

## MODERN GADGETS

We live in the era of high technologies, and we use modern inventions in our everyday life because they have brought us much comfort. Technology has become a very important part of our lives nowadays. In the past few years, technology has evolved in many ways and without a doubt is even better than before. Moreover, modern technologies 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 For example, video-recorders, DVD-players or compact disks have already become obsolete and have been replaced by more up-to-date devices.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.

Needless to say, modern day gadgets are more of a necessity than a luxury. Modern gadgets can be defined as small tools that have a very specific purpose and use. They have revolutionized our life so much that without them we feel handicapped. Beginning from kitchen, gadgets like mixer, microwave oven, refrigerator and water purifier have proved to be a boon. Cell phones are the center of our life, have huge potential, we can listen to our favourite music while travelling and need not carry heavy radios. They work as our personal assistants. In offices, meetings, trainings, we are dependent on them. Even at the shops, libraries, railways, banks, airports, a computer is required for booking tickets and keeping accounts. If our internet does not work for a day, we feel paralyzed. It feels as if something important is missing from our lives. Thus, these gadgets have left a remarkable impact on our lives and we cannot work or go without them.

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

<b>ADVANTAGES OF MODERN GADGETS</b>	<b>DISADVANTAGES OF MODERN GADGETS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ E-mails have now made communication easier and quicker than the postal service.</li><li>✓ Friends and relatives living in different parts of the world seem a lot closer all thanks to modern gadgets, such as web cams, etc.</li><li>✓ Gadgets make our life easier and speed up the regular everyday work we do.</li><li>✓ Gadgets can also be used by the teachers to educate their students in a more exciting way.</li><li>✓ Gadgets <u>provide</u> an easy way to access the needed information.</li><li>✓ They encourage creativity.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Excessive use of gadgets can lead to loneliness.</li><li>✓ A number of gadgets and applications have replaced humans in their jobs.</li><li>✓ Everything we use on the gadgets is interlinked like our personal <u>data</u>, bank accounts and thus is a <u>threat</u> to security.</li><li>✓ Modern gadgets can also <u>distract</u> student from their studies.</li><li>✓ Studies have shown that modern gadgets show a negative <u>impact</u> on our brain.</li><li>✓ Can lead to a number of <u>health</u> problems in both adults and kids.</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improve our lifestyle.</li> <li>✓ Improve the way people <u>entertain</u> themselves.</li> <li>✓ Help businesses <u>increase</u> their productivity.</li> <li>✓ Easy for students to learn anything from the <u>comfort</u> of their homes.</li> <li>✓ Modern gadgets are now used in hospitals and even in surgical rooms.</li> <li>✓ Help build better architecture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Kids who spend long hours on these gadgets lose interest in their studies.</li> <li>✓ <u>Reduce</u> physical activity, especially in kids.</li> <li>✓ Can increase depression.</li> <li>✓ People can easily <u>get duped</u> by online scams.</li> <li>✓ Can <u>cause</u> sleep related disorders.</li> <li>✓ Can cause headaches and hearing difficulties with excessive usage.</li> </ul>
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It is obvious that gadgets have both advantages and disadvantages. So, we should use them wisely, (put gadgets to good use). Remember, gadgets can be a real boon, and rather handy. And, like anything else, over use can turn into an addiction.

**TASK 1. Think about more advantages and disadvantages of modern gadgets and complete the table with your own ideas.**

**TASK 2. Read and translate the following text.**

### Generation M

Lisa is in her room doing her homework. However, homework is just one of the things she’s doing while her eyes are fixed on the computer screen. As well as studying for her Biology exam, Lisa is also listening to music, chatting with her best friend online, downloading songs and occasionally texting people on her mobile phone. “My parents keep telling me off for multi-tasking while studying but they don’t understand that it helps me concentrate,” she says.

Young people today spend about six hours a day using various types of media, and doing different things at the same time. This is the reason why they are called the Generation M. But when it comes to learning new information, multi-tasking has a bad impact according to researchers. Dividing your attention between many activities makes the knowledge you gain harder to use later. We are not saying you shouldn’t multi-task, just don’t multi-task while you are trying to learn something new. According to specialists, it is also essential to take time away from electronic media. Generation M should take time to relax and reflect. There’s a life beyond the screen and the pleasure of face-to-face communication cannot be replaced.



**Find evidence for the following information in the text.**

1. Lisa’s parents believe that Lisa doesn’t take her studies very seriously.

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2. The phrase “Generation M” means teenagers are good at doing many tasks at the same time.

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3. Learning is made easier when you concentrate on one thing at a time.

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4. Specialists believe students need to spend less time using electronic media.

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### **Text B** **Log on and learn**

No more teachers? No more books? For today’s kids, the Internet has all the answers.

Gadgets come and go and most of them don’t have a very long life. The Internet, however, seems to be here to stay. The World Wide Web is now the largest information resource in the world and teenagers can find more or less anything they want there. They can download music and films, watch TV, listen to the radio, send e-mails and even shop online

In the United States for example, more than 78% of kids go online, according to a recent study. A lot of them are just surfing the Web and instant messaging their friends. But 94% of those online said they also used it for schoolwork. This technology has allowed them to access a vast store of knowledge which was inaccessible before. With online tutoring and virtual schools, technology allows students to get specific help. It is also possible to be a part of a study group or discuss school projects with international e-mail pals. Perhaps more than anything, the Internet search engine Google has changed homework habits across the globe. But the problem is that it is so easy to “copy and paste” that teachers need to change homework assignments or projects every year...

E-learning, which simply means learning online is now becoming one of the most popular uses of the Internet. You can choose your own timetable and you can work at your own pace. This means fewer people will give up their studies because they can’t combine studies and work.

#### **Task 1. Answer the following questions using your own words as far as possible.**

1. Does the author think the Internet will be around for long?

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2. How can the Internet help students in their schoolwork?

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3. What is the negative aspect of the Internet, according to the text?

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4. Why is E-learning becoming popular?

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## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What do you think of when you hear the word ‘technology’?
- How has technology changed in the past?
- How has technology changed your life?
- How has technology changed society?
  
- Could you live without technology?
- What technological achievement was the best?
- Which new technological tool are you looking forward to? / What changes would you like to see science make to the world?
  
- What do you think of today’s technology? Do we use it the right way?
- Do you think that technology controls and spies on us?
- How can countries help to create more inventors?
- Is there a piece of technology that you are afraid of that might exist in the future? (artificial intelligence, flying cars)
- Which technology has made the world worse?
- What are the possibilities of technology in clothing?
- What is the future of transportation?
- What do you think very old people think of modern technology?
- Do you think modern technology reduces or increases stress? Why?
- Do you think robots will cause unemployment in the future? Why? Why not?
- What do you think about GMO (genetically modified organisms) food?
  
  
- At what age should children get a cell phone?
- How many hours a day should children be allowed to use electric devices?
- Do you think people rely too much on technology?
- What do you think about online shopping?
- Does technology make society lazy?
- Do you prefer to text your friends or call them?