

A Technological advances affecting daily life

technology	examples of uses/applications	example sentences with associated key words
digital technology	digital photography, digital video and audio recording; digital broadcasting	The sound quality of a digital voice recorder is superior to that of an analogue one. [non-digital]
wi-fi	a system for connecting electronic devices to the internet without using wires	The hotel has wi-fi in every room.
satellite communications	satellite navigation [SATNAV] systems; mobile phones	She doesn't use a road map now because her new car has GPS (global positioning system) built in, so she gave me her old plug-in SATNAV .
biotechnology	genetic modification of plants	Biotechnology companies are experimenting with new, disease-resistant crops for farmers. [with a high level of protection against diseases]
artificial intelligence (AI)	automatic translation; identification systems	Scientists working in AI are hoping to create computers that will be more and more like the human brain.
ergonomics	design of environments so people can work efficiently and comfortably	This car has ergonomically designed seats. [designed to give maximum comfort and efficiency]
Bluetooth™	connecting electronic devices to each other with no wires	My car has Bluetooth , so I can connect my phone to the speakers.

B How much of a techie* are you?

[* person who loves acquiring all the new technology]

Today we are all to some degree dependent on technology. How many of these things do you own or use?

a **smartphone** [a mobile phone that can be used as a small computer]

a **hands-free** earpiece and microphone for your mobile

a **smart ID card** for entering your workplace or college

a **laptop (computer)** or **notebook**

a **desktop** computer for the home or office

an **MP3 player**

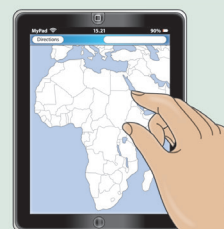
a **games console**

a **tablet** using a **touchscreen**, such as an iPad

an **e-reader**, such as a Kindle

an **interactive flat-screen TV**

a **router** to let you connect to the internet from different devices



Language help

Technical (adverb = *technically*) means relating to the knowledge, machines and materials used in science and industry, e.g. *Removing the salt from sea water is a **technically** complex process.*

Technological (adverb = *technologically*) means relating to or involving technology, e.g.

***Technologically**, their company is a long way behind ours.* Note that *technically* – NOT *technologically* – can also be used to mean according to an exact understanding of the facts, e.g. *The recession is **technically** over but things are still difficult for many people.*

See also Unit 48.

Exercises

56.1 Based on A opposite, what types of technology would you associate with the following?

- 1 a round-the-world yachtsman/woman trying to establish his/her exact position
- 2 a designer creating a new type of computer keyboard which would be more efficient and comfortable to use
- 3 a scientist producing a new type of wheat which does not need to be sprayed against insects
- 4 a camera that produces photos that you can store on a computer or your phone
- 5 a computer that can make decisions for itself
- 6 a music player in your car that you can connect your phone to with no wires

56.2 Which type of device in B opposite is the speaker talking about?

- 1 I prefer it to my mobile because it's much bigger, but it's still not too heavy to carry around. I can Skype on it and take photos with it. I can access my emails wherever I am. I just can't make ordinary phone calls.
- 2 The picture is really good quality and it's fun being able to send in comments at the same time as you're watching a programme.
- 3 It's pretty small and light, but the screen and keyboard are not very big and I find the trackpad more awkward to use than a mouse.
- 4 I always use this rather than my laptop when I'm at home; I have it on a special table in my room next to my printer.
- 5 I used to have to take so many books when I went on holiday but now I don't need to. I just have to remember my charger!
- 6 I changed its position and now I can get online from any room in the house.

56.3 Here are some other words and phrases connected with computers. Not all of them are on the opposite page. Fill the gaps in the sentences. Use a dictionary if necessary.

computer nerd app thumbnail icon screensaver trackpad techie footprint

- 1 There are some good pictures of the Olympic Games on that sports website. You can look at pictures and then click on them to see the full-size version.
- 2 My younger brother's a real He never goes out, and all he ever thinks about is computers, computers, computers.
- 3 I'm a bit of a really; I love getting the latest mobile phone or digital camera.
- 4 I've downloaded a great new gaming onto my phone.
- 5 His on his laptop is a really cool picture of the night sky.
- 6 This new printer's got a smaller than the one I had before, which is good, since my desk is not very big.
- 7 Just click on that there to open the program.
- 8 I don't really like this on my laptop; I'd prefer a proper mouse.

56.4 Complete the word beginning with 'techn...' in each sentence. Not all the words you need are on the opposite page.

- 1 Karl got a good job as a lab techn..... in the university.
- 2 In this country, young people techn..... become adults at the age of 18.
- 3 Computer techn..... makes huge advances every year.
- 4 Andrea has a very interesting techn..... for remembering vocabulary.
- 5 Publicity photos of celebrities have usually been techn..... enhanced.

56.5 Over to you

The language and terminology connected with computers changes very quickly. If you want to keep up with it, read computer advertisements in newspapers and magazines, or else visit the websites of well-known hardware and software manufacturers, and note any new vocabulary and how it is used.