

# « More Machine Than Man... »

## Listening practice.

### A. PART 1.

1) Complete this transcript of the introductory section of the video.

“Cyborgs remind us of characters that are *futuristic* and *fantasy*. [He's more machine, now, than man] But in *reality*, we're all basically cyborgs. From *glasses* to smart watches, we wear and *carry* and attach a lot of things that *supplement* or enhance our bodies' *abilities*. But there's a *growing* movement of people who are taking that *integration* to the next level, by *implanting* everything from magnets to Wi-Fi routers in their bodies. This isn't the kind of thing that you can just do at your doctor's *office*. So they've come up with their own *unofficial* and *surprising* ways to get it done.”

2) Tick the correct proposals about Jeffrey Tibbetts, the man the reporter visits.

- ☐ He has just started doing this weird activity.
- ☒ He is very famous in his community.
- ☐ He's just opened his surgery (=cabinet medical).
- ☒ He “operates” from his garage.
- ☐ You can just type his name on the internet and find about his activities.
- ☐ He considers himself as an artist.
- ☒ He has a professional medical background
- ☐ His ‘real’ job is manager for a data storage company.

3) What is the name of the larger movement Jeffrey Tibbett belongs to? ⇒ “*biohacking*”

Is this movement growing popular today? Tick the correct box and justify with a short quote from the video.

☒ YES ☐ NO ⇒ “*more and more mainstream*”

4) What might the members of this community be interested in doing? Tick the correct proposals.

- ☒ Imitate characters from famous sci-fi movies.
- ☒ Experiment new drugs.
- ☐ Get ready for the moment we have to share society with robots.
- ☒ Use technology to become immortal

5) Actually, Jeffrey Tibbetts belongs to a sub-group of this community. Which one?

⇒ “*Grinding*”

Give two characteristic elements about the members of this sub-group.

They modify their bodies by implanting technology that might enhance or change the body's functionality. They range from numerous different professional backgrounds that aren't necessarily related to medicine or biology.

## B. PART 2.

6) What does Anastasia Lynn call herself? Give three different names.

↳ “cyborg” / “biohacker” / “transhumanist”

7) What does the number “26” correspond to?

It’s the number of implants she had before today. Now she’s going to have 7 more!

8) Pick up two expressions used by the voiceover to say that this practice is disapproved of by the authorities.

↳ “a medical and legal grey area”

↳ “truly an underground movement”

9) What example of technology does the reporter give us to convince us that this movement isn’t as ridiculous as it may seem? Give as many details as possible about the history of this device.

The pacemaker can be considered as an ancient example of merging people’s bodies and technology. It was originally used in the 1920s’ to revive a still born child and was considered a miracle. Yet, bringing someone back from the dead made a lot of people uneasy so the research was abandoned until public perception shifted and it was deemed acceptable in the late 1950s’. Today it has become quite common to be implanted a pacemaker.

## C. PART 3.

10) Complete this transcript of the following passage from the video:

“It goes to show that our integration with tech is *evolving* and always incomplete. *Biohackers* as we know them are now basically playing around in the lab to see what they can come up with next. And while *magnet* implants or *Bluetooth* teeth really aren't on the same *scale* or as *life-saving* as a pacemaker, these implants are just a *stepping stone* in this ever changing *landscape*.”

11) Say whether the following statement is true or false and justify quoting from the video.

↳ Jeffrey Tibbett convinced the reporter of getting an implant. **TRUE** / **FALSE**

“Reporting on this story and watching Jeffrey in his garage really made me curious to know what it was like”

12) What did he chose to have implanted in his hand? Give at least 5 features of such an implant.

He decided to go for an NFC chip (near field communication) which will allow him to open a door, unlock his car or his computer. It will also enable him to share contact info by just scanning it, or to open a website. He can even use it to program a FaceTime call.

13) What surprised him most about having this implant?

His mum didn’t even freak out about his having one.