

READING

The internet of things

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1093R

LANGUAGE

English



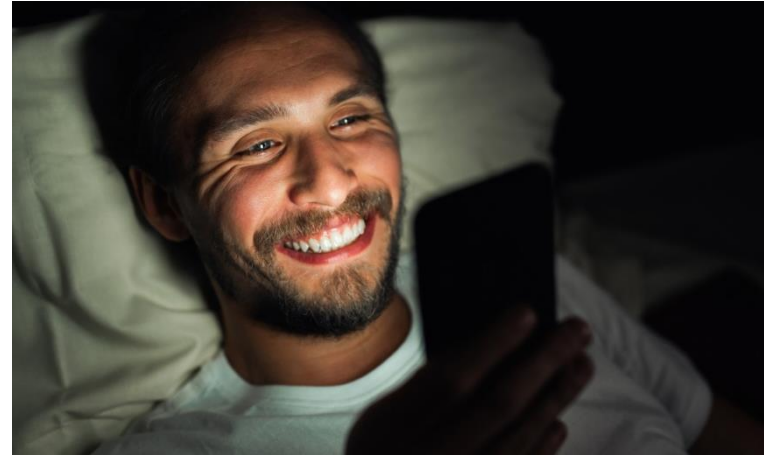
Learning outcomes

- I can read a text about the internet of things and identify its key points.
- I can share my views on whether technology has made our lives easier or not.



Warm-up

**Has anyone heard of
'the internet of things'?**



**If not, can you guess
what it refers to?**

The internet of things

Read the text. **Answer** the questions below.

The **internet of things** refers to a giant network of connected devices and people – all of which collect and share data about the way in which they are used and the environment around them.

Wearable fitness devices, for instance, can **measure** heartrate and number of steps taken in a day. They then use this information to suggest exercise plans tailored to you.



1. What is the internet of things?
2. What data does a wearable fitness device collect?

The internet of things

Read the text. **Answer** the questions below.

Some other remarkable objects range from smart microwaves, which automatically cook your food for the perfect amount of time to self-driving cars, whose complex sets of sensors allow the car to identify objects in their path and react accordingly. Not to mention, a smart bed that can gather data on how you're sleeping to adjust the firmness of the mattress or even its temperature to improve your sleep quality.



3. What do smart microwaves do?
4. What stops a smart car from crashing into another car?
5. How can a smart bed improve a person's sleep?



What about you?

Would you ever consider buying a smart microwave or a smart bed?



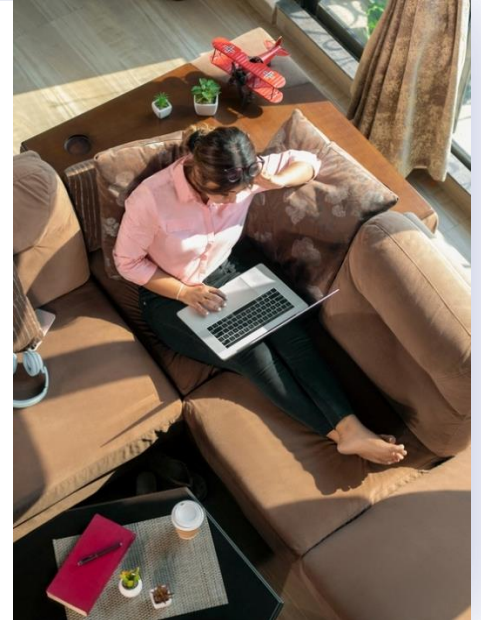
Do you see self-driving cars as innovative or dangerous?

The internet of things

Read the text. **Answer** the questions below.

Some people have argued, however, that the internet is an **invisible force** – like electricity – one that we will soon be unable to imagine life without.

Without even realising, we risk becoming **over-reliant** on technology. In doing so, we risk losing the **ability** to naturally **adapt** to our environment and the knowledge of how to survive.



1. Why does the text compare the internet with electricity?
2. What do critics of the internet say will happen to us in the future?

Read this quotation

“Some people have argued that the internet is an invisible force – like electricity – and that we will soon be unable to imagine life without it.”

Do you see the internet as an invisible force or not?

Could you imagine your life without the internet?

Do you think humans rely too much on the internet or not?

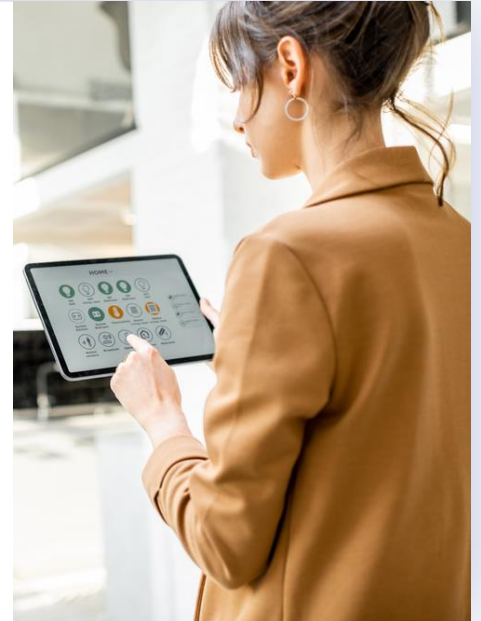


The internet of things

Read the text. **Answer** the questions below.

