

The impact of technology

Lead-in

1 Look at the list of technological inventions below. Which three do you think have had the most significant impact on our lives? Discuss your choices with a partner, giving reasons.

- the clock
- the telephone
- the car
- the fridge
- the plane
- the internet
- the light bulb
- something else?

2 Has their impact been mainly positive or negative? Are there any you wish had never been invented?

3 Your teacher will give you a card with a topic related to technology. Using the questions on the card to help you, plan to speak for about two minutes. Once you're ready, tell the person next to you.

Input

1 Think about the impact of technology in the workplace. What positives has it brought? And negatives?

2 You are going to read a text about technology in the workplace. You and your partner will read different texts. Read your text and think about the questions.

- a What are the main points and arguments of the writer?
- b Do you agree with them?

3 Prepare to summarise the content of your text to your partner. You can refer to the text if you need to, but try not to read and use your own words whenever possible.

4 Which of the writers do you agree more with?

Language Focus

1 Use the words a–j to complete sentences 1–10 from the texts you have just read.

- a. reasons c. hand e. bring g. outweigh i. make
 b. obvious d. facilitate f. doubtless h. benefitted j. balance

- 1 There may be some truth in the idea that new inventions both positives and negatives.
- 2 ... we have to accept that the advantages the disadvantages.
- 3 ... let's take a look at some examples of how technological progress has working practices.
- 4 ... nowadays a range of communication tools are available to employees, which interaction and the sharing of information between colleagues and with clients.
- 5 Another benefit is that technology saves us time.
- 6 Not only does the internet it possible for companies to explore markets in different corners of the world, but also allows people greater freedom in terms of where and when they work.
- 7 These are just a few of the many to be positive about the impact of technology on our working lives.
- 8 ... on, the pros outweigh the cons.
- 9 ... emails and the internet have made communication more efficient and immediate ...
- 10 Some view this positively, but on the other, it sets a dangerous precedent.

2 Compare your answers with the person next to you and then with the texts.

3 Match the words/phrases 1–6 to their definitions a–f.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 on the other hand | a to bring good to/improve |
| 2 to outweigh | b certainly |
| 3 on balance | c be greater /more numerous than |
| 4 to facilitate | d however/conversely |
| 5 doubtless | e to make an action or process easier |
| 6 to benefit | f after considering all the facts |

4 Complete sentences 1–5 in a logical way.

- 1 Email makes it possible to ...
- 2 Online banking has its problems, but on balance ...
- 3 GPS has really facilitated ...
- 4 Illegal internet music and film downloads have made things easier and cheaper for consumers, but on the other hand ...
- 5 The internet doubtless presents risks for children, but has also benefitted ...

Task

1 You are going to take part in a TV show in which you will debate the theme:

“The world would be a better place without the internet.”

Look at the language below that will be useful in the debate. Select a correct heading for each group of phrases in the two tables below.

- a Language for the participants
- Supporting your opinion
 - Dealing with interruptions
 - Getting involved in the discussion

<i>Excuse me, but could I say something here?</i>	<i>If I can give you an example, ...</i>	<i>If I can finish what I was saying, ...</i>
<i>Could I just come in here, please?</i>	<i>Take for example</i>	<i>If you'll let me finish, ...</i>
<i>Excuse me, but...</i>	<i>Research suggests/indicates/proves that ...</i>	<i>Please don't interrupt.</i>
	<i>It's widely accepted that ...</i>	

b Language for the talk show host

- Controlling the speakers
- Asking for opinion

<i>Where do you stand on this?</i>	<i>Don't interrupt please!</i>
<i>Do you agree with that?</i>	<i>Just calm down, please!</i>
<i>Has anyone ever experienced that?</i>	<i>I'm not sure if I understand your point.</i>
<i>What's your opinion, sir/madam?</i>	
<i>Why do you think that?</i>	
<i>What's your reaction/response to that, Bob?</i>	

- 2 Your teacher will give you a role card. Use the ideas and information on it, but also invent extra things. Try to justify and exemplify your position whenever you can. Prepare what you are going to say.
- 3 Carry out the TV debate.
- 4 Report back to the class on how the debate went.

Review

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