

## Modern Technologies

1. Do you think playing computer games is a bad thing? Why or why not?	2. Do you think that using a lot of electronic gadgets at home and at school makes us lazy? Why or why not?	3. Do you think that online transactions and credit cards will ever completely replace the need for cash? Why or why not?
4. Do you think children should be discouraged from spending too much time on their computers? Why or why not?	5. Which websites are most popular with teenagers today? Why?	6. What invention would you like to see in the future? Why?
7. If you were to create an avatar, what would he or she be like?	8. Do you think social networking sites are the best way to communicate with friends? Why or why not?	9. Do you think that the Internet will ever be properly policed? Why or why not?
10. Which technological development has had the most impact on society recently? Why?	11. Which piece of technology do you think will become unnecessary in the near future? Why?	12. Which mobile phone applications are most frequently used by teenagers? Why?

Warmer activity cut-outs



## Modern Technologies

### 1 Comprehension

Read the blog and the comments. Which of these technologies is mentioned?

- a. Computers
- b. Mobile phones
- c. The internet

#### Modern Technology – a personal view

by Andrea Buchner

July 23

I know I'm going to come across as out of touch and a bit of a dinosaur, but I really think the way most young people use modern technology so much is almost antisocial. Let me give you an example. Last week my niece came over for dinner, she's seventeen and addicted to her mobile phone. The whole way through dinner she was on her phone, sending messages, tweeting and chatting online with friends. It was crazy! We were all there having a conversation, but she was in her own little bubble – it was quite annoying, really. When I asked her about it her reply was "Well, I need to stay in touch with my friends". But, I'm really not convinced that this kind of use of technology really does this. After all, there were lots of us there together and she wasn't in touch with us at all! What do you think? Is modern technology taking over our lives?



ADD A COMMENT



Posted: July 25, 11:05 AM by **Techie1**

You've got to be kidding! Do you want to take us back in time? I really think you're missing the point of using your mobile to keep in touch with friends. I have friends from around the world which would be impossible without technology. My life is far more interesting than when my parents were teenagers. I'm definitely with your niece on this one. 😊



Posted: July 25, 13:47 PM by **JonasB**

Andrea, I totally agree with you on technology making teenagers antisocial. While I can see what Techie1 is saying, ignoring the people you're with because you're texting all the time is just not on. There's a time and a place for technology and having dinner with family or friends is not one of them.

## Modern Technologies

Read the blog and comments again. Choose the correct person for each of these statements.

- |                              |                                                                |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | thinks technology is essential.                                |
| 2. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | was annoyed with the person using their phone.                 |
| 3. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | thinks that you shouldn't always use your phone.               |
| 4. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | doesn't want people to think he / she doesn't like technology. |
| 5. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | doesn't think Andrea's niece was doing anything wrong.         |
| 6. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | wants to know other people's opinions.                         |
| 7. Andrea / Techie1 / JonasB | has the same opinion as the person who wrote the blog.         |

### 2 Language focus

Find words or expressions in the blog and comments that match these definitions.

- \_\_\_\_\_ to no longer have recent knowledge or information about something
- \_\_\_\_\_ someone who is old-fashioned and not very modern
- \_\_\_\_\_ not interested in meeting other people and not very friendly
- \_\_\_\_\_ enjoying a particular activity a lot and spending too much time doing it
- \_\_\_\_\_ not aware of other people, in their own world
- \_\_\_\_\_ making a joke about something, used when you don't agree or believe something a person says
- \_\_\_\_\_ to fail to understand something
- \_\_\_\_\_ something which is not acceptable

In the comments, one person agrees with the blogger and the other disagrees. They use phrases to show whether they agree or not. Put the expression below in the correct column.

**I think you've hit the nail on the head.**

**Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but ...**

**That's exactly what I think.**

**I think you're missing the point.**

**~~I totally agree with you on ...~~**

**I was going to say the same thing.**

**I wouldn't say that at all.**

**That's a very valid point and I feel ...**

**I don't think there's any basis in what you say.**

**~~You've got to be kidding!~~**

Agreeing	Disagreeing
<p><del>I totally agree with you on ...</del></p>	<p><del>You've got to be kidding!</del></p>

## Modern Technologies

Sometimes we don't completely agree or disagree with someone's opinion. Choose the correct word(s) to complete these phrases.

- I agree \_\_\_\_\_ a point, but ...  
a. about            b. see            c. up to
- I \_\_\_\_\_ your point, but ...  
a. know            b. see            c. up to
- That's \_\_\_\_\_ true, but ...  
a. about            b. both            c. partly
- I'm not so \_\_\_\_\_ about that.  
a. know            b. sure            c. true
- I can see \_\_\_\_\_ sides of the argument. On the one hand ...  
a. both            b. either            c. the

### 3 Writing preparation

Complete these comments with a suitable phrase from the last two exercises.



**Posted: July 25, 18:01 PM by Alex**

I can \_\_\_\_\_. It's important to stay in touch with your friends, but it's also rude to ignore people you are with.

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**Posted: July 26, 7:25 AM by Samantha@**

I'm not so \_\_\_\_\_. It's also important to remember that there are times when you will need to answer a text or check something on your phone. So, it's not always so simple.

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**Posted: July 26, 9:45 PM by Matt**

I think you're \_\_\_\_\_. Maybe your niece was sending you a message – I'm not always interested in the same topics you are. She might really prefer to be with her friends rather than having dinner with you!

## Modern Technologies

You have come across Marcus Weinmann's blog 'The bad side of technology' and the comment below:

Practice exam question



### The bad side of technology

by Marcus Weinmann  
July 15

As the head teacher of a high school I am often quite worried about the welfare of my students. I do realize that things have changed since I was a teenager, and that the kind of behaviour I see is nothing unusual, but it doesn't prevent me from being concerned. A good example of this is the number of students who come into school in the morning already completely exhausted. I'm almost certain that the cause of this is staying up late at night playing computer games and chatting with their friends online. I'm absolutely convinced that most of them don't realize just how detrimental to their health this is, let alone the effect it has on their grades. I recently read an article about the damage that gaming is doing to kids. The article claimed that lots of the games they play are extremely harmful. It said that at best they were turning teens into zombies and at worst into potential killers! I'm not sure if I'd go that far but I am certain that most teenagers spend too much time on computers.



Posted June 16 23:20 PM by RednBlack

Everyone's entitled to their opinion but I think some of the statements in this blog are silly and give a completely false picture. First of all, to say all teenagers are spending too much time online is just not right. Of course, a lot of teenagers do enjoy playing computer games. But, there are a lot of teenagers who enjoy a much more active life, playing sports and spending time being with their friends. It's true that many teenagers are tired when they arrive at school but I think Mr Weinmann is missing the point. This is nothing new and has to do with the fact that most teenagers find getting up early in the morning difficult – this is a biological thing and nothing to do with staying up late at night playing computer games.



Posted \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

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You have decided to comment on this blog post.

In your blog comment you should:

- comment on RednBlack's point of view
- state your own opinion
- suggest what can be done to stop teenagers spending too much time online