

The 7 Steps -
April



1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.



Bitcoin

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

Listening Questions 1

1. How can people carry out a Bitcoin transaction?
_____.
2. What was the peak value of a Bitcoin in 2017?
_____.
3. What is the current limit of the number of Bitcoins to be circulated?
_____.
4. How can you receive a new Bitcoin?
_____.
5. Which area of the world are 'mining farms' concentrated in and why?
_____.

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

Listening Questions 2

1. What are two advantages of using Bitcoin?
_____.
2. What are 2 reasons why Bitcoin is considered a risky investment?
_____.
3. Why do hackers often use Bitcoin for cybercrimes?
_____.
4. What value of Bitcoin was stolen from Coincheck in January 2018?
_____.
5. Where do people often protect their Bitcoin keys?
_____.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

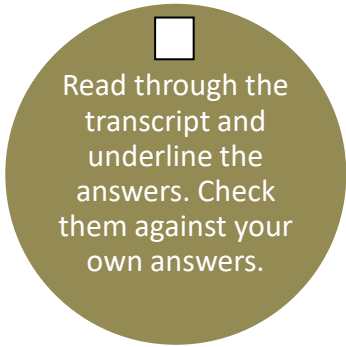
Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Discussion Questions

1. Are you interested in investing in cryptocurrencies after seeing all the exposure and success surrounding it?
2. Do you think Governments need to enforce stricter regulations concerning the use of cryptocurrencies?

TRANSCRIPT 1

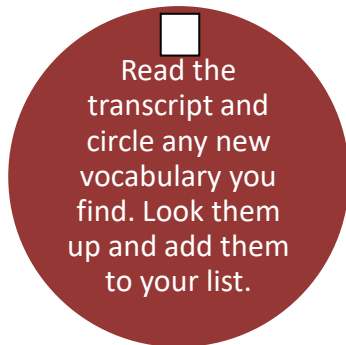
4. CHECK ANSWERS



Bitcoin is the first of the decentralized digital currencies that are gaining investors' attention from around the world. Released in 2009 as open-source software, it is now being widely used in online peer-to-peer (or P2P) transactions across the world. People install a Bitcoin wallet on their device to store a set of private keys which have a secure signature that enables people to remain **anonymous** and perform the transaction.

2017 saw meteoric rise in the value of Bitcoin, increasing by over 1000%. After 1 Bitcoin started the year worth around \$US1000, by the end of the year it had reached its peak of just under \$US20,000. Major vendors are gradually starting to accept Bitcoin payment, and the Japanese Government recognized Bitcoin as legal tender in April 2017. There is currently a limit of just 21 million Bitcoins which are expected to be **exhausted** by 2140, with 16.7 million already in circulation estimated to be worth over \$US190 billion.

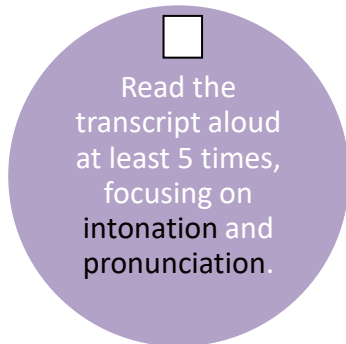
5. CHECK VOCABULARY



While people can obtain Bitcoin by exchanging other currencies or using exclusive Bitcoin ATMs, the main method is through a process called 'mining.' This uses heavy duty computer processing power to solve complex mathematical algorithms which allow transactions to be processed and to keep the blockchain secure, after which they are rewarded with new bitcoins. This processing uses a large amount of energy and computer power, thus is criticized by many people. There are 'mining farms' located throughout Northern Europe due to its abundance of cheaper geothermal electricity and colder weather used to cool down the many computers.

Fluctuate	Exhaust	Conductive to	Anonymous	Irreversible
Fill-in the blanks with the appropriate word above:				
1. The person who donated the most money to the campaign wanted to remain _____.				
2. Irregular weather patterns are the main reason for the _____ temperatures this season.				
3. We have _____ed all of our options in trying to overcome this issue.				
4. The settings on this device are _____ once they have been changed.				
5. Current market conditions make it _____ suffering a period of stagnation in the near future.				

6. READ ALOUD



1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

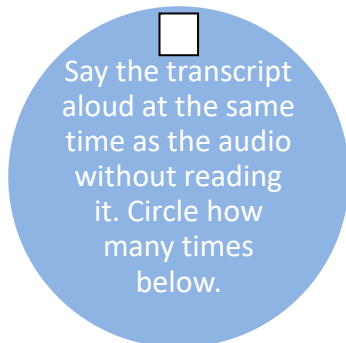
TRANSCRIPT 2

Those who invested in Bitcoin from the beginning have now become millionaires due to its success, and advantages of the cryptocurrency include the freedom of payment anywhere and anytime, not having a third-party in control of one's wealth such as a bank, being able to set your own transaction fee, the security of having **irreversible** transactions, as well as the privacy provided by its high grade of IT security.

On the other hand, the **fluctuating** value of Bitcoin makes it a high-risk asset for investors. The value is extremely volatile, which could be seen when it lost 50% of its peak value in 2017. Increasing transaction fees in order to maintain speed of transaction from miners can also be seen as a disadvantage. The Bitcoin network still hasn't matured and is constantly being improved, making it a speculative investment for people.

Another issue surrounding Bitcoin is that it is **conducive to** cybercrimes. Its anonymous nature lends itself to being used in ransomware attacks, where hackers can demand payment without being easily identified. It is often used as a form of payment for illegal items on the web black market. Theft of cryptocurrencies is also on the rise. In January 2018, Japanese cryptocurrency exchange Coincheck had the equivalent of US\$530 million stolen by hackers due to poor security of investors' private keys. Entrepreneurs are now taking the precaution of keeping their keys in state-of-the-art security vaults and safes.

7. SHADOWING



1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5