**Listening Exercise 249**

**Science**

Guidelines:

A. Review the questions

B. Listen to the audio twice (click the icon). (If link does not work from email, save to computer and then open).

C. Answer questions using information in the audio passage. If unable to answer, refer to the transcript.

D. Check transcript, vocabulary, translation and answers to confirm correct responses and gauge understanding.



**Questions**

1. Which best describes what it was that was discovered to have previously unknown qualities?
   1. Alloy
   2. Fungus
   3. Metal
   4. Wastewater
2. Which opposing elements are central to the story?
   1. Expensive-cheap
   2. Organic-mineral
   3. Production-waste
   4. Water-heat
3. Which is the main process described?
   1. consumption
   2. Expenditure
   3. Production
   4. Recovery
4. Which industry could consider this development to be good news for the future?
   1. Automobile
   2. Jewlery
   3. Mining
   4. Waste
5. Which is NOT a possible area of future impact of this scientific discovery:
   1. Energy
   2. Forestry
   3. Health
   4. Pollution
6. The process is described as:
   1. Complex
   2. Expensive
   3. Old
   4. Simple

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| El hongo y los metales preciosos caros no son elementos que generalmente se asocian entre si. Este hongo, el de la podredumbre blanca, es mejor conocido por comer madera muerta pero los científicos han descubierto que tiene otro uso. Puede extraer un elemento particularmente caro, el paladio, de aguas residuales industriales donde el metal aparece como sub product. | Fungus and expensive precious metals are not elements that are usually associated with each other. This fungus, the one of the 'white rot', is best known for eating dead wood but scientists have discovered that it has another use. It can extract a particularly expensive element, palladium, from industrial wastewater where the metal appears as a sub product. |
| En otras palabras lo que va por el desagüe no necesariamente se ha ido. | In other words, what goes down the drain is not necessarily gone. |
| *“Tomamos aguas residuales, efluentes industriales o residuos de laboratorio que son ricos en paladio y queremos reciclarlos, recuperarlos. Hemos descubierto que un tipo especial de hongos no solo puede absorber paladio sino también reducir paladio y producir nano partículas de paladio.”* | *"We take wastewater, industrial effluents or laboratory waste that are rich in palladium and we want to recycle them, recover them. We have discovered that a special type of fungus cannot only absorb palladium but also reduce palladium and produce palladium nano particles."* |
| Si suena complejo es porque lo es. El paladio superó al oro y al platino como el metal más caro del mundo a principios de este año. Se utiliza en gran medida en los escapes de vehículos para frenar las emisiones nocivas y la demanda ha elevado el precio. Así que esto podría ser una buena noticia para la industria en el futuro. | If it sounds complex, its because it is. Palladium surpassed gold and platinum as the most expensive metal in the world earlier this year. It is used to a large extent in vehicle exhausts to curb harmful emissions and demand has raised the price. So this could be good news for the industry in the future. |
| Desafortunadamente, este proceso no beneficia a la industria automotriz en este momento. Pero podrían usarse dicen los científicos en química para ayudar a desarrollar nuevos productos farmacéuticos y posiblemente para usar en futuras celdas de combustible. | Unfortunately, this process does not benefit the automotive industry at this time. But they could be used by scientists in chemistry to help develop new pharmaceutical products and possibly to use in future fuel cells. |

**Vocabulary**

hongo

podredumbre

desagüe

paladio

nano partículas

complejo

superó

escapes

frenar

nocivas

automotriz

fungus  
rot  
drain  
palladium  
nanoparticles  
complex  
exceeded  
escapes  
slow down  
harmful  
automotive