One major question is: does handing decision-making power over to machines **represent** a change for the better or for the worse?

What about, for instance, if you had an **intelligent** home heating system: one that could **track** your exact movements, see when you arrive at home and knew exactly when to **pre-heat** your house? No more wasted energy - heating an empty house - or time wasted trying to programme the system yourself.



1. What key question does the writer pose?
2. What example does the writer give to illustrate their point?



The internet of things

Read the text. **Answer** the questions below.

For some **observers**, this goes to show how technology has made our lives easier. If a computer can make better decisions about our lives than we can, what's the risk? Computers save people time and energy by doing things much quicker than humans.

Critics argue, however, that one of the **potential dangers** is that humans will forget how to do things and, if the internet suddenly stops working, so too would our daily lives!



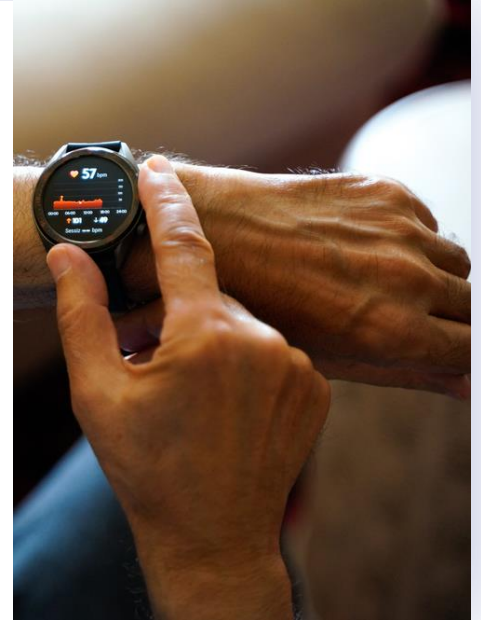
3. Give one argument in favour of greater use of technology in our daily lives.
4. Give one argument against greater use of technology in our daily lives.

The internet of things

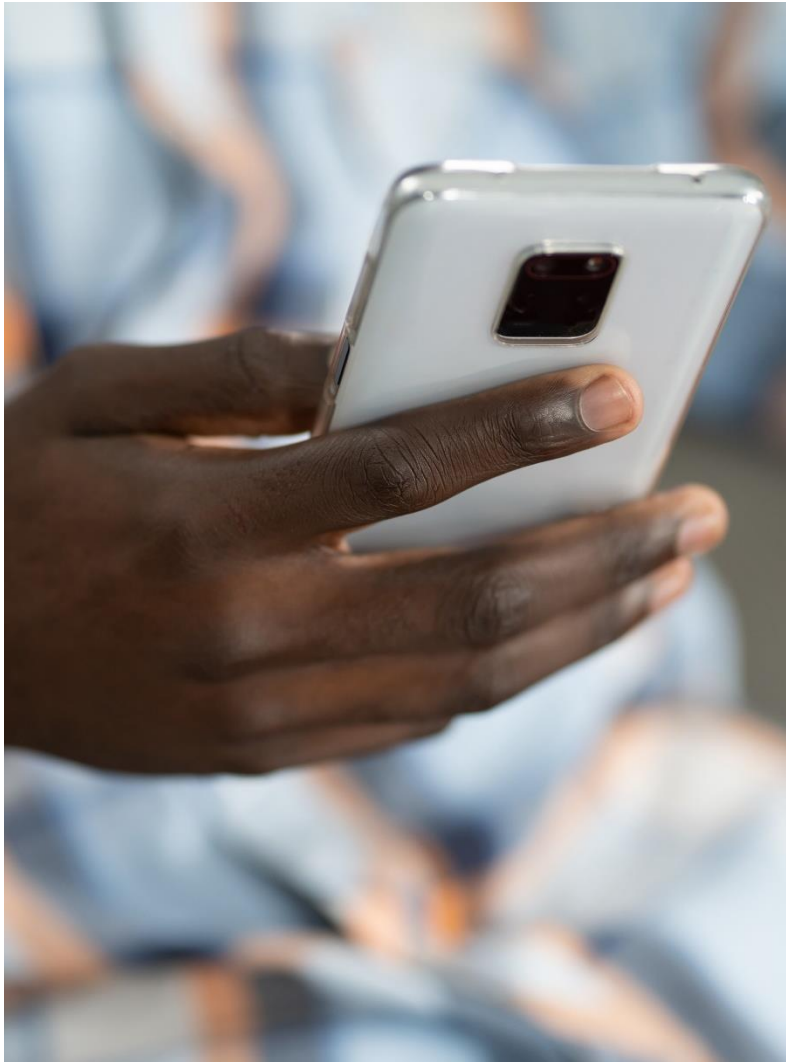
Read the text. **Answer** the questions below.

