



MICROCHIP IMPLANTS TO BECOME COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

1A5T-C258-5XN4



Source: Reuters

1

Warm up

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. When paying for products, do you use cash or pay with a card or phone?
2. Can you think of any disadvantages to paying through contactless methods, such as scanning your credit/debit card?
3. Are you worried about your movements being tracked by online corporations?
4. Would you install an app on your phone that monitored you at work if your employer asked you to do so?





2

Vocabulary focus

Part A: Match words with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. buzz (n) | a. relating to a very bad or unfair society in which there is a lot of suffering, especially an imaginary future society |
| 2. implantable (adj.) | b. limit something or make it last for a shorter time |
| 3. encase (v) | c. a strong feeling of pleasure, excitement or achievement |
| 4. regulator (n) | d. describing something that can be put into or attached onto the body |
| 5. dystopian (adj.) | e. consisting of various types |
| 6. assorted (adj.) | f. surround or cover something completely, especially to protect it |
| 7. augment (v) | g. increase the value or size of something by adding something to it |
| 8. curtail (v) | h. a person or organisation that officially controls an area of business or industry and makes sure that it is operating fairly |

Part B: Complete the sentences with the missing words from Part A. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. I found the book I'd been looking for today – it was under my bed, and completely _____ in dust!
2. In the food industry, the role of the _____ is especially important, as the public need protecting.
3. There's a bit of a _____ around the latest Star Wars film, despite the reaction to the last one.
4. The government's plans to increase the number of security cameras around the city were labelled _____ by the opposition.
5. Eating a diet consisting of _____ vegetables is a good way to stay healthy.
6. Protestors accused the mayor of _____ their freedom after he announced plans to ban demonstrations.
7. Some companies are releasing special glasses that _____ a user's vision with tiny screens.
8. In medicine, the development of _____ technology to regulate a patient's heartbeat was a major step forward.



3

Listening for specific information

Listen to the report about the advancements in microchipping. Write what the items relate to.

1. Walletmor

2. Wojtek Paprota

3. 500

4. 4000

5. 51

6. 1998

Glossary:

transhumanist movement (also *transhumanism*) – a theory that science and technology can help human beings develop beyond what is physically and mentally possible at the present time

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Listening for comprehension

Listen to the report again. Answer the questions true, false or not given.

1. The microchip mentioned in the recording is covered in a special type of material known as a biopolymer. _____
2. Regulators have expressed safety doubts about the microchips. _____
3. The respondents who were in favour of having a microchip implant only supported the idea based on certain criteria. _____
4. The term biohacker is often used by early adopters of microchip implant technology to refer to themselves. _____
5. Patrick Paumen has had a variety of implants for medical reasons, and has had problems with them. _____
6. Microchip implants have been widely available since 1998, although they were very expensive until recently. _____
7. Some, such as lawmakers, religious groups and civil rights organisations have opposed the technology. _____



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Reading: general vocabulary

Match the words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.

I

1. Conditions in **warehouses** have, in general, improved over the last century.
 2. My husband was **fined** by the police after he was caught speeding.
 3. My sister used to **rip** pages **out** of my notebooks for fun when we were children.
 4. There are concerns that **surveillance** of innocent people could damage their civil liberties.
 5. In some countries, criminals are subject to **electronic tagging** after release from prison, in order to ensure they don't commit further crimes.
- a. the careful watching of a person or place, especially by the police, because of a crime that has happened or is expected to take place
 - b. remove something from something else quickly or violently, often by pulling it
 - c. a building where large quantities of goods are stored, especially before they are sent to shops to be sold
 - d. the use of a device that is fastened to a person who has committed a crime, so that the police know where that person is
 - e. make somebody pay money as an official punishment

II

1. If you have an accident at work, you may be able to receive **compensation** from your employer.
 2. In universities, relationships between teachers and students are usually forbidden, as they are seen as an **abuse of power**.
 3. I've become increasingly **paranoid** about germs since the pandemic started – I wash my hands at least 20 times a day!
 4. If your computer is struggling with simple tasks, you may need to **tweak** some settings in order to improve performance.
 5. Although many fans are happy with the new manager, some have greeted his appointment with **apprehension**, as his previous team lost most of their matches.
- a. the use of something in a way that is wrong or harmful
 - b. believing that other people dislike you or want to harm you when there is no reason or evidence for this
 - c. make slight changes to a machine, system etc. to improve it
 - d. worry or fear that something unpleasant may happen
 - e. money that is paid to someone in exchange for something that has been lost or damaged, or because of an injury or problem

Discuss these questions in pairs.



