

# Women in tech

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_4054S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



lingoda

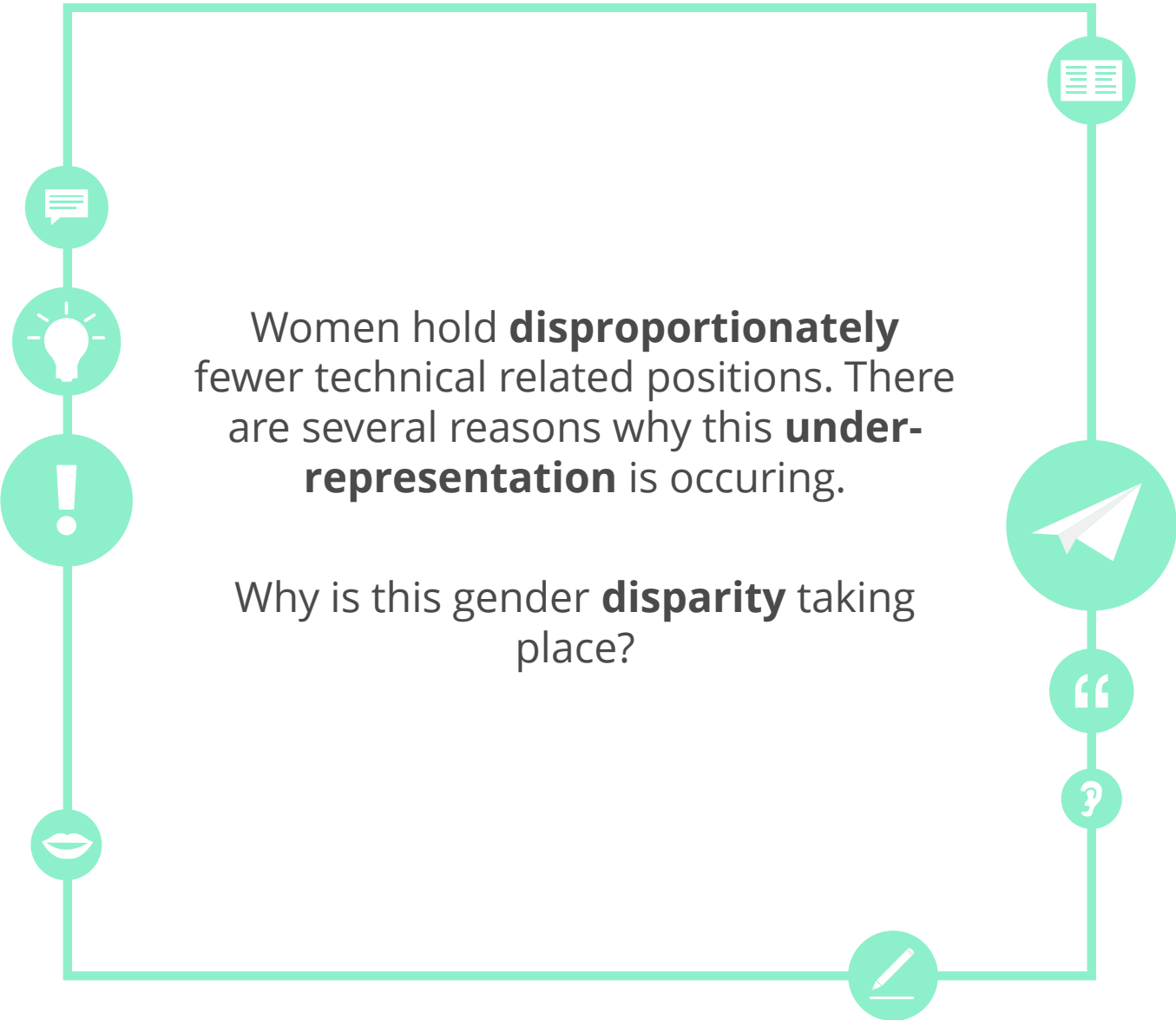




## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a challenging text about women in tech.
- Can maintain an extended discussion on gender issues in the work force and in specific industries.





Women hold **disproportionately** fewer technical related positions. There are several reasons why this **under-representation** is occurring.

Why is this gender **disparity** taking place?



