

## CD音声(イントロダクション)スクリプト

CDに収録された各テーマの英文前に流れる短いイントロダクションのスクリプトです。

### 歴史・文化

#### 1 William Bligh

④ [CD1 2]

The passage is about a captain named William Bligh, and a rebellion that occurred on a naval ship. There was a difference between two accounts of the event. One was an account published by the captain, while the other began as a campaign by those on the side of the mutineers, greatly affecting the captain's reputation. Historical records now show us that the truth may be somewhere in between.

#### 2 Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations

④ [CD1 4]

In 1918, the President of the U.S. gave a speech to Congress that encouraged the nations of the world to change the way they practiced diplomacy. He believed that the traditional forms of diplomacy practiced by the nations of Europe had led to World War I, a catastrophe that at the time of the speech was destroying much of the world. Let's listen to the passage and see what his idea was about.

#### 3 An Enigma from Crete

④ [CD1 6]

Technology in the ancient world was very advanced. This passage describes the archaeological discovery that a notable example of ancient technology was far ahead of its time. The artifact, which dates from around 1700 B.C., seems to be an example of movable type, which wasn't officially invented until nearly 2000 years later. Can you imagine why the invention didn't spread beyond the place where it was invented?

#### 4 Looking at Neanderthals in a New Light

④ [CD1 8]

What do you think about Neanderthals? Traditionally, we have thought of them as having been carnivorous brutes. Let's listen to this passage about new information on this subject. Recent discoveries about Neanderthals force us to reconsider our perceptions of them. This new evidence proves that they ate foods containing starch and carbohydrates as well. Their knowledge of plants was very sophisticated. There is evidence that Neanderthals also ate certain bitter tasting plants. Can you catch what this information implies?

#### 5 The Origins of the Summer Olympics

④ [CD1 10]

Now, we are going to learn about the history of the Olympic Games. The games took place once every four years in an idyllic village in Greece. In addition to athletic competitions, there were various types of entertainment to distract the boisterous crowds. While there were strict rules the competitors had to follow, there were also many instances of cheating and corruption. Listen to some examples of these.

## 6 Shark Teeth Used to Identify Biodiversity Loss ⑨ [CD1 12]

Large amounts of shark fishing have been going on near the Gilbert Islands for more than a hundred years. In order to learn about the changing size of shark populations, scientists had to find a new way to gather evidence. This passage explains an ingenious method a scientist used to learn about these ancient shark populations. What kind of method did he use? What tools did he use to gather the information? Let's listen.

## 7 New Human Species Found ⑨ [CD1 14]

The recent discovery of ancient skulls has given us a clearer picture of human evolution. The specimens, which are around two million years old, are notable as they show physiological differences from *Homo erectus*, who were distant ancestors of modern humans. They verify Dr. Richard Leaky's theories about human evolution. Before the discovery, some scientists doubted his claims, but the new evidence seems to have swayed them.

## 8 Lost Civilization of the Sahara ⑨ [CD1 16]

This passage discusses the recent discovery of several fortresses in the deserts of Libya, built by an ancient civilization indigenous to northern Africa. Not much is known about these ancient people, but this discovery has greatly increased our knowledge. They had an excellent grasp of metallurgy, pottery and textiles as well as agricultural techniques. Let's listen and try to catch the reason why this advanced culture died out.

## 9 Celebrating Mexico's Cinco de Mayo — in America ⑨ [CD1 18]

Have you heard of Cinco de Mayo? It's a famous holiday that is widely considered to be primarily Mexican, yet Americans celebrate it far more consistently and enthusiastically, even if they don't understand what it commemorates. The holiday, which celebrates a military victory over the French, came to prominence in America in the 1950s and 1960s. Can you hear who wanted to make the holiday more famous, and why it was promoted?

## 10 Viking Community Discovered in Germany ⑨ [CD1 20]

Recently a lost settlement of Vikings in Denmark was unearthed. The settlement was believed to have been called Sliasthorp, and was described in ancient historical texts. It was probably used by an ancient Viking leader to stop the spread of the Frankish Empire. Historians believe that the base was used to control international trade in the region as well. Can you catch why it was so hard for others to attack the settlement?

