BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Take Away English 随身英语
Smartphone vs the classroom
智能手机 vs 传统课堂

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英语教学

Vocabulary: learning 词汇：学习

We know it's good to learn another language. It **opens doors**, makes you more employable, helps you make new friends, and it's fun too. But to improve our **linguistic** skills, many of us have to endure hours of school lessons or **evening classes**, with our heads buried in **textbooks**. It's no wonder then that technology appears to be providing a better and more **accessible** way of learning.

There is certainly a huge demand for language learning, and having a smartphone means you can have a **virtual teacher** with you wherever you go. Many app developers are keen to **cash in** on the demand, and there are numerous learning apps available – including our own, free, BBC Learning English app! One of many popular apps, Duolingo, offers 91 **courses** in 30 languages and has more than 300 million users.

Some educational apps offer languages not popular enough to be taught at evening classes, or at most universities. And others offer 'invented' language courses in **Esperanto**, Elvish and Star Trek's Klingon – lessons you might not find in a traditional **classroom**. Whatever you want to learn, apps allow you to go at your own pace and fit learning around other commitments. But they're not perfect – you might not **get your head round** the grammar and will lack the **peer support** you could get in a classroom environment.

So, does technology **spell the end** of traditional classrooms and teachers? Guy Baron, head of modern languages at Aberystwyth University, thinks not. He told the BBC that apps should be used alongside classroom methods, not to the exclusion of traditional **teaching**. And he adds: "The apps are very conversational... they're not designed for **degrees**, but they could be additional **resources**."

Certainly technology is going to help in and outside the classroom. But attending a real lesson, facing a real teacher, probably forces you to be more **committed**.

Motivation can be a problem when using an app. But if you have a genuine and practical reason to learn another language, you will no doubt **stick with it**.

词汇表

open doors	打开（各种机会的）大门
linguistic	语言的
evening class	夜校
textbook	课本，教科书
accessible	容易获取的，可得到的
virtual teacher	虚拟教师
cash in	从……中捞到钱财
course	课程
Esperanto	世界语
classroom	教室，课堂
get your head round (something)	理解、弄懂（复杂的事情）
peer support	同学之间互相支持
spell the end	预示某事结束
teaching	教学
degree	学位
resource	资源
committed	（态度）坚定的，投入的
motivation	积极性，动力
stick with it	坚持下去

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, where can you take a 'virtual teacher'?

2. Name a language you might not be able to learn in a traditional classroom.

3. What might motivate you to keep on using a language-learning app?

4. True or false? *According to Guy Baron from Aberystwyth University, apps should be excluded from traditional classroom lessons.*

5. When should you use a learning-language app?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. You're a great cook, so why not do some baking and _____ on the craze for eating fancy cupcakes?

| cash-up | cash-out | cash-in | cash-it |

2. I'm _____ to getting fit this year, so I've taken up cycling.

| motivation | committed | accessible | conversational |

3. The school has limited _____, so could you share your text books with a friend?

| courses | resources | classrooms | peer support |

4. The rise in mp3 players and music streaming _____ for CDs.

| spelling the end | spelled ending | spelled the end | spell the end |

5. Her great stage show has _____ for her in the movie industry.

| motivation | stick with it | accessible | opened doors |

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, where can you take a 'virtual teacher'?

If you have a smartphone, you can have a virtual teacher with you wherever you go.

2. Name a language you might not be able to learn in a traditional classroom.

Esperanto, Elvish and Star Trek's Klingon, are lessons you might not find in a traditional classroom.

3. What might motivate you to keep on using a language-learning app?

If you have a genuine and practical reason to learn another language, you will probably be more motivated to keep using an app.

4. True or false? *According to Guy Baron from Aberystwyth University, apps should be excluded from traditional classroom lessons.*

False. Apps should be used alongside traditional classroom methods, not to the *exclusion* of traditional teaching.

5. When should you use a learning-language app?

Apps allow you to fit learning around other commitments – so therefore at any time that suits you.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. You're a great cook, so why not do some baking and **cash-in** on the craze for eating fancy cupcakes?

2. I'm **committed** to getting fit this year, so I've taken up cycling.

3. The school has limited **resources**, so could you share your text books with a friend?

4. The rise in mp3 players and music streaming **spelled the end** for CDs.

5. Her great stage show has **opened doors** for her in the movie industry.