



Google Translate for Animals

1. On 1st April 2010 Google introduced a new revolutionary technology *Translate for Animals*. Google described it this way:

Making the world's information universally accessible is a key goal for Google. Language is one of our biggest challenges so we have targeted our efforts on removing language barriers between the species. We are excited to introduce *Translate for Animals*, an Android application which we hope will allow us to better understand our animal friends. We've always been a pet-friendly company at Google, and we hope that *Translate for Animals* encourages greater interaction and understanding between animal and human.

- a) How do you think it works?
- b) What do you think one needs to use this new technology?

2. Watch Google's video clip presenting *Translate or Animals'* technology. Were you right? Can you add any details?

3. Watch the video clip again. Can you present this technology in a few simple steps?

4. Now, watch the second part of the video about *Translate for Animals'* 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 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 what they think is needed to use this new technology and how it works. Elicit some answers and put them on the blackboard.
2. Play the first part of the video “Technology”. Check answers with the whole class.

Answers (point 1 and 2):

a) Animal's speech is recorded on the phone and translated into English by Google's Translate for Animals.

b) One needs a mobile phone with Android software and the *Translate for Animals* app.

3. Play the clip again and ask the students to present this new 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 to and answer the questions. Play the clip two or three times as 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, 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.