### 11 The Forerunner of Stonehenge

9 [CD1 22]

Stonehenge is very famous, but there is an ancient temple complex in Northern Britain that was built much earlier than that. This passage talks about what scientists can learn from excavations at the temple complex. These excavations have just begun, but should give researchers a clearer picture of how the ancient people of Britain lived and worshipped in the Neolithic age. Researchers believe that the religious patterns established here later spread to other parts of Britain.

### 12 Where Exactly Did Native Americans Come From?

9 [CD1 24]

Using DNA evidence, scientists may finally be able to pinpoint the region of Asia that the first inhabitants of North America once came from. The researchers believe that the native Americans came from Siberia's Altay Mountains, and migrated to America roughly 15,000 years ago. Genome mapping shows that both Native Americans and the people of the Altay Mountains share a genetic mutation in their DNA. Other researchers say that this hypothesis might not be conclusive, however. When you listen, can you catch why some scientists doubt this conclusion?

### 13 The Gobi's Great Wall

9 [CD1 26]

A recent discovery shows that the Great Wall of China was much longer than suspected. Remnants of the wall were discovered by anthropologists using pictures taken by satellites. Radiocarbon dating shows that this section of the wall was built around 1100 A.D., probably by Chinese emperors. The discovery has caused some controversy, however. Let's listen to the passage and try to understand why some people are unhappy with this news.

### 14 The Independent Basque Culture

9 [CD1 28]

Do you know the Basque people? They live in a region adjacent to the Pyrenees Mountains, on the border of France and Spain. This passage talks about the history of the Basque people. Their culture is distinctive, and their language is unique. They have worked hard over the years to retain their independence. Can you catch what they did as a result of repression? Can you hear what the result of their actions was?

### 15 The Great Mayan Mix-Up

9 [CD1 30]

Did you hear about what was supposed to happen at the end of 2012? This passage talks about two cultures, the Mayans and the Aztecs, and how modern people came to believe that the world would come to a cataclysmic end in the year 2012. It describes how people confused an artifact from one ancient culture and the apocalyptic visions of another ancient culture. Let's listen to the passage.

## 16 The Birth of Earth Day

④ [CD1 32]

This passage describes the reasoning behind the selection of the date, and rumors about Earth Day. It additionally addresses how a U.S. Senator, who was tired of waiting for apathetic colleagues to act on environmental issues, linked up with like-minded activists to increase public awareness of the problems. When you listen, can you catch what kinds of problems the environmental movement faces these days?

社会·经济

## 1 The Future of Farming

④ [CD1 34]

There are so many people on the planet now. To feed them all will be quite difficult. We are running out of land to grow food! How can we solve this problem? Traditional farming uses too much water, and consumes excessive amounts of energy. Many people are unhappy with the idea of genetically engineered food, because it could be dangerous. In this passage, you will hear about the situation, along with a potential solution. Can you explain what that solution is?

## 2 The Story of Babar

④ [CD1 38]

Once, the most famous elephant in the world was Babar, a fictional French character who had his first absurd adventure in the 1930s. These days, he is still well known, but not appreciated. Some people dislike the message behind the stories he appeared in. In this passage, you will hear from critics of Babar, as well as people who disagree with those critics. Can you summarize the arguments made by both sides?

## 3 New York's Teacher Trap ①

④ [CD1 38]

Can you imagine a room full of teachers with no students? Why are they there? This passage describes what happens to teachers in New York City when they get in trouble. They are removed from their classrooms and sent to sit in these strange rooms, waiting to be reinstated. Now, you will hear about the situation, and learn more about how the schools deal with these teachers.

## 4 New York's Teacher Trap ②

④ [CD1 40]

Some people are unhappy with the system that protects teachers from being fired. They want to be able to fire unfit teachers more easily, and replace them with better teachers. Of course, the situation is more complicated. This passage continues to describe the situation in New York City, and why reform is proving so difficult to achieve. As you listen, make a note of some of the myriad factors affecting education in the city. Can you summarize them?

