

1. CONTEXT

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



Vespa

2. QUESTIONS

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

Listening Questions 1

1. What company is the Vespa brand a subsidiary of?
_____.
2. What does the word “vespa” mean in Italian?
_____.
3. When did the first Vespa come out?
_____.
4. How many Vespas had been sold as of 2017?
_____.
5. In what movie did a Vespa appear and who starred in it?
_____.

3. LISTEN

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

Listening Questions 2

1. What’s one thing that makes Vespas unique? How do you do it?
_____.
2. How old was the PX model in 2017 and how much did it cost in Japan?
_____.
3. What is the ‘Gita’ and what will it be able to do?
_____.
4. How many wheels does the Ape have?
_____.
5. What is the “ape” used for?
_____.

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

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

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever owned a motorcycle or scooter? What was it most useful for?
2. When do you think robots will become commonplace in our lives? What situations will they be used in?

4. CHECK ANSWERS

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

5. CHECK VOCABULARY

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

6. READ ALOUD

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

7. SHADOWING

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 1

If you're the owner of a scooter, summer is the perfect time to take it out for a ride. While most motorcycles are more powerful and **glamorous**, scooters are a very practical and **affordable** way to get around. Scooters can be a workhorse, a daily commuter or just a fun ride.

One of the most famous scooters of all time is the Vespa. The Vespa brand is part of the Piaggio group which includes Moto Guzzi and Aprilia, two **notable** motorcycle manufacturers. In Italian, the word "vespa" means "wasp", as in the fast bee-like yellow and black insect. The iconic Italian two-wheeler was launched in 1946.

In addition to being a practical vehicle, the Vespa is also appealing because of its **retro-chic** look and feel. According to the company, more than 18 million of them had been sold around the world as of 2017.

If you're a movie buff, you probably know that Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn famously cruised around Rome on a Vespa in the classic 1953 film Roman Holiday.

MATCH THE SYNONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

Glamorous	Economical
Retro-chic	Famous
Notable	At the same time
Affordable	Old-style
Simultaneously	Attractive

TRANSCRIPT 2

One thing that makes the Vespa unique is the way a rider changes gears. To shift gears, you twist the left handgrip either up or down one "notch" while operating the clutch **simultaneously**. It's a technique that is difficult to get used to.

The PX is one of the models that uses this kind of transmission. The PX originally came out in 1977, which means this particular model celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017. Several models were available in Japan starting at approximately 470,000 yen.

A different kind of two-wheeled product that one of Piaggio's subsidiaries was developing in 2017 was a robot called Gita, which will be able to carry things around for its owner. It looks like a big ball, turns on a dime, and can carry a load of about 18 kilos.

Finally, Piaggio also makes a three-wheeled vehicle called 'Ape', which means "bee" in Italian. The Ape is a kind of utility vehicle or small pickup that can be used to carry lighter loads.