

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – The global village (1'50 min)

You are going to hear a recording about a Hungarian town called *Boly* and its attitude towards new technologies.

I) Before listening, read the list of vocabulary below:

Vocabulary:

a global village	the whole world is connected via the Internet
to be wired	to be connected with cables
free of charge	not having to pay
mayor	the head of the city
delayed play mode	a system which makes it possible to record TV shows without a VCR
information flow	(here:) online communication
ahead of the technology curve	highly (technically) developed
the fabric of the town	the makeup of the population
a minority	a group of different people within the normal population (Minderheit)
foreign channels	TV programs in other languages
following the fall of Communism	after the Communist era
zippy	very fast
the fiber-optic option	very fast broadband internet connections

II) Now listen to the recording twice; take notes while listening and then summarize the text, answering all the questions below IN YOUR SUMMARY:

1. Do many people in Boly use the internet?
 2. What do TVs and the internet have to do with each other?
 3. Why has the town of Boly not introduced delayed play mode in their local network yet?
 4. Which plans does the health service management have for Boly's internet network?
 5. Why has the technical development been so fast in Boly?
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Transcript:

Technology may have helped to turn the world into a global village, but it's also turning this Hungarian village into a more close-knit community. Boly is wired in both the figurative and literal sense. Most of its 3 800 residents have a very fast connection to the internet – 10 megabits per second – and they don't like to discuss the way things were before.

- You cannot even compare it with the old system. This one is incredibly faster.

Boly residents are also connected to each other's homes so town's folk can phone each other free of charge. They can also surf the internet on their TVs thanks to a set-top box, which is the local standard. Mayor Josef Harr says the local area network is making a big difference in the way things are done around here.

- There will be a video library. We would also like to operate the channels with delayed-play mode, but there we need to clarify the copyright issues. There are some very interesting ideas about information flow. For example, the health service management here is thinking about how we can allow local doctors to send a message to elderly sick people on their TV screens asking whether they've taken their medicine.

The reason Boly is so far ahead of the technology curve relates to the fabric of the town. It has a very strong German-speaking minority, and when foreign channels first appeared following the fall of communism, a good deal of the population was very keen to access German TV channels. But with a third of households hooking up to broadband via cable, the local internet became as slow as sludge. That's when the zippy fiber-optic option was taken, opening up a world of possibilities.

Vocabulary in depth:

to turn sth. into sth.	Technology has turned the world into a global village.	etwas in etwas anderes verwandeln
village	A village is usually smaller than a town or a city.	Dorf
close-knit community	Boly is a very close-knit community . The residents organize many events together.	wörtl: eng verstrickte (Dorf-)Gemeinschaft
wired	We're living in a wired world: everyone has access to the internet.	vernetzt, verkabelt
the way things were before	I don't want to talk about the way things were before .	wie es früher war
compare sth. with sth.	You cannot compare apples with pears.	etwas mit etwas anderem vergleichen
town's folk (= residents)	Usually, town's folk go to church every Sunday.	Dorfbewohner
free of charge	You can call local numbers free of charge .	kostenlos
set-top box	With a set-top box , you can receive many different TV programs and surf on the internet.	hier: TV-Modem
to make a big difference	The new director of the company is making a big difference in the way the company works.	große Veränderungen bringen
delayed-play mode	With delayed-play mode , you can choose at which time you want to watch a TV program.	zeitversetzte Ausstrahlung von TV Sendungen
clarify an issue	We need to clarify some important issues .	ein Thema abklären
to be far ahead of sth.	The industrial world is far ahead of developing countries.	etw./jmd. weit voraus sein
technology curve	The technology curve is developing rapidly.	technische Entwicklung
relate to	The problem relates to his poor education.	zusammenhängen mit
the fabric of the town	The fabric of the town is homogenous.	Zusammensetzung der Dorfbevölkerung
foreign channels	I like watching foreign channels to improve my language skills.	TV-Sender aus dem Ausland
a good deal of	A good deal of the Dutch speaks English.	ein Großteil
to be keen to do sth.	I am very keen to watch the new film.	sehr interessiert an etwas
to hook up to	A third of the population hooked up to the internet.	<i>bildl</i> : eine Verbindung herstellen, „andocken“

Grammar – Tenses:

Present Simple or Progressive?



- 1. My office computer (have) _____ access to the internet.
- 2. At the moment, I (work) _____ on my computer.
- 3. I (use) _____ the internet to read my e-mail every day.
- 4. - Where (be) _____ the secretary? I must ask her something.
- She (talk) _____ on the phone now, but she'll be free in a minute.

Past Simple or Progressive?

- 5. Last week, I (buy) _____ a new computer.
- 6. I (pick) _____ it up from the store and (bring) _____ it to the office.
- 7. While I (install) _____ the software, my secretary (disconnect) _____ the old computer.
- 8. I (surf) _____ the internet when suddenly the phone (ring) _____.

Present Perfect or Past simple?

- 9. I (have) _____ my computer (seit 3 Jahren) _____.
- 10. The internet company (make) _____ an interesting offer (vor 3 Tagen) _____.
- 11. (Seit Donnerstag) _____, the internet connection (not work) _____.
- 12. My secretary (already – call) _____ the help line.

Questions & Negation: Ask for the underlined words and write a negative answer:

I went to the computer store yesterday.
When did you go to the computer store _____?
I didn't go to the computer store yesterday _____.

13. William works in a big computer company.
 _____?
 _____.

14. The internet has changed business correspondence completely.
 _____?
 _____.

15. A modern notebook computer costs about \$1000.
 _____?
 _____.

16. The teenagers are talking on their mobile phones.
 _____?
 _____.

17. He found his great love in an online-chat.
 _____?
 _____.

18. She was smiling because she liked the picture.
 _____?
 _____.