## 5 America's Gun Debate

Ⓔ [CD1 42]

Americans have been given the right to carry arms in the Second Amendment. However, gun control legislation has been proposed, in the wake of some violent incidents. One Supreme Court Justice has decried pro-gun special interest groups, which still exist to fight anti-gun laws. Ultimately, as even the Supreme Court has passed verdicts on laws that contradict previous ones, being against guns has proven to be moot, as the final outcome has always been to grant the right to bear arms.

## 6 The Financially Fortunate Have Fewer Children

Ⓔ [CD1 44]

Rich people do not have as many children as poor people. Why is this? Some biologists are now trying to find the answer. In nature, the most dominant members of a species have the most offspring, but the fertility rate of affluent humans seems to show that there is a different reproductive strategy at work. This passage describes that strategy. Can you summarize what you hear?

## 7 The Joy of Giving

Ⓔ [CD1 46]

How can you use money to make yourself happy? The answer may surprise you: give the money to other people. This passage describes an experiment in which people are given a small amount of money, along with instructions on how to spend it. The experiment indicates that philanthropy may be one key to happiness. As you listen, make a note of the stipulations given. How did the instructions differ between the groups in the experiment?

## 8 The New Info-States

Ⓔ [CD1 48]

In this passage, you will hear about how the cities of the world are changing in the 21st century. It discusses two current trends, the renaissance of cities and the growth of technology. The people of the world's cities are even identifying themselves differently than they might have in the past. As you listen, make a note of how these factors are changing cities. What cities are mentioned? How is technology integrated into them?

## 9 How Billionaires Back Out of Debt

Ⓔ [CD1 50]

Do you have debt payments that you cannot keep up with? If you are very rich, you probably have many options to deal with the problem. For anyone who is not rich, one of the only options is to file for bankruptcy, though not all debts can be forgiven. In this passage, you will hear about the many options the very rich have when they need to solve money problems. What kind of options do they have? Can you explain how these options work?

## 10 India's Coal Crisis

9 [CD1 52]

What powers India's utility grid? The answer is something a little filthy: coal. Now, India struggles to provide enough power for its burgeoning economy, and millions of Indians don't have access to the power grid. In this passage, you will hear plans about one major conglomerate's plans to improve India's energy supply, and the controversy it has provoked. What problems do you hear described? What criticisms are mentioned?

## 11 Unreliable User Reviews

9 [CD1 54]

Can you trust online reviews of products and services? More and more people are beginning to think that they cannot. On many websites, owners fabricate reviews. These counterfeit reviews can make consumers think the product or service is good, though it may not be. In this passage, you will hear more details about online reviews. As you listen, make a note of what types of businesses they discuss. How did researchers determine the reviews were probably fake? Why do these businesses use these tactics?

## 12 Safeguarding Your Motivation

9 [CD1 56]

When you consider taking a new job, what do you think about? Many people would say salary and job title. However, new research suggests that they should consider workplace environments as well. In this passage, you will hear about experiments done to study workplace motivation. They found that the people around a worker exerted a very big influence. However, the workers were blind to this. The passage describes some of the positive and negative consequences of this fact. What are these consequences?

## 13 Global Poverty at a Low

9 [CD1 58]

The economic crisis of 2008 was the world's worst since the Great Depression, but how did the poorest people in the world fare? Some people assumed that the situation would have affected impoverished people in developing countries very badly. However, looking at figures from the past few years, we see that incomes in very poor countries have continued to increase. Incidences of extreme poverty are declining. As you listen to the passage, make notes about why this is.

## 14 Britain at the Brink

9 [CD1 60]

When you think of third world countries, what do you see? Two British journalists are saying something surprising. They believe that Britain will have a third world economy in 2014. In this passage, you will hear a description of a book written by the two journalists, and an analysis of their ideas. The writer thinks some of their ideas are wrong, and others are right. As you listen, make a note of the opinions you hear. Can you summarize them?

