

A2.10 Science/Technology

Useful Language:

- I surf the internet all the time.
- You will be able to travel cheaply into space.
- Are you a Mac or PC user?

1

Dates of the Great Inventions

**Do you know when the telephone was invented?
How about the world wide web (the internet)?**

Match the dates and the inventions in the boxes below.

1

1879

1963

1876

1903

1990

the light bulb

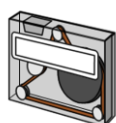
the audio cassette

the telephone

the airplane

the world wide web

I think the telephone was invented in...



www.

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2  Read about two people answering the questions:

**Which was the most important invention?
Which would it be most difficult for you to live without?**



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For me it has to be the telephone because I use my mobile all the time. I love to spend hours talking and texting my friends. Even before mobiles I loved the old phones - I just love to chat!

Trícia


2



Image Attribution to duda C.

I think it has got to be the world wide web. I surf the internet all the time and have done all my life. You can do so much and get so much information online.

Benny

3  Now discuss with your partner which inventions *you* think are most important. You can choose from those above or the box below.

the washing machine the television the automobile

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4



Into the Future?

Read the possible imagined future developments in the box then discuss with your partner which ones are the most desirable and if any are not desirable.

In the year 2300 you will be able to:

- avoid all housework because robots do it all;
- travel cheaply into space on space holidays;
- go everywhere in cars that drive themselves;
- choose the I.Q. and sex of your children;
- live to be 350 years old and in good health;
- read other people's minds with a machine;
- use a special pillow to share dreams with other people.

I think it would be marvellous not to have to do any housework because I really hate doing boring jobs around the house like cooking and cleaning for my family. But I find the idea of living until the age of 350 quite unattractive. I think it would be impossible for us...

3

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5 Discuss these questions on the topic of science and technology with your partner.

- *What are the advantages and disadvantages of email and mobile phones?*
- *Were you good at the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) at school? Which were you best at? Why?*
- *How much technology do you use every day: Twitter, smartphones etc.?*
- *Are you a Mac or PC user? Why?*
- *Do you buy things on the internet?*
- *If yes, what kinds of things?*
- *Should we spend money exploring space, or should we spend the money here on Earth instead?*
- *Are computer games a positive, or negative thing?*

4

6



"How has technology affected your life?"

Write two or three paragraphs in answer to this question.

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Notes:

*"Science never solves a problem without creating ten more."
 George Bernard Shaw*

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