

COMMUNICATION

Science is improving our lives!

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2091X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can discuss how science affects my life.
- I can make comparisons with life before and after scientific advances.



Warm-up

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **discuss** how the scientific breakthroughs listed below have affected your life?

1 Electricity

2 Plastic

3 Agriculture