## 15 Banned Gas Emboldens Smugglers

9 [CD2 2]

The world took a big step towards protecting the environment when it made the coolant gas HCFC-22 illegal. However, these ordinances only cover the developed world. In other parts of the world, companies still rely on the gas to power their cooling devices. In this passage, you will hear about what some people in the developed world do to get the contraband chemical. Why are more and more people breaking the law to become smugglers of this illegal gas?

## 16 Blaming the Bankers

9 [CD2 4]

How many bankers is too many bankers? Some people believe America has too many bankers, and that they caused the recent economic downturn. They want to shrink the financial sector through new regulatory policies. The International Monetary Fund had a similar idea. In this passage, you will hear more about this situation, and the suggestion to shrink the financial sector. They believe that some bankers make too much money. Can you summarize their ideas?

## 17 Globalization's Changing Trends

9 [CD2 6]

There is good news for American workers. It seems that the trend of outsourcing is finally starting to wane. This means more jobs for Americans, who have seen their options decline with increasing deregulation. In recent years, many jobs were sent overseas, to call-centers, for example. In this passage, you will hear about the reasons for this decline in outsourcing. As you listen, make a note of the reasons you hear. Can you summarize them?

### 科学·技術

## 1 Shark Reproduction

9 [CD2 8]

What kind of animals can make a baby without mating? One surprising answer is "sharks." Scientists have recently found incidences of asexual reproduction in sharks, meaning a female shark does not need a male shark if she wants to have babies. Until recently, scientists thought sharks might be able to do this. Now, they have found proof. Asexual reproduction causes some problems, however. When you listen to this passage, can you make a note of these problems?

## 2 Guilty Until Proven Innocent?

9 [CD2 10]

These days, scientists are not the only people concerned with DNA. For example, DNA testing is now a very important part of identifying criminals. The opposite is also true: DNA evidence can be used to save people from being punished for crimes they did not commit. People are beginning to realize how common mistaken convictions are in America. In this passage, you will hear more about this subject. How many people have been exonerated using DNA evidence?

### 3 The World Turned Upside Down?

9 [CD2 12]

Have you ever heard of the magnetosphere? It is the magnetic field that surrounds our planet and protects us from various cosmic dangers. Recently, scientists have noticed something strange about it. It has been getting weaker. They think it is much weaker than it was 2,000 years ago. In this passage, you will hear more about how scientists think the magnetosphere is generated, and what might happen when it collapses. Take notes about this information.

### 4 Beware of the Robots

9 [CD2 14]

The Industrial Revolution was a time of great change in the world. Now, we are about to experience another major change, the robot revolution. Robots are considered to be better workers than people. For instance, they are more nimble, and less likely to get tired. However, like the Industrial Revolution, this new era will cause some traumatic problems for human workers. This passage will explain a bit more about the situation. What does it say about potential problems?

### 5 The Internet as a Social Revolution

9 [CD2 16]

When the Internet first started becoming widely available, many experts predicted it would change history. So far, it has. The world has embraced it. But as the public becomes savvier, institutions like governments and large corporations are beginning to struggle with controlling information. In this passage, you will hear more information about how the spread of information has changed in the digital era. Make a note of these challenges, and what governments have come out with to regain control.

### 6 How the Moon May Have Sunk the Titanic

9 [CD2 18]

What sank the Titanic? Most people would say "an iceberg." Did you know one man actually blames the moon? An astronomer believes that a "supermoon" caused unusually high tides, which led to the wreck and its 1,500 fatalities. In this passage, you will hear more about his theory. Listen to the passage, and make a note of what a "supermoon" is. Can you understand how this phenomenon led to the sinking of the ship?

### 7 Technological Innovation in Africa

9 [CD2 20]

Africa is not known for its innovations. Now, some young Africans are trying to create startups for smart young people to invent and innovate, and change the future of Africa. One project involves using accessible technology like the mobile phone to make health information more accessible to Africans in isolated areas. Now, listen to the passage. Can you catch how the health project works? Can you describe some other projects happening in Africa?



