

TECHNOLOGIES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Task 1. Read the following text.

We live in the era of high technologies, and we use modern inventions in our everyday life because they have brought us much comfort. New technologies have spread on every field over the past 15 years. Moreover, they are rapidly changing. For example, video-recorders, DVD-players or compact disks have already become obsolete and have been replaced by more up-to-date devices.

Today we can hardly imagine our life without such modern mobile devices as cell phones or laptops. Our offices are fully equipped with computers, printers, scanners, air-conditioners, interactive whiteboards and wi-fi modems. Household appliances (vacuum-cleaners, coffee-machines, dish-washers, food processors and others) help us to save our time and energy.

The essence of information technologies, which in connection with general computerization has now reached a fundamentally new level, is the transmission, storage, processing and perception of information.

With the development of computer technologies, of course, data transmission systems are developing, and this is the significant direction of the technological development of society. Modern systems allowed a person to keep a connection from anywhere in the world. Many important decisions are taken at a distance, and modern telecommunications systems allow to hold meetings and negotiations in an interactive mode, without personal contact. This saves considerable time and money, since negotiations can be conducted without interruption from the workflow and will not require a flight, for example, to another country. The same can be said about television - the old systems of cable data transmission are being replaced more and more by satellite television, especially now Internet TV.

The main direction of modern communication systems forms a new approach to communication and combines audio and video aspects. Japanese engineers have already created a prototype of the future phone, in which they combined audio data transmission with holographic technologies. Of course, these are only the first steps to communication of the future, but it is these developments that allow us to determine the main ways of development of engineering thought of man.

However, we should realize that digital and electronic inventions have both negative and positive impact on our daily life.

I am absolutely positive that new technologies or gadgets are making things faster, easier, more comfortable and interesting. For instance, if you install a GPS (Global Positioning System) in your car you'll never get lost again. And could we imagine just 15 years ago all the things we can do on the wireless Internet

nowadays: connecting with friends from all over the world, online shopping and banking, distance online learning, finding virtual relationships and even working from home? Isn't that awesome?! Our parents used to go to post-offices to send letters or pay bills, they went to libraries to find a good book and they used telephone-booths for phone-calls.

On the other hand, I know some people who are strongly against some modern inventions because they really miss those days when they talked to each other face to face in reality, and not virtually. I partially agree with that as I really believe that people are becoming anti-social and too dependent on their gadgets. Some of my friends also spend half of the time occupying their shiny gadgets (smart-phones or i-pads) even when we go out together. Besides, people who use various social networks a lot (such as Facebook or Instagram) should worry more about their privacy.

Summing up, I could say that there are serious arguments both for and against the use of new technologies but anyway it's really difficult to imagine our life without them today.

FOCUS ON READING

Task 2. Complete the following sentences from the text.

1. Video-recorders, DVD-players or compact disks have already become...
2. Household appliances (vacuum-cleaners, coffee-machines, dish-washers, food processors and others) help us...
3. Modern telecommunications systems allow to hold meetings and...
4. The old systems of cable data transmission are being replaced ...
5. If you install a GPS (Global Positioning System) in your car you'll...
6. Our parents used to go to post-offices to send...
7. Some of my friends also spend half of the time occupying their shiny gadgets (smart-phones or i-pads) even when...

Task 3. Answer the following questions.

1. Why do we use modern inventions in our everyday life?
2. What are our offices fully equipped with?
3. What is the essence of information technologies?
4. Why do interactive negotiations save time?
5. What have Japanese engineers created yet?
6. What things can we do on the wireless Internet nowadays?
7. What negative impact do digital and electronic inventions have both on our daily life?
8. Is it difficult to imagine our life without modern technologies? Why?

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

Task 4. Work in groups of three or four. Give your opinion on the following statement: some people believe that new technologies or gadgets make many things faster, easier and more interesting. To what extent do you agree or disagree? What is your personal opinion? Give reasons for your answer. Report the results of your opinion to others.

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Task 5. Use any available sources of information (Newspapers, magazines or Internet resources) and make a table of the most frequently requested household appliances and gadgets. Work together and share your ideas with your partner. Be prepared to make a presentation based on the information you find. Present your work in the classroom.

Table: Frequently requested household appliances and gadgets.

Types of household appliances and gadgets.	Value
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	