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What happens inside those massive warehouses?

[listening comprehension questions]

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Level: ***** [B2/C1]

TED TALKS Link:

http://www.ted.com/talks/mick_mountz_the_hidden_world_of_box_packing?language=en

Check these words before listening:

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Key vocabulary

1. A breakthrough
2. To pick, pack, ship
3. A package
4. An inventory
5. To assemble
6. A distribution setting / centre
7. Unproductive / unfulfilling
8. A material-handling provider
9. A nagging problem
10. To arrive at a notion
11. Products: Captain Crunch, Mountain Dew, (google these)
12. Shelving
13. The opening ceremony of the Olympics (google this)
14. Peer-to-peer coordination
15. Emergence
16. Stock keeping Units (SKUs) – identification codes
17. To scan a barcode
18. A pod
19. Side-effects
20. Pervasive
21. Parallel processing
22. A conveyor belt
23. An algorithm
24. Valentine's day
25. Thermal map
26. Queuing
27. Idle time
28. Testimonials

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What happens inside those massive warehouses?

TED TALK: Mick Mountz [Oct 2011. 12:06]

Explain what you understand

1. What's the problem with conventional pick packetting?

2. What was the problem with WebVan?

3. What was his vision from China? (2)

4. Describe the new innovation

5. What are the side effects of the new solution?

6. What was the example of Valentine's day for?

7. The example of a toilet break

8. Describe how the workers feel and the benefits of this innovation?

9. Summary

Critical thinking – *What do you think of this new innovation? What are the negatives of such an innovation (think about the workers, local economy, investment, job satisfaction etc..)? What are the positives of this type of innovation for the future? Anything else that is important?*

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What happens inside those massive warehouses? ANSWERS

1. **What's the problem with conventional pick packetting?**
    60 – 70% unproductive

2. **What was the problem with WebVan?**
    Unprofitable

3. **What was his vision from China? (2)**
    Low cost labour market / Beijing Olympics – people working together

4. **Describe the new innovation**
    Pick workers stay on the perimeter Pick station > product comes to her > reach in > scan barcode

5. **What are the side effects of the new solution?**
    DC becomes massively parallel processing engine
    Across fertilization / 10 workers = independent

6. **What was the example of Valentine's Day for?**
    The stock moves around the warehouse floor and the valentine items come to the front

7. **The example of a toilet break**
    No impact on the process – unlike conventional system that stops the line (conveyor belt)

8. **Describe how the workers feel**
    More energy /more time to spend with grandchildren / stress-free

9. **Summary**
    The next time you receive an online product ask whether it was packed by a robot

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