



Google Translate for Animals

1. On 1st April 2010 Google introduced a new revolutionary technology *Translate for Animals*. How do you think it works?
2. Now, watch a video presentation of *Translate for Animals* and its “Technology”. Were you right?
3. Watch the video again and present this technology in a few simple steps.
4. Now, watch the second part of the video called “Testing”. Answer the following questions.

What animals was the new technology tested on?

What were their names?

What did each animal say?



Teacher's Notes and Answer Key

Please note that you need an internet connection in your classroom to use this material. Check if the connection works before the lesson begins.

Depending on the level of your students you may also need to pre-teach some vocabulary:

app – short for application

vernacular – language spoken in a given area

handset – the part of the mobile phone that you hold in your hand

speech recognition – the ability of a computer to analyse and understand speech

1. Ask your students to discuss in pairs how they think this new technology works or what one needs to use it. Elicit some answers and put them on the blackboard.
2. Play the first part of the video (Technology) from www.google.co.uk/intl/en/landing/translateforanimals. Check answers with whole class.

Answers (point 1 and 2):

Animal's speech is recorded on the phone and translated into English by Google's Translate for Animals. To use this technology, one needs a mobile phone with Android software and the Translate for Animals app.

3. Play the video again and ask the students to put this technology in a few simple steps.

Answers (point 3):

Step 1. The handset records the animal sounds and transmits them to Google's servers.

Step 2. Speech recognition and translation engines analyse the neuro-biological acoustics.

Step 3. The voice recognition system checks them against millions of sounds in the animal linguistic database and produces a translation in plain English.

4. Play the second part of the video (Testing) and ask your students answer the questions. Play the clip as many times as you think is necessary.

Answers (point 4):

Animal 1. Pig named Bella said: "Me person. Smells good".

Animal 2. Donkey named Donna said "Love you."

Extension:

If you have more time, you may explore more hilarious video clips with *Translate for Animals* on www.google.co.uk/intl/en/landing/translateforanimals/videos.html.

Homework:

You may ask your students to read Google's walkthrough for *Translate for Animals* on www.google.co.uk/intl/en/landing/translateforanimals/tour.html and find answers to the more detailed questions below.

What languages will this technology be available for?

Answer: Mongolian, Hindi, Cantonese, and [Pig-Latin](#).

What makes an animal a good communicator?

Answer: The higher up in the food chain an animal is, the better a communicator it will be.