Topic 11

Task I: Talking about a topic

In this first task you are going to give a short talk on a topic. You should talk about only 3 or 4 of the points suggested. The talk should last from 3 to 4 minutes. When the teacher signals you to stop, you should bring your talk to a conclusion. At the end of your talk your companion will comment briefly on something you have said. You should not interrupt your companion during his/her talk, but at the end of your companion’s talk you should also make a brief comment.

Topic 11: Scientific and Medical Research

‘All of the biggest technological inventions created by man — the airplane, the automobile, the computer — say little about his intelligence, but speak volumes about his laziness.’ (Mark Kennedy, an American politician).

‘There have been three great inventions since the beginning of time: fire, the wheel, and central banking.’ (Will Rogers, an American comedian).

- What do you think the world will be like a hundred years from now?
- In what ways has technology improved our lives and in what ways has it made it worse?
- The controversy over therapeutic cloning research.
- What’s the best invention in history? and the worst?
- If you were to go back to the 19th century, is there anything from the present age that you couldn’t live without?
- Are there some things that should never have been invented?
- If you could contribute something to science or medicine, what would you do and why?
- How has science helped people to have children? What do you think of this?