

## My Camera and Me – Educational Toolkit The GoPro Camera

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This little camera has big stories to tell! Through a listening comprehension exercise, students are encouraged to identify meaningful elements, organize information, highlight salient features of the language and make judgements about a variety of content. Through questions and answers, this comprehension activity integrates language skills and allows the students to discover the GoPro in an entertaining way.



4K GoPro Hero7 Silver Camera  
Cinémathèque québécoise collection  
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This activity is based on the academic curriculum of the following subject:

- English as a Second Language, Cycle One (Secondary 2)
  - o Competency 1: Interacts orally in English
  - o Competency 2: Reinvests understanding of texts

**Background of the creation of this camera**  
**This content may be shared by the teacher to introduce the activity.**

The GoPro was born of amateur surfer Nick Woodman's wish to shoot videos while surfing. However, Woodman was not the first person to attempt to attach a camera to his body so that his movements could be experienced and felt by viewers. Throughout much of cinematic history, filmmakers have designed many types of accessories for this purpose. The GoPro stands out for its small size, as well as for its components and features. It is considered an "action camera," meaning that its primary function is to serve as an extension of a body in motion and record the operator's exploits without getting in the way. It can be mounted on the body using accessories suited to the sport or activity being practiced, enabling it to record footage in extreme conditions. And thanks to its large storage capacity, it can record long sequences without interruption.

Although the initial target market for the GoPro was sports-minded photography aficionados, it has been adopted by many types of users. Its versatility makes it especially popular with adventurous tourists in search of extraordinary landscapes, filmmakers wishing to film dangerous scenes, and documentary filmmakers and ethnologists who appreciate its small size. The GoPro appeals to a wide range of users! Let's hear about what makes it so practical.

## Learning Activity

To learn about the background of the GoPro and discover its features, students are invited to listen to the GoPro podcast in the *Podcast Journeys* section of the website, either in class or at home.

A. Listen to the podcast and pay close attention to what the narrator says (where she is, what she is doing, what inspires her), the elements of her explanation and her reasons for talking about it. Feel free to take notes as you listen. Then, answer the following questions:

1. Who do you think is narrating this podcast?

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2. What sport is she playing?

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3. Where is she? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What would she like to be able to do while playing her sport?

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5. The narrator provides a lot of information about the GoPro to help contextualize its invention and explain its features.

5.1. How is this camera mounted on the body or equipment (hockey stick, helmet, chest, skates) of the person playing?

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5.2. When the camera is mounted on the operator's body, what effect does this have on the viewer?

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5.3. What is the name of the surfer who invented the GoPro Hero in 2002?

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5.4. To what does the narrator compare the weight of this camera?

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5.5. The camera's housing contains several components. Name two.

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5.6. What effects is this camera capable of?

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6. In a few sentences, explain how the GoPro meets the narrator's needs.

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B. Would you like to see some videos shot with a GoPro? Head over to the *Discover the Cameras* section of the website and watch the three short videos that were filmed with this camera (*Workout at Laurier Park, Bike Ride* and *Winter Workout*).

After you watch the clips, share your impressions of one or more of them with your classmates.

*Workout at Laurier Park*

- In this video, where is the camera mounted? *For the teacher: On his chest while he is running and on his forehead when he is on the exercise equipment.*
- When the runner moves, is the image static or does it move around? Be specific and describe what you saw. *For the teacher: It sways from side to side; the runner's arm appears in the frame.*

*Bike Ride*

- In this video, where is the camera mounted? *For the teacher: At first it is on his chest; later, it is on his forehead.*
- What could you see, depending on the position of the camera? What did you experience?

*Winter Workout*

- In this video, where is the camera mounted?
- When it is mounted on the athlete's body, the camera captures unusual images and provides different points of view. Did anything in this video surprise you (e.g., seeing the runner's hands, seeing the inside of the playground equipment)?

*Answer key for the teacher*

1. It's a young person.
2. She is playing hockey.
3. She is in an arena.
4. She is trying to film herself playing hockey.
  - 5.1. With accessories.
  - 5.2. Feel a body in motion and be part of the action.
  - 5.3. Nick Woodman.
  - 5.4. A deck of cards.
  - 5.5. The wide-angle fisheye lens, digital sensor, memory card, battery, touch screen and microphones.
  - 5.6. Fast motion and slow motion.
6. Possible answers: This small camera allows her to film herself in action for several hours at a time, to add effects and to easily share her videos.