## Facing challenges in the workplace

**Look at the jobs on the cards below.  
Discuss what you think might be the most challenging aspects  
of each job. Does gender come into play when you think of  
these challenges?**



doctor

air steward or  
air stewardess

waitress or  
waiter

delivery driver

scientist

builder

singer

lorry driver

teacher



## Working in the technology industry

**Discuss what you think the working culture is like in the technology industry.**





## Challenges for women in the workplace

**What challenges  
do women face in  
the workplace?**



## Women in tech

There has been an **explosive** growth in the tech industry over the last decade. In the US alone employment in this field was approaching seven million in 2017. **Within** this industry a much-discussed issue is the gender gap. When it comes to employment within the tech world, the US and the UK **lag** behind other countries when it comes to gender **parity**. For example, in 2013, only 25% of the employees in Silicon Valley, often known as the heart of the tech industry, were female.





## Women in tech

The reasons why such a gap exists are complex. Part of the problem may **stem** from the fact that subjects such as computer science are often **portrayed** as male **domains**. This results in a lack of women **engaging** with the subject at degree level and fewer female graduates in the field. There have been some moves to **address** this imbalance, for example by marketing degree courses such as engineering and computer science as accessible to all and offering female **mentorship** schemes. Many people also hope that having strong female **role models** within the industry will further encourage female applicants.







## Women in tech



The problem also needs to be addressed within the tech industry itself. Many **prominent** tech companies have reported barely any increase in their number of female employees over the past couple of years, despite the fact that the industry has continued to surge in growth.



## Women in tech



Despite this, many people are **continually** trying to improve the gender bias **climate** by creating events and social groups to encourage women into the sector. There are even conferences, boot camps and summer camps available all over the world to assist women in the development of their technical careers. Many women find these events **life affirming** and **inspirational**.

In the UK, universities run **widening participation** events to encourage equality in science and technology courses. Their aim is to offer opportunities to **under-represented** groups in specific fields.



## Mentorship schemes

The text mentions the use of mentorship schemes to encourage more women to enter the field of technology.  
What is a mentorship scheme?  
How do they work?





## Vocabulary review

**Look at the words from the text on the cards below. Can you write your own definition of each?**

lag

continually

address

engage

domain

portray

A vertical stack of seven horizontal lines for writing definitions, preceded by a vertical line and a series of small circles on the left side, resembling a spiral notebook.



## Why does the gender gap exist?



Why does the gender gap in the technology industry exist?  
What has been done so far to address this gap?



## Tackling the gender gap

**Thinking about various gender gaps in the workplace.**



1

Besides the technology industry, what other industries do you know of where there is a gender gap?



# Tackling the gender gap

**Think about the gender gap in the workplace**



1

Besides the technology industry, what other industries do you know of where there is a gender gap?



2

What do you think could be done to tackle the gender gap in these industries? Can you see any similarities in terms of why these industries might have a gender gap?



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension





## Who?

**Listen to the transcript and fill in the gaps below.**

analytical

considered

astonishing

inventor

intrigued

One \_\_\_\_\_ fact, is that the person \_\_\_\_\_ to be the first computer programmer was a woman. Ada Lovelace was a gifted mathematician and lived in the mid-1800s. As a teenager, she became acquainted with Charles Babbage, an \_\_\_\_\_ and mathematician. Thanks to Babbage's encouragement, she decided to study advanced mathematics. Babbage was known as the father of the computer and Ada was thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ by his work. Babbage invented the \_\_\_\_\_ engine machine which was designed to perform mathematical equations.





## Women in tech

The words below were mentioned in the text.  
Discuss their meaning and produce a sentence for each.

**reinforced**

**recognition**

**acquainted**

**societal change**



## Presentation time!

**Imagine you are the director of a top tech company. You are going to give a talk at a high school to encourage more women to pursue technology based qualifications and careers.**

**What points will you want to mention?**

You want to motivate the students so you can use phrases like:

- I would encourage you to...
- We will support you by...
- You have our reassurance that...





## Cultural myths

The text mentions cultural myths.

What is a cultural myth? Can you think of any other examples of cultural myths? Why do you think they are so difficult to challenge?

“

There is a long-standing **cultural myth** that technology is something that women can't do!

”



## Addressing cultural myths

**Reflect on the examples of cultural myths that you have explored. In what ways are the topics on the cards below important when addressing these cultural myths?**



education

positive discrimination

mentorship schemes and positive role models



## Your personal experience



Think about your own study or work place.  
What challenges do women face in this environment?  
What could you do and what could be done in general to help combat these challenges?



