

Listening Transcript

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Alex

Hello, I'm Alex. Welcome to the English Radio Program. I'm joined today, at the start of the New Year, by Neil.

Neil

Hello, Alex! I'm really excited about 2018, but last year was great, too. It was so great that I'm thinking about making my own time capsule.

Alex

Really? A **time capsule**? You mean a kind of box or container where you can store objects and information so that people in the future — yourself included — will know how we lived right now?

Neil

That's it! And I'm already collecting items. My old mobile phone which I don't use anymore. And a sweater with a snowman on it my granny gave me that I never wear...

Alex

You never wear?

Neil

It's a pretty silly sweater, Alex. She said it's to make me remember that she loves me — but it is not comfortable, and I never wear it!

Alex

Well, you've got to choose the items you wish to keep as a memory of our time very carefully. It's a **historical record** — that usually means a piece of writing or a narrative of events at a particular time. Well, let's discuss time capsules some more. Here is a question to test your knowledge of time capsules. The International Time Capsule Society is at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, in the U.S., and it studies time capsules. According to this organization, how many time capsules are there in the world today? Is it:

- a) up to 15,000
- b) up to 150,000 or
- c) up to 1,500,000

Neil

I'm gonna go for (a) 15,000.

Alex

OK, up to 15,000.

Neil

That's the one.

Alex

OK. Well, as usual, you'll have the answer to that question at the end of the program. Right now, let's talk more about time capsules. One of them was in the news in the last couple of weeks. A capsule was found in a public building in Boston.

Neil

Ah, I've heard about this. Historians believe it was put there by Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, and other American revolutionaries in the 1700s. These men were very important in American history!

Alex

Where was this time capsule hidden?

Neil

Ah, the time capsule was hidden in one of the walls in the Massachusetts State House building. They think it is from 1795. The historians think it has old money and newspapers in it.

Alex

Yes, the time capsule's items date from over 200 years ago, so the historians are worried about opening it. The newspapers particularly might have gone bad over time.

Neil

Paper doesn't last long. But my old mobile phone — the one I'm going to put in my own time capsule — will be **eternal**, it means it will exist forever! And the historians of the future will be grateful!

Alex

Well, if you want to make the historians happy, put things which are current in your life and things you actually use in your time capsule. There are famous capsules to be opened: the American company Westinghouse created two of them. One for the 1939 New York World's Fair and the other for the same event in 1964.

Neil

And when are they going to open it?

Alex

In the 25th century!

Neil

Wow! Well, that's it, Alex. I'm going home and I'm going to start working on my own time capsule!

Alex

Good. I'm glad to see you're so enthusiastic, Neil. But be careful not to make the mistake these guys in the Writtle Junior School here in England made. They put their items in a box 25 years ago and they buried the capsule in the garden.

Neil

And what happened to it? It isn't centuries later, but it must be interesting for these people who are now adults to see what's inside.

Alex

Well, it would have been interesting. But it didn't happen. The school principal said that they looked all

around the garden, and they even dug three different holes in the garden, but they could not find the time capsule! It had old money, letters and some other things, but these things are now lost!

Neil

They forgot where they buried it!

Alex

Yes. And before I forget, let's go back to the question I asked at the beginning of the program.

Neil

You asked how many time capsules are in the world today.

Alex

Yes, and the options were up to 15,000, up to 150,000 or up to 1,500,000. And you said...

Neil

Yes, I said up to 15,000.

Alex

And this is the right answer!

Neil

Hurrah!

Alex

Well done! Yes, the International Time Capsule Society has set up a list of time capsules, and it says there are 10,000 to 15,000 time capsules worldwide. And the organization believes that more than 80% of all time capsules are lost and will not be opened on their intended date.

Neil

Well, I will remember where I kept mine. That's for sure.

Alex

Good for you. Well, that's it from us for the moment. Thanks for speaking with me today, Neil!

Neil

Bye