albert Einstein
- 4 C-3PO (robot from the film Star Wars)

#### 4

- 2 Google has a new translation tool for your phone.

#### 5

- 1 fluently
- 2 translate
- 3 hamburger
- 4 Japanese
- 5 languages
- 6 automatically

#### 7

- 1 False. Tiffany speaks in Mandarin.
- 2 False. It says 'Speak now'.
- 3 True.
- 4 True.
- 5 False. His last words are: Give it a try.