Will humans come to live in a **bubble** far removed from the **realities** of environmental change, for example?

Moreover, if our sleeping patterns, calorie intake and daily movements are recorded, what will happen if hackers gain access to all this information? Technological advances aside, suddenly we are left in a more vulnerable position than ever. Is it worth it?



5. What does the author see as the biggest risk associated with greater technology use?



This **goes to show** how technology has made our lives easier.

To go to show is another way of saying ***to prove something to be true.***

For example:
*The invention of the internet **goes to show** just how intelligent human beings can be.*



Discuss

In **breakout rooms** or **together as a class**.

Do you worry about someone stealing your personal data?



What do you do to protect your personal data?

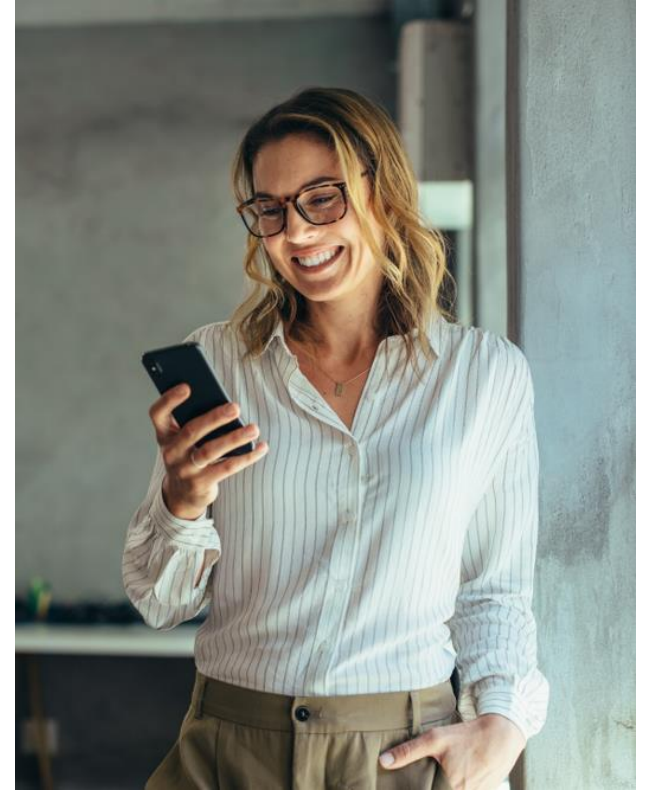
What's one thing you wouldn't trust a computer to do for you?



What do you think?

**Has the internet truly
made our lives easier
or not?**

**Discuss your thoughts
together as a class!**





End of the lesson

Idiom

a piece of cake

Meaning: thing that is very easy to do.

Example: Finding information on the internet is **a piece of cake**. You just type in your question and hit enter.



Additional practice



How about you?

Do you own any smart devices?



What made you buy it?



Re-read this part of the article



Will humans come to live in a bubble far removed from the realities of environmental change, for example?

What does the author mean by 'living in a bubble'?

Do you think technology helps or harms the environment?

How worried are you about environmental change?





Write a social media post

Imagine you share the article you read in today’s lesson on your social media.

Write a short post saying what interested you most about the article.

Can you get your friends to read it?





Answer key

- P. 4-5:**
1. The internet of things refers to a giant network of devices and people that shares data about the way in which they are used and the surrounding environment.
 2. The heartrate and number of steps taken.
 3. Automatically cook food for you for the perfect amount of time.
 4. Its complex set of sensors.
 5. It gather data to adjust the mattress firmness or temperature.
- P. 7:**
1. Both are invisible forces – ones we will soon be unable to live without.
 2. Critics say we will become so dependant on technology that we will be unable to survive by ourselves.
- P. 9-11:**
1. Does handing over decision-making to machines represent a positive or negative change?
 2. A smart heating system at home.
 3. Saves people time and energy.
 4. Human will forget how to do things; if the technology stop working, so do our daily lives.
 5. Data hacking.



Summary

The internet of things

- *wearable; to measure; smart technology; self-driving; over-reliant; to adapt to*
- *to represent; to track; to pre-heat; potential dangers; observers; critics; bubble; realities*
- *Will humans come to live in a **bubble** far removed from the **realities** of environmental change?*



Vocabulary

wearable

to measure

smart technology

self-driving

over-reliant

to adapt to

to represent

to track

to pre-heat

potential dangers

observers

critics

bubble

realities



Notes