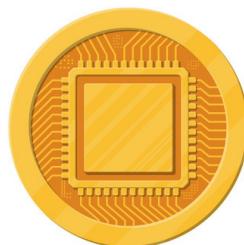
1. Do you have a friend or family member you would describe as paranoid?
2. Do you feel apprehension about the future in general?
3. Can you think of any ways in which smartphones could be tweaked in order to make them safer for children?
4. Should police have the power to set up surveillance of innocent people if they believe it might prevent a crime?
5. Have you ever been fined for something?
6. Would you accept a job in a warehouse in which the employer insisted on electronic tagging for his/her employees?
7. Have you ever received compensation because of an accident or problem with a company?

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Pre-reading task: reading for general understanding

You are going to read a text about people's reactions to the concept of human microchip implants. Scan the text quickly and find someone who matches each statement. One statement cannot be matched to any speaker and should be marked 'Not given'.

1. someone who enjoys modifying their body: _____
2. someone who works at a university: _____
3. someone who had a bad experience with microchips: _____
4. someone who had an employer that abused his/her power: _____
5. someone who is scared of becoming ill: _____





Getting chipped

Would you like an implant?

Brian, 25

- A. I used to work in a warehouse for a major international shipment company. You've probably heard of them. Two years in, they introduced electronic tagging for employees, which allowed management to keep track on us in and around the work premises. Within a few months, one of my colleagues had been fired for taking a smoke break during working hours. The tag had silently alerted someone higher up as soon as he set foot outside the warehouse. Things went from bad to worse, with some of my co-workers being fined as the tag determined that they hadn't moved enough during the day. When I quit, I took the tag off and crushed it under my boot in front of my boss. Imagine if we had been microchipped – you can't exactly rip a chip out of your skin! I hope that implants will never become a thing, but with the way the world is heading, I wouldn't be surprised.

Celia, 32

- B. I love shopping, but I hate touching money – I have a bit of a phobia of germs. Obviously, this got worse when the pandemic started, but on the other hand it became much more normal to pay with contactless cards or smartphones. I think that, if I could have a microchip under my skin that I used to pay for things it'd be an even better option. I know some people complain about physical money becoming obsolete, but I think they should really get with the times. The trend is towards a more remote society, and I wouldn't be surprised if human contact becomes a thing of the past in the not-so-distant future. We'll all be living online anyway by then, with robots to do all the manual jobs we don't want to do anymore.

Katrina, 28

- C. The apprehension towards microchipping has little to do with current technology. Most people aren't worried about the idea of being able to buy things without carrying a credit card around. We're concerned with what will happen next. Already, we've seen surveillance tech being employed by corporations in order to keep tabs on workers. We've seen cases like that of Myrna Arias, who claimed she was fired after uninstalling a tracking app that allowed her employer to monitor movements twenty-four hours a day. In 2015, a federal jury awarded compensation to a pair of warehouse employees who had their DNA illegally tested by their boss. As a professor of civil rights, I've studied some of the worst moments of recent human history. If microchipping progresses to the next step and becomes widespread, we can expect to see far more abuses of power.

Stefan, 47

- D. Most of my fellow biohackers are quite a bit younger than me. I think they find it amusing that I'm so eager to get modded. I see my body as a machine – my mind, that's the real me. Sometimes machines need fixing, which is where medicine comes in. Sometimes they need tweaking to improve performance. Thanks to my microchip, I can call my girlfriend just by touching my phone. I set up a program which interacts with my chip. The code could be altered to perform a variety of functions, and as the technology improves, I'm expecting it to drastically improve our lives for the better. For example, some researchers are looking into ways to use implanted chips to help people with disabilities. Just by touching a door, it could unlock or open for them. That could be life-changing – a far cry from the dystopia we've been sold by the paranoid.