## 8 Cloned Olympic Horses a Possibility

Ⓔ [CD2 22]

If you clone a champion horse, will the new horse become a champion as well? This question is currently being debated. Now, cloned horses are banned from racing in the Olympics and other competitions. However, this will change in the future. Some people want to keep the prohibition, because they believe that duplicating championship horses is unfair. In this passage, you'll hear arguments from both sides. What are the arguments?

## 9 Designing Super-Fuel-Efficient Cars

Ⓔ [CD2 24]

Car engines are very old technology. Do you know exactly how old? 130 years! The internal combustion engine is not a very efficient design, because over 66 percent of energy put into it is lost. Now, engineers are trying to improve these engines and increase gas mileage. This passage talks about a new design that will enhance efficiency by as much as 50 percent. As you listen to the passage, make a note of how HCCI differs from the engines we use now.

## 10 Sending Messages Across the Universe

Ⓔ [CD2 26]

What do you know about the quest for alien life? Some scientists have been sending signals out into the universe using radio waves and lasers, hoping that aliens receive them. Now, some scientists are suggesting a new way to communicate with the people of outer space. They suggest using neutrinos, as these easily pass through obstructions such as space debris. In this passage, you will hear more about this plan. Can you catch why neutrinos are better than photons?

## 11 A Unique Life Form on Earth Not So Unique After All

Ⓔ [CD2 28]

How many times did life start on earth? Was there actually a "second genesis"? Some scientists think they can prove that there was by studying bizarre life forms with a unique composition. One scientist found a strange life form in 2010, and believes it could be evidence of this second genesis. In this passage, you will hear about her discovery, and why other scientists disagree with her conclusion. Where was this unusual creature found?

## 12 Intelligent Skyscrapers

Ⓔ [CD2 30]

What must you consider when designing a skyscraper? These days, there are many things architects need to factor in. For example, more and more buildings are designed to be green, and the technology is amazing! Some new buildings have the ability to extract condensation from outside and use it for cooling. In this passage, you will hear more about what architects need to think about when working on such projects. Can you hear the other factors that are mentioned?

### 13 Spray-on Batteries

📍 [CD2 32]

Can you imagine a battery you can spray on with a can? Well, it has just been invented. A team of scientists has created a battery in an aerosol can. Normal batteries consist of five layers of materials that make electricity by synchronizing together. This aerosol battery uses the same principle. This passage explains more about this invention, and also talks about similar projects others are working on. Can you catch what those other projects are?

### 14 A Breakthrough in the Microwave Laser

📍 [CD2 34]

Do you know what a “maser” is? It’s something like a laser, but much less powerful. Research into masers was abandoned a long time ago, because lasers were more promising. However, one scientist went back to old research about masers and found an interesting hypothesis that had not been tested. When he tested it, he found something amazing. In this passage, you will hear about his experiment. Can you catch what he discovered?

### 15 Sugar Floating in Outer Space

📍 [CD2 36]

Where can you find sugar? Donuts, ice cream, and ... outer space?! One scientist has announced that his team has found molecules of sugar in space. The sugar, which is actually an organic molecule, is floating about 400 light years from Earth, in a gaseous cloud near a star. In this passage, you will find out more about this discovery. Does this help prove the existence of alien life? If not, what does it tell us?

### 16 Copying Nature’s Designs

📍 [CD2 38]

Some people believe the world’s greatest inventor is Mother Nature. So, they look at her designs and try to copy them. Why is this? Life forms are actually the result of billions of years of evolution, and many of their functions are almost perfect. This passage describes “biomimicry,” a relatively new term for an old branch of engineering. You will hear about the history of biomimicry, and about a few famous old and new designs. Can you catch what inspired these designs?

#### 環境・食糧

### 1 Fog Forests

📍 [CD2 40]

Do you know how plants feed themselves? Most plants drink water through their roots, which also help them take in nutrients. This passage describes some plants that have an unusual way of getting enough water in areas where the soil is very poor. These plants can get their water from the fog that rolls in every day from the ocean. This passage describes how these plants thrive. Can you catch where they live?