## E-mail your manager

**You work for a science technology company and you would like to organise an open day to encourage teenage girls to experience a day in the life of your firm. You want to propose the idea to your manager. Write a short email detailing your reasons why you think this is important. Try to include as many facts as you can.**

The diagram shows a window with a title bar containing three buttons: a minus sign, a square, and a red 'x'. Below the title bar are three input fields:

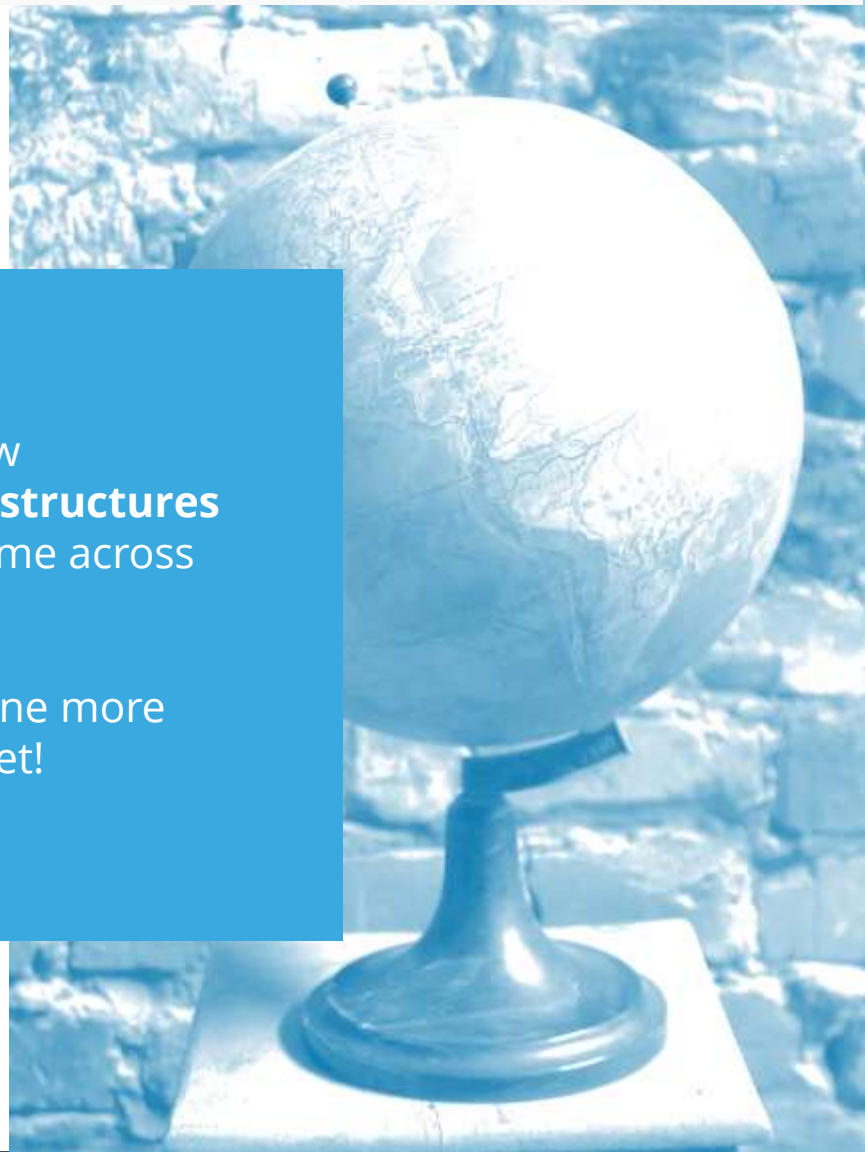
- The first field contains the text "themanager@mycompany.work".
- The second field contains the text "Women in tech - open day proposal".
- The third field is a large text area with horizontal lines for writing the email body.



