

UNIT 6



SCIENCE



LESSON 1. SCI TECH

Communicative area: discussing advantages and disadvantages of the scientific progress, writing an opinion paragraph

Active vocabulary: app, data, digital, genius, technology, vehicle, web

1. a) What do you think when you hear *science* and *technology*?
- b)  Listen to some questions about science and technology and think of your answers.
- c)  Listen to the answers. Do you agree with the answers?
2. a) Read the article below. What is its main idea?

Moving with the Gear Train of Modern Science

By Ajeet Khurana

Fire was the first discovery and wheel was the first invention. Since that time, we have travelled far. Science has taken us to territories we could not have imagined some centuries ago. The 20th century was when science really came into its own. Half of our present day inventions were unthinkable a century ago.

Science has brought great changes in every field but the one place where it has really shone is **technology**. Today, we have access to some of the most advanced technical inventions. A few centuries ago, a **genius** ['dʒiːniəs] called Leonardo da Vinci made the first blue-print for an aeroplane. Today, even

the economy class, domestic flights have become passé. It is time for the new inventions.

Some time ago, NASA launched a Space Shuttle called Discovery. Imagine, a metallic object run on hydrogen fuel, in space, thousand miles away, bringing us news, **data** ['dertə] and newer means of improvement.

It's not only about the air.

Vehicles ['vi:klz] which run on land are packed with newer inventions of the day. All modern cars have technology written all over them. These are the mechanical devices which have made us a Nano-race.

We have come into a **digital** age. Computers have given way to laptops and then to notebooks and palmtops. LCDs and Plasmas have replaced picture-tube televisions.

The mobiles have turned into a complete island of entertainment and communication.

Internet has brought the impossible within means. Web has made online education possible. A teacher in Spain can teach a student in Nigeria with the help of computer **apps** and Voice Chat modules.

Science has really beautified life. Today, you can visit your distant relative on the other side of the globe within a day. You can look at an award ceremony held in London, sitting in a shelter in Algeria. You can put thousands and thousands pages of text into a pin size chip and still have plenty of space left.

You cannot come back from the dead but that's probably the only thing you cannot do. The borders of time and space are certainly shrinking.

b) Work in pairs. Find the words and phrases in the text that mean:

1) a man of great talent; 2) extremely small (10^{-9}); 3) old-fashioned; 4) set flying, activate; 5) information; 6) automobile; 7) operating on information in numerical form; 8) application, computer programme; 9) getting smaller.

Name:

a) a US agency responsible for the space programme; b) a genius who made the first blue-print for an aeroplane; c) a prefix meaning 10^{-9} ; d) Liquid Crystal Display used in many digital

devices; e) an electrically neutral, highly ionised gas; f) all gadgets and devices mentioned in the article.

c) Discuss in pairs.

1. Do you like science? What area of science are you interested in? 2. Are you interested in technological progress? 3. How many of the devices mentioned in the article do you have at home? 4. How often do you use them? 5. What advantages has scientific progress brought into our lives?

3. Complete the set of phrases with a word from the active vocabulary list.

Example: high-tech ..., mechanical ..., clever ... (device)

1. World Wide ..., spider ..., to browse... 2. parked..., off-road..., to drive a ... 3. natural ..., ... mind, mathematical ... 4. digital ..., the latest ..., science and ... 5. ... exchange, scientific ..., ... file

4. a) Read what people say about technology. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

technology, invention, electricity, text, web

Advances in technology are wonderful. That is till the ... (1) goes out. Then you sit in your home and realise just how dependent you've become on the devices that surround you. Work and play stops, children scratch their heads not knowing what to do.

Chris B., Canada

Overall positive as I now have instant communication with my children living in Sweden, Germany and Switzerland as well as my 90-year-old father in the States and brothers and a sister living there as well. Arranging a reunion party over the ... (2) is a lot easier.

Paul Pekar, Panicale-Casalini, Italy

Nothing new so far. War and markets dictate everything. Our new ... (3) is old military technology.

Z. Abbasi, UK

This morning I sat here in Qatar and checked the Joint Typhoon Warning Center of the US Navy in Hawaii and saw that a tropical storm in the Philippines was suddenly going south. I sent a ... (4) message to my wife at home here and she phoned her father's mobile phone in very rural Mindanao. He is a fisherman and decided that he would stay at home tonight rather than take the boat out; even though the weather was fine when she called him. Now there is a difference.

David, Doha Qatar

New technology will always make a difference as it always has, whether it is the ... (5) of the wheel, the discovery of electricity or the Internet.

Stephen, England

b)  Listen and check. What question were the people asked?

c) Whose opinion do you agree with? How would you answer the question of the interviewer?

5. a) Write an opinion paragraph about advantages and disadvantages of technological progress.

1. Introduce your opinion. 2. Support your opinion. 3. Clarify or explain why you think so. You may also give an example. 4. Repeat steps 2–3 as many times as you wish. 5. Sum up the details to write the concluding sentence.

b) Proofread your writing to make sure that there are no mistakes.

LESSON 2. I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Communicative area: speaking about technology in your life

Active vocabulary: earphones, GPS, iPod, screen, smartphone

1. Read the list of appliances the British can't live without. What do you think is item No1? Reorder the list according to your own ideas.