## 2 A Toxic Legacy

9 [CD2 42]

Nuclear power plants are common, but sometimes they leave behind a big mess of nuclear waste. This passage is about a site in Washington state that is one of the most contaminated places in the world. Radioactive material was dumped carelessly, and the environment was seriously damaged. Now, you'll hear some more information about the site and the plan to clean it up. You'll also hear about some problems that have occurred. Can you hear what those problems are?

## 3 Second-guessing Mother Nature

9 [CD2 44]

Climate change is causing some plants and animals to go extinct. What can be done to protect these species? It's a tough problem, but some scientists have a new tactic to prevent calamities like this from happening. They call it "assisted migration," and it involves moving endangered plants and animals to new, more hospitable places. In this passage, you will hear about some places where this technique is being used.

## 4 LEDs May Color the Night Sky Blue

9 [CD2 46]

Discussions about pollution usually concern chemicals dirtying the air we breathe. Another type of pollution, which isn't discussed nearly as often, is light pollution, also called "skyglow." Light pollution is artificial light which illuminates areas which aren't supposed to be illuminated. While the harmful effects of incandescent light on nocturnal animals have been well documented, scientists are also worried that the recent increase in energy-saving LED light may have an even worse effect.

## 5 Raising Venice

9 [CD2 48]

When people talk about the most romantic cities in the world, Venice is usually near the top of the list. However, Venice might soon sink. There are two major factors causing this, and now experts are trying to think of ways to alleviate these problems and save the city. One problem is rising sea levels. The second problem is a result of some groundwater pumping that was done in the last century. Some hydraulic engineers think they have a solution, however. What is this solution?

## 6 Pythons Pose a Danger to Florida Habitat

9 [CD2 50]

Some people like cats, others like dogs. Some people even like giant snakes! In Florida, a number of pet pythons have escaped from their homes and entered the Everglades national park, where they have had babies and grown very large eating native species. The snakes have established themselves in the park, and it will be nearly impossible to kill them. Snakes aren't the only invasive species to enter the ecosystem in Florida. The passage states how many others there are. Can you catch the number mentioned?

## 7 A New Threat to the Ozone Layer

9 [CD2 52]

Do you know about the ozone layer? It's important, because it protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays. It was in serious trouble from harmful chemicals made by man. People have tried to solve this problem, but now there is a new threat to the ozone layer. In this passage, you will hear about new problems the ozone layer will face, and how a damaged ozone layer will affect people. When you listen, try to make a note of these problems.

## 8 Global Warming May Increase Biodiversity

9 [CD2 54]

We have heard lots of bad news about global warming. However, is there some good news as well? While most say that global warming will be lethal for many different species, it may give many new species the chance to evolve. In this passage, we will hear about one scientist who believes that global warming may actually increase biological diversity in the long run. While you listen to the passage, can you hear why he thinks the initial assessments about biodiversity were unsound?

## 9 The Impending Menace of Antarctic Methane

9 [CD2 56]

What are some of the dangers of climate change? There are many, but one menace, frozen methane, is not so well known. Many tons of methane may be frozen under the ice of Antarctica. If the ice sheet melts, that methane will be released into the atmosphere. This could cause serious environmental problems for the entire planet. In this passage, you will hear more information about methane. Can you catch how much methane may be buried in Antarctica?

## 10 How Fresh Water Fortifies Hurricanes

9 [CD2 58]

This passage talks about a phenomenon that makes hurricanes, typhoons and other tropical storms stronger. The passage discusses "barrier levels," in places where fresh water meets salt water, such as where rivers meet oceans. The density of fresh and salt water is different, and the fresh water will sit on top of the salt water. When a tropical storm passes over one of these areas, it strengthens. Listen to the passage to learn more about this phenomenon.

