

# Headline English

2011, week 7 *Learn English through reading on current world affairs*

1 **Roger McShane**

2 **Electronic confession?**

3 original at:

4 <http://thatgirlisa.com/2011/02/09/iphoneipad-confessions/>

5 For just \$1.99, a new application for iPad and iPhone has been designed  
6 to help Catholics catalog their sins before their next trip to the  
7 confessional booth. But developers insist that the app isn't intended to  
8 replace confession. Rather, it's intended to encourage repentance and  
9 entice more Catholics back to the confessional booth.

10 According to a study, three-quarters of Catholics report that they never  
11 participate in confession, known as the sacrament of reconciliation, or that  
12 they do so less than once a year. Makers of the iPhone and iPad app hope  
13 to shift that trend and this effort is endorsed by America's Catholic  
14 bishops.

15 But the tech-savvy app takes users through virtually every step of the  
16 sacrament and offers a customized examination of conscience based on  
17 age, gender and vocation and password protected accounts to mimic the  
18 confessional's privacy. The app even offers mock absolution. So perhaps it  
19 could really take the place of the actual confession?

## Questions

- 1) Throughout the text, there are some synonyms for 'designers'. Try to find them all.
- 2) Try to summarise the gist of the text in 3 sentences. (hint: 'repentance' (line 8) = the state of being sorry for something you have done)
- 3) According to the text, do most Catholics go to confession regularly?
- 4) Paraphrase 'to shift that trend' (line 13).
- 5) What do the official representatives of the Catholic church in America think about the application?
- 6) What is the 'sacrament of reconciliation' (line 11)
- 7) The text offers a wide range of nouns describing concepts related to (Catholic) religious practice. Find them and give an English explanation of what they mean (use a dictionary, for instance one of the internet ones advertised at the bottom of this page).
- 8) Do you think that the new application will replace traditional confession?

## Vocabulary

**entice** (line 9) – to persuade somebody to do something by offering them a reward if they do it

**savvy** (line 15) – smart in a practical way; shrewdly informed; experienced and well-informed; canny.

**mock** (line 18) – not real but intended to be very similar to a real situation

**conscience** (line 16) – the part of your mind that tells you whether what you are doing is morally right or wrong

You can find additional explanation and more examples to help you understand and use English words and phrases at <http://dictionary.reference.com>, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/> or <http://www.ldoceonline.com/>

Přejeme Vám mnoho studijních úspěchů.

Tým jazykové skupiny Spěváček:

