Talkaoke

This text is about Talkaoke. Some useful phrases are highlighted and explained below. Don't forget to answer the quiz and leave comments about the discussion questions.

Talkaoke is **the latest craze to sweep the nation**. **A modern twist on** Karaoke but without the singing, it's gaining **fame** in the trendy areas of London and abroad.

It's based on one simple rule which is that the participants or 'Talkaokeyists' make the agenda. Talkaoke is a modern form of open debate where practically no topic is **off bounds**. Participants debate **whatever takes their interest** with people they know or have never met before. Things can get quite **heated**, especially when people disagree with each other but this just adds to the fun and **appeal**.

Talkaoke is all about **drawing participants in** and creating a platform where people feel inspired to talk about what's important to them and then comment on what others have to say. Pauline Wu, a local student, says that "it's like a night at the pub but without the beer and is a great way to make new friends". Whereas, Philippe Gomez finds it addictive because "it's the only place I know where I can really talk about important issues in a serious but enjoyable way".

For an **onlooker** it could appear a little **bizarre** as the debaters sit around a large doughnut-shaped pink table **nicknamed** the "flying saucer of chat". In the centre is the host who manages discussions. Thanks to his/her microphone, some large speakers and a video projector, the audience can watch and listen to the whole event. A recent **upgrade** has introduced a 'heckle' system where images are projected onto the screen which represent the exact words from the discussion.

Invented by a London art student called Mikey Weinkove in 1997, Talkaoke has been gaining **followers** in the UK and abroad ever since. Recent saucers have been **spotted** in the National Theatre and the London Science Museum and bookings have been made for Brazil, Italy and even Saudi Arabia.

Useful phrases

The latest craze to sweep the nation	=The newest fashion all over the country
A modern twist on sthg	=A new and adapted version of an old idea.
Fame	=Popularity

Off bounds	=Not allowed
Whatever takes their interest	=Anything they like
Heated	=Intense
Appeal	=Attractiveness
Drawing participants in	=Pulling them mentally into the conversation
Onlooker	=Someone watching from a distance
Bizarre	=Unusual
Nicknamed	=Given an informal nam
Upgrade	=An improvement to a higher level
Followers	=Fans
Spotted	=Seen/noticed
<u>Quiz</u>	
What's your opinion on Talkaoke?	
It sounds cool. I can't wait to try it. It's not my idea of a good night out.	
Discussion questions	
1)What makes Talkaoke popular? 2)What would you talk about? 3)Would it be successful in your country? Why?/Why not?	
Take a look at these videos:	
http://www.talkaoke.com/	

 $\underline{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lthH2eZugQ8\&feature=related}$