Technology

What would we do without technology? Would we still be living in caves? Probably. I think there are two main kinds of technology. The kinds before and after computers. When we think about technology before computers, it was quite basic. It was all mechanical. Things like steam trains and fridges. At the time, that was cutting edge technology. But, today’s technology is really cutting edge. It’s the kind of technology that is out of date as soon as it hits the shelves. I love this. It’s so exciting seeing it all happen. I love reading about what technology we’ll have in the future, and then buy it a few years later. It’s like buying technology from science fiction movies. I’d love to live to be 200 so I can see what technology is around then.

# Questions?

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* Do you enjoy using technology?
* Well … I wouldn’t call myself **a techie** or a **computer buff** but I enjoy using computers … I’d like to find out more about  how they work … when my **computer crashes** I never know what to do.
* Yes, definitely. I think I would be lost without it. All those gadgets like smartphones and tablets are brilliant inventions. I really enjoy surfing the web on my iPad and the operation system on it, which is IOS is self-upgrading every time itself. So I experience no problems with such a smart device, I only have a pleasure browsing some social media like Facebook or downloading podcasts through that app on the AppStore.
* What’s your favorite gadget?
* As I said I couldn’t imagine my life without an iPad. I got attached to it so quickly and my life has become more convenient. It is not a desktop PC that stays at home. It is a small gadget that I can put into the pocket and use it on the road. Moreover, it has a lasting battery charge, which keeps my iPad alive for up to 10 hour straight of constant usage.
* Do you use the Internet for your studies?
* I’d be lost without it … I do lots of **video conferencing** to practise speaking and **social media** like Facebook is a good way to meet up with other students … and I **download podcasts** that teach English vocabulary and grammar.
* Do you have your own computer?
* Yes … I have a Macbook Pro … I use it all the time … for **word processing** … **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I’ve missed.
* What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?
* Well … there are things like how to use the Internet  … how **to enter a web address** … how **to navigate websites** … that kind of thing but it’s also important to know how **to back up** your files in case your computer crashes … and all about **Internet security**
* What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?
* Do computers make it much easier to study?
* Definitely yes … researching information is much easier with the Internet.. you can **bookmark webpages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier … being able **to cut and paste** sections of text means you can experiment with organization … so yes … compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper … it’s now much easier.
* Yes, of course they do/make our studies easier. One can bookmark webpages to use it later instead of having a pile of books on the desk, then one can cut and paste some passages or fragments of text, one also can find an answer to any question as wireless networks and wifi hotspots are covering almost the whole territory.

# Definitions

* **to access websites/email**: to locate
* **to back up files**: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem
* **to boot up**: to start a computer
* **to bookmark a webpage**: to mark a webpage for future reference
* ***to browse websites***: to look at websites
* ***a computer buff***: an expert computer user
* **to crash**: to suddenly stop working
* **to cut and paste**: to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
* **a desktop PC**: a computer that isn’t portable and remains in situ on a desk
* ***digital editing***: to edit digital materials like audio or video files
* **download (podcasts)**: to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
* **to enter a web address**: to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
* ***a gadget***: a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
* ***to go online***: to start using the Internet
* ***high-spec (laptop)***: powerful computer with top quality components
* ***Internet security***: Internet safety
* ***intranet***: a network of connected computers within an organization that is not accessible by unauthorized visitors
* ***to navigate a website***: to find your way around a website
* ***operating system***: the software that tells the computer how to work
* ***send an attachment***: send an email with an accompanying file
* ***social media***: media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
* ***to surf the web***: to look at a series of websites one after the other
* ***a techie***: somebody who has an interest in technology
* ***to upgrade***: to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
* ***video conferencing***: to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet
* ***wireless hotspot***: a public place where you can access the Internet
* ***wireless network***: a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
* **word processing**; producing written texts on a computer

# 10 Negative Effects of Technology

* **Bad sleeping habits.**
* **Isolation**
* **Sedentary lifestyle.**
* **Distraction**
* **Neck pain and bad posture**
* **Eye and ear problems**
* **Bullying and other negative social consequences**
* **When we are no longer forced to make eye contact with the people we interact with online, it’s much easier to behave badly.**
* **We rely on technology too much.**