

Mohamed Khider Biskra University

Department of English

Lecture: Reading comprehension

Instructor: M. Zeghdoud.

Text: Smartphone Apps for Travelers

Before You Read Applications

A. Think about answers to the following questions.

1. Do you use apps on your phone? If so, which ones?
2. Look at this list of different kinds of apps. Circle the apps you would be interested in using.

Cooking	games	sports	_____
Business	photos	movies	_____
Planning	travel	foreign language	_____

B. Discuss your answers with a partner. Together, think of three more kinds of apps to complete the box.

A. Scan the passage on the next page to find the words in bold below. Read the content around the words and make inferences about the meanings. Circle the best answer to complete each statement.

1. **Translates** probably means _____
 - a. changes the language
 - b. speaks to you
 - c. plays music
2. **Frequent** probably means _____
 - a. rare
 - b. never
 - c. often
- 3 **Combines** probably means _____
 - a. takes apart
 - b. puts together
 - c. moves away from
- 4 What is an example of **travel confirmation documents** ?
 - a. homework
 - b. airline reservation. email
 - c. a travel journal
5. Which sentence below has the same meaning as a *guidebook typically helps you only in places the average tourist goes*?
 - a. A guidebook *usually* helps you only in places the average tourist goes.
 - b. A guidebook *never* helps you in places the average tourist goes.

**Reading Skill
Making Inferences**
When we make inferences, we look at the information that the writer states directly and use it to make guesses about information that the writer has left out. Making inferences is important because sometimes the writer doesn't tell us everything. By making inferences we can be active readers and understand more.

- c. A guidebook *always* helps you in places the average tourist goes.

B. Read the entire article carefully. Then answer the questions.

Smartphone Apps for Travelers

Traveling soon? Smartphone apps make traveling easier than ever. Unfortunately, with thousands of new travel-related apps to choose from each month, it can take a long time to figure out which applications are truly helpful. Here are three apps that will definitely make your next trip abroad a little easier.

Talk to Me

*Say au revoir*¹ to language phrase books² after **downloading** the Talk to Me Smartphone app. This is a great tool for anyone visiting a foreign country. **It** works like a translator in your pocket! When you speak into the phone in English, it **translates** what you are saying into the language you select. You can choose between English, Chinese, French, Spanish, German, and Italian. This app is useful for the everyday needs of tourists and business travelers. It's also great for **frequent** travelers and language learners.

Tripit

Are you always looking for your travel information when it's time to check in for your flight? Tripit **combines** all of your travel **confirmation** documents, such as hotel room bookings, into one travel itinerary. Users send their travel-related emails to Tripit, and the app turns it into an easy-to-use itinerary with a calendar. Tripit also **prepares** maps and weather information for the places on your itinerary.

Cityseekr

Imagine being able to find whatever you need, no matter where you are! A map easily becomes outdated, and a guidebook **typically** helps you only in places the average tourist goes. What you need on your trip is an app that will tell you where the **locals** go. Want to find a great sushi place in Singapore? Morning coffee in Barcelona? A tailor in Mexico City? The Cityseekr app helps you find these places. It uses information created by Singaporeans, Spanish, Mexicans, and people from other popular tourist cities, to give advice on restaurants, gas stations, shops, landmarks, and more.

¹ Say **au revoir** when you want to say "goodbye" in French.

² A **phrase book** is a book to help travelers speak another language

Reading Comprehension

Check Your Understanding

A. Choose the correct answers for the following questions.

- 1. Why can it take a long time to find a good travel app?
 - a. There are so many to choose from.
 - b. Many of them are hard to use.
 - c. They are only available for one month.
2. Why does the author tell readers to say *au revoir* to language phrase books after getting Talk to Me?
 - a. Talk to Me is much better than language phrase books.
 - b. Language phrase books will no longer be printed.
 - c. Talk to Me will teach you the meaning of *au revoir*.
3. What does **it** refer to in the text?
 - a. the smartphone
 - b. a foreign land
- 4 **Locals** refers to people who _____
 - a. live and work in the area
 - b. create maps and guidebooks
 - c. created the CitySeekr app

B. Read the following sentences. Check (✓) the app(s) that best match(es) each sentence. You may check more than one app.

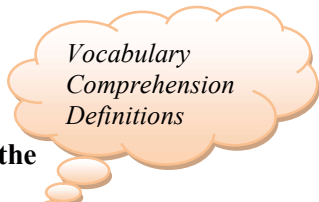
This app is for people who, ...	Talk to Me	Tripit	CitySeekr
1. are visiting a country for the first time			
2. want to find cool shops and restaurants			
3. want to order a meal in another language			
4. want all their travel information in one place			
5. are going on a short business trip			



Critical Thinking

C. Discuss the following questions with a partner.

- 1 Would you use a travel app instead of a guidebook? Why, or why not?
- 2 How else has technology changed how we travel?



Vocabulary Comprehension Definitions

A Match each word with its definition. The words in blue are from the passage.

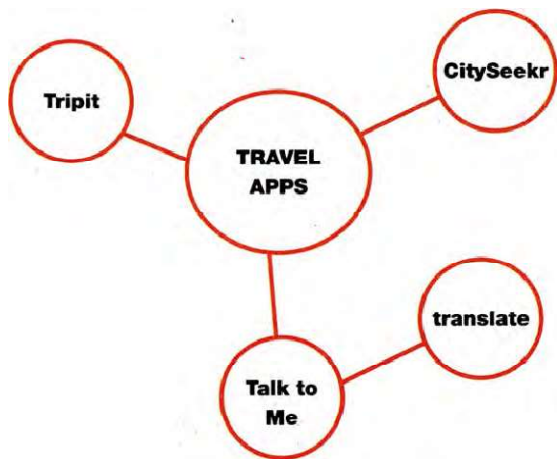
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 download | a to put together or make |
| 2 translate | b to change into a different language |
| 3 frequent | c to blend; to mix together |
| 4 confirmation | d to get a file from the Internet |
| 5 combine | e to think about something that isn't real |
| 6 typically | f making sure of something |
| 7 prepare | g often |
| 8 imagine | h normally |

B. Answer the following questions, then discuss your answers with a partner. The words in blue are from the passage.

1. Describe a typical day in your life.
2. What skills do you think a translator needs?
3. Do you download things over the Internet? Give some examples.
4. What would you prepare before you go on a trip?

A. Create a word web about apps. Use words in the box and other words from this text. Explain your diagram to a partner.

Apps frequent locals information
Documents calendar combines
guidebooks
translate food documents itinerary
confirmation prepare language easy-
to-use



Vocabulary Skill Word Webs

A helpful way to remember new vocabulary is to create a *word web*. Word webs can help you to link the new words you have learned to vocabulary you already know. It can also be used to identify the main ideas in the passage and help you create a summary

- Do you think that new technologies make our lives better? If so, in what ways?