## Reflect on this lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







## Answer key

### Activity p.17

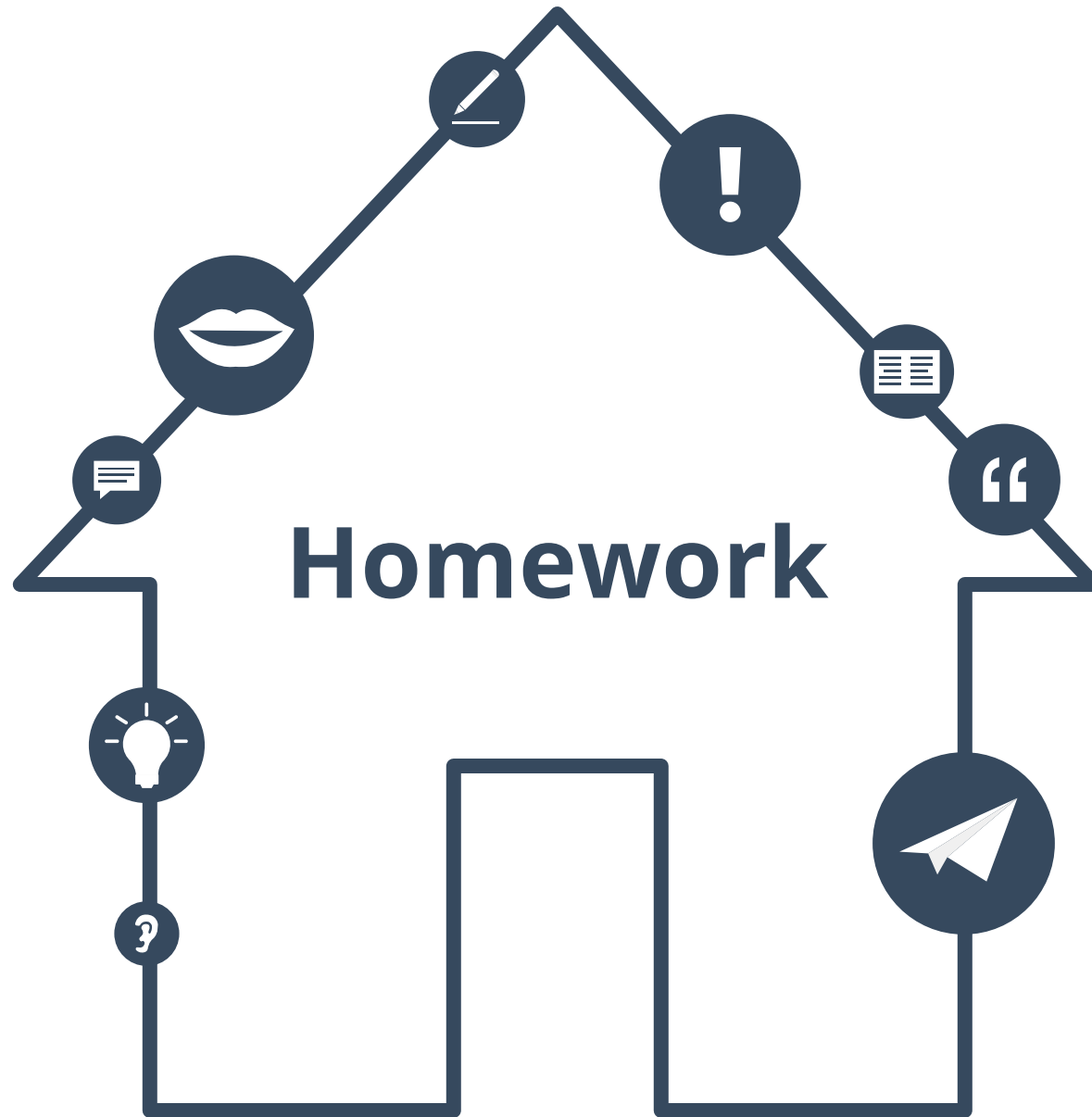
astonishing, considered, inventor, intrigued, analytical



## Transcription

There has to be a **societal change** in attitude towards women in technology. There is a long-standing **cultural myth** that technology is something that women can't do! Constantly **reinforced** cultural norms and structural inequality within the education system have to be addressed in order to fix this imbalance. **Recognition** of the problem is only a starting point. Much work has still to be done in order to create a more balanced and fair tech industry of the future.

One astonishing fact, is that the person **considered** to be the first computer programmer was a woman. Ada Lovelace was a gifted mathematician and lived in the mid-1800s. As a teenager, she became **acquainted** with Charles Babbage, an inventor and mathematician. Thanks to Babbage's encouragement, she decided to study advanced mathematics. Babbage was known as the father of the computer and Ada was thoroughly intrigued by his work. Babbage invented the **analytical** engine machine which was designed to perform mathematical equations. However, Ada saw its potential outside of its original format. She was asked to translate an article about Babbage's machine to which she added her own notes explaining how the machine could be used to generate images. Ada really saw the inventor's true potential!





## Research

**Research into famous women in technology. Pick one which interests you. Write some bullet points and then transform this into a short piece of writing, approximately 150 words.**

The illustration shows a spiral-bound notebook on the left with a piece of paper torn out of it. A large, light gray arrow points from the torn paper towards a large, empty area on the right with horizontal lines for writing. The notebook has several rings visible on its left edge.



## Homework writing activity

**What should be done to address the gender gap in the tech industry? Summarise the problem and share your ideas on how to tackle it. Try to write at least 300 words!**

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