The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #19

**A Brief History of MP3 Players**

Many years ago, the only ways to listen to music was either live, on the radio, or on a phonograph or record player. Then, it became affordable and possible to own 8-track and cassette tape players. Ask a parent or teacher about those sometime! It wasn’t until the 1980s that compact discs were introduced and became popular for listening to music. As you might have noticed, each advance made it easier to listen to music. However, these days there’s a device that is easier than any of the others, the MP3 player!

Early on, MP3 players were a bit different than they are today. All you had to do was download songs from your computer and hit “play.” One just played songs in the order that they were downloaded from the internet, or perhaps randomly. Also, these first MP3 players held a hundred songs or less, which is more than compact discs, but still significantly less compared to now. In addition, these MP3 players did not connect very quickly to the Internet or hold movies.

Since the “early” MP3 players, several companies have developed more powerful MP3 players. These days, MP3 players can hold millions of songs and lots of full length movies as well!

Some people watch television shows on newer MP3 players. The amount of memory on a typical MP3 player is equivalent to the memory of some early super computers of about fifty years ago. MP3 players are now much faster than the first ones too. This helps when you want to quickly scroll through and click on the song or program that you want to launch.

Do MP3 players seem too good to be true? Well, keep this in mind. You’re not going to be able to purchase an MP3 player for just a few dollars. Early MP3 players, which now seem so obsolete, or out of date, used to cost nearly a hundred dollars. Now, the most basic MP3 players cost in that range; some cost more than a few hundred dollars! You’d better save your money or put in your Christmas request early.

As convenient as MP3 players are for listening to music and watching movies, that is not all MP3 players are able to do. As noted earlier, people can watch television on MP3 players. Also, teachers are beginning to use MP3 players as a part of instruction. They can record their classes and put them on the Internet for students to download. In addition, the technology used in MP3 players has been adapted for use with telephones and to receive wireless internet service. Most cellular telephones now include MP3 players, so a person can talk and/or listen to music on it.

What will they think of next?

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