

UNIT 1 Listening practice

1 **01** Read sentences A–C. Then listen to the introduction to the radio programme. What is the programme about?

- A How modern technology helps blind people to see.
- B Why reading and writing skills are so important.
- C How blind people are able to read and write.

2 **01** Read questions 1–5. Then listen to the rest of the radio programme and choose the correct options.

- 1 It's easiest for Tom to read books if ...
 - A they are printed with very large letters.
 - B he holds the books a long way from his face.
 - C they are printed in braille.
- 2 Louis Braille developed his writing system because ...
 - A an invention by the French army inspired him.
 - B his school had not invented a way for blind children to read.
 - C blind children were unable to write at all.
- 3 One disadvantage of braille is that ...
 - A it can't be used in many languages.
 - B the books are very big.
 - C not many items are available in braille.
- 4 Tom says that the use of braille in schools ...
 - A is less popular than audio technology.
 - B is very difficult for children.
 - C helps children to learn and understand better.
- 5 Tom believes that, in the future, braille will ...
 - A be replaced by other types of modern technology.
 - B be used in even more ways than it is today.
 - C only be used in computers and phones.

3 **01** Listen again. Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the radio programme.

- 1 Braille uses raised dots which are arranged in on the page.
- 2 In the nineteenth century the French army wanted their soldiers to be able to communicate in the dark.
- 3 As well as reading books and magazines, blind people can also play using braille.
- 4 The presenter asks Tom whether braille is in comparison with modern technology.
- 5 Blind people can use braille at home to write

4 **01** Listen again. Answer the questions in your own words. Use complete sentences.

- 1 How do blind people read braille?
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- 2 Why did Louis Braille's school only have a few books for the children?
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- 3 What kinds of technology are available for blind people to listen to rather than read?
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- 4 How does using braille help children to learn at school?
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- 5 Why does Tom think it's still important for blind people to learn braille in the modern world?
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