Sources: *The Guardian, BBC, New York Times, Independent*



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Reading comprehension

Read the article again. Match statements with the correct speakers. Some statements can be matched to more than one speaker. One of the statements cannot be matched to any of the speakers and should be marked 'Not given'.

1. They have conducted research into human rights abuses. _____
2. They feel generally positive about microchip implants. _____
3. They feel a sense of apprehension about the idea of microchip implants. _____
4. They think that microchip implants will never become popular. _____
5. They believe implants could help people who have difficulties. _____

Part B: For each question, choose the answer you believe best suits the speaker.

1. Which statement best describes Brian's emotional state when he quit his job?
 - a. He was so angry that he destroyed the electronic tag in front of his boss.
 - b. He was fed up with being treated worse than his co-workers.
 - c. He was relieved to be leaving his job for a better paid job.
2. Which statement best describes Celia's attitude towards people who prefer to pay with cash?
 - a. She understands why they want to keep using cash instead of contactless payments.
 - b. She thinks that they should keep up with modern trends.
 - c. She thinks that they are being paranoid.
3. Why does Katrina think that most people are worried about microchip implants?
 - a. She believes people are concerned with the safety aspect of being microchipped.
 - b. She thinks people are worried about the cost of being microchipped.
 - c. She thinks people are worried about how the technology could be used in the future.
4. Why might Stefan be unconcerned with the idea of modifying his body?
 - a. He thinks that it's as safe and trivial as getting a tattoo.
 - b. He believes that the body is similar to a machine, and that the mind is the 'real' him.
 - c. He points out that humans have been modifying their bodies for centuries, so it's nothing new.



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Talking point

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Can you think of any recent changes to the law in your country that you consider to be dystopian?
2. Do you think it's normal to feel a sense of apprehension about new technology?
3. Is surveillance a threat to privacy, or is it necessary for security?
4. Would you be tempted to have a microchip implanted into your body? Why/why not?
5. Do you think that there could ever be a good reason for microchipping humans?
6. Should laws be put in place to protect employees from being encouraged or forced to be microchipped by their employers?
7. In the future, will hybrid humans – a mixture of man and machine – be commonplace? Is this the next step in evolution?

9

Post-reading activity: vocabulary in context

Match the words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.

1. In my country, desktop computers seem to be a **thing of the past** as society moves towards phones and tablets.
2. Being an influencer and selling a company's products online is a **far cry from** being a proper celebrity.
3. My sister has made her daughter install an app that allows her **to keep tabs on** her when she goes out.
 - a. a very different experience from something
 - b. watch somebody/something carefully in order to know what is happening so that you can control a particular situation
 - c. something that no longer happens



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Optional vocabulary practice/Homework

Complete the short text with the correct words. You may need to change the form of the words.

warehouses / apprehension / electronic tagging / fined
surveillance / abuse / rip out / compensation / tweaking / paranoid

I'm making a documentary on the use of new technology in _____¹, and I've discovered a lot of worrying trends.

Firstly, the use of _____² to monitor employees in _____³ has increased in recent years, after a large corporation popularised the practice. In some instances, workers were _____⁴ if they went to the toilet at any time other than their specified lunch break.

Talk about an _____⁵ of power! I even heard a story about a pregnant woman forced to give birth in the disabled bathroom, as she wasn't allowed to leave her workplace to go to the hospital. In another branch of the same company, employees decided to _____ the security cameras _____⁶ of the ceiling. They were fed up with being watched all day and being sent minute-by-minute updates about their performance.

My film also addresses public attitudes towards the misuse of technology. I found that, in general, there is a lot of _____⁷ towards the idea of microchips or other potential tracking devices, although some of those I interviewed claimed that such beliefs are _____⁸, and that there is nothing to worry about if you haven't done anything wrong.

Others believed that technology just needs _____⁹ to prevent employers and governments from using it to exploit people. As for the woman who gave birth at work, she's currently seeking _____¹⁰. I hope she wins her legal battle.