## 11 How a Book Saved the Bald Eagle

9 [CD3 2]

Can a book save an entire species? In 1962, one book did just that. The bald eagle, the national symbol of America, was about to go extinct due to a synthetic insecticide called DDT. The book that described this situation was called *Silent Spring*, and it changed the way Americans thought about the environment. This passage describes some of the efforts made to save the bald eagle. As you listen, try to make a list of these efforts.

## 12 The Lure of Fatty Foods

9 [CD3 4]

What is your favorite snack? Is it healthy, or unhealthy? For many people, unhealthy foods are their first choice. This passage explains why people are lured by fatty foods such as pizza and ice cream. The passage describes the way our brains make decisions about what to eat, and how a second voice within us sometimes subverts our good decisions.

## 13 Nutrition Information Overload

9 [CD3 6]

Do you think it's good to know how many calories are in the food you are about to eat? Nutritionists believe information about nutritional value is crucial. Some cities have passed laws about this. However, some researchers have found that too much information about nutrition does not help people make healthy choices, and can actually be a bad thing sometimes. When you listen to the passage, make a note of why this is so.

## 14 Maine's Lobster Surplus

9 [CD3 8]

Lobsters are delicious, aren't they? One town in Maine, a state famous for its lobsters, has more lobsters than normal. However, this is actually bad news. This passage describes the effects of the record haul of crustaceans, and some gimmicks people are using to sell more. It's not just local people working on these promotions. The government is participating in these efforts as well. Listen to the passage, and make a note of the efforts you hear described.

### 医学·心理

## 1 Staying Clean

9 [CD3 10]

How often do you take a bath? These days, bathing is a daily event. In fact, more and more people are obsessed with cleanliness, and spending money on cleaning chemicals to sanitize their bodies and their living spaces. However, killing germs may actually be harmful for our health. This passage describes what many people do to get clean, and what this does to our health. When you listen, try to hear why this is so bad for us.

## 2 Thrills without Spills?

9 [CD3 12]

Some people love to be terrified. Why do they enjoy roller coasters and bungee jumping? It's a mystery that some scientists are now trying to solve. They are studying people who seek thrills out, in order to learn why they do this strange behavior. The answers are not yet clear, but this passage tells us about research that points to some possible explanations. When you listen, make a note of these theories. How many do you hear?

### 3 Big Risks in Tiny Technology

Ⓒ [CD3 14]

Nanotechnology is very tiny, but it is a business that is getting bigger every year. In 2008, \$150 billion worth of nanotechnology was sold. That number will only increase in the future. However, these microscopic particles may prove to be dangerous. Some people are worried that some of the characteristics that make these minute particles so useful can also make them toxic. In this passage, you will hear about some risks associated with nanotechnology. Can you catch what those risks are?

### 4 Two-Year Olds Copy Group Behavior

Ⓒ [CD3 16]

Have you ever done something just because the people around you were all doing it? That's peer pressure! Many people assume that peer pressure is something that teenagers suffer from. However, some scientists have found that children, toddlers, and even primates can be affected by peer pressure. Now, listen to the passage about peer pressure. You will hear a description of how scientists observed the effects of peer pressure on children. Can you describe what they observed?

### 5 Survival Strategies of Sheep

Ⓒ [CD3 18]

Do you consider sheep to be smart animals? Actually, they have a reputation for being stupid. However, now researchers are starting to realize that sheep are not as unreasoning as we thought. When something dangerous approaches a herd of sheep, they flock together, and each sheep attempts to scurry towards the middle of the group. In this passage, you will hear why scientists think this maneuvering is actually smart strategy. Can you understand why?

### 6 Why Intelligent People Are Often Insecure

Ⓒ [CD3 20]

Can praise affect your intelligence? A group of psychologists conducted an experiment on a group of children. In the test, some children who failed at a task blamed the failure on an innate deficiency in themselves, while other children saw their failures as a lack of self-discipline. Their opinion differed depending on the type of praise they received. One of these two groups dealt with failure better than the other. What type of praise did each group receive?

### 7 Ebola, A Mysterious Disease

Ⓒ [CD3 22]

Ebola is one of the most frightening diseases in the world. It is very contagious, and usually deadly. The symptoms are painful, yet hard to diagnose. This passage talks about the scientists who are trying to learn more about this nightmare disease from Africa. Ebola is not very well understood yet. In the passage, you will hear about some misconceptions about the disease, as well as some ideas about its origin. Can you hear which animals they suspect Ebola comes from?

## 8 New Breakthrough in DNA Research

Ⓔ (CD3 24)

So-called “junk DNA” got its name because scientists thought it didn’t actually do anything important for the human body. Junk DNA doesn’t produce proteins like other DNA does. However, recent research using decoded DNA has shown that this junk DNA isn’t actually junk at all – it has some very important functions. In this passage, you will learn about some of those functions. Can you hear what they are?

## 9 The Wide Perspective of Sports Psychologists

Ⓔ (CD3 26)

Famous athletes need coaches, and trainers. Who else do they need? Did you guess “psychologist”? If you did, you were right. These days, many famous athletes use psychologists to reach their performance pinnacle. The job of a sports psychologist is not an easy one, and it requires a lot of coordination between the athlete, the doctor, the team, and many others. In this passage, you’ll hear about some of the hindrances a psychologist must deal with. How many can you list?

## 10 The Benefits of Negativity

Ⓔ (CD3 28)

Are you an optimist, or a pessimist? Which is better to be? Some scientists have found that being a pessimist may actually have some advantages over being an optimist! Optimistic people, they say, have a more difficult time estimating bad things that may happen to them in the future. They also tend to become depressed when things turn out badly for them. This passage will explain some of the benefits of being a pessimist. When you listen, take notes about them.

## 11 Big Bonuses from Bilingualism

Ⓔ (CD3 30)

Some people believe that being bilingual is a bad thing. Can you think of why? These days, many researchers believe that being bilingual is actually quite an advantage. In this passage, you will hear about some neurological advantages of speaking more than one language, and how this ability rewires your brain. When you listen, take notes about these advantages. Can you summarize them?

## 12 Baring the Truth about Bear Intelligence

Ⓔ (CD3 32)

Are you smarter than a bear? Probably! Bears aren’t considered to be very smart, but new research shows they are among the smartest of all carnivores. Bears can use their big brains to complete tasks that are pretty complex. Cognitive scientists designed some tasks for bears to complete, and were a bit surprised by the results. In this passage, you will hear about those experiments. What were the bears able to do? Can you understand?

### 13 A New Cure with Old Roots

🎧 [CD3 34]

When we get sick, we often use antibiotics to make ourselves better. However, antibiotics are causing many new problems, such as vicious “superbugs,” and now people are looking for a new way to cure medical problems. In this passage, you’ll hear about a new medical intervention that is actually an old method involving the use of phage viruses. Listen to the passage. Can you understand how these viruses can actually help make people healthy?

### 14 The Significance of Sunburn

🎧 [CD3 36]

Sunburns can be the worst part of summer vacation. Did you know that our RNA plays a big part in healing sunburns? This passage explains how RNA helps us recuperate from this painful affliction, and how dermatologists used rats to learn this information. It is a complicated process. When you listen, make a note of the ways that RNA helps us when we are overexposed to the sun. Make a list, and see how many you can write down.

### 15 Disease Killing Animals Worldwide

🎧 [CD3 38]

Mushrooms are tasty, but some fungi can actually be deadly! In this passage, you will hear about how certain types of fungi have killed off many different types of plants and animals all over the world during the past 50 years. The passage describes how some fungi have caused problems for amphibians, and how others have damaged trees in California. In the passage, they mention the cause of the spread of these deadly fungi. Can you hear what that is?

### 16 Generating New Organs and Body Parts

🎧 [CD3 40]

In the future, if you even lose a limb, you may be able to simply grow a new one. How is this possible? In this passage, you will hear about new developments in regenerative medicine, an exciting type of biotechnology. You will hear about new technology that helps humans cure themselves. As you listen to the passage, make a note of the types of products that may be right around the corner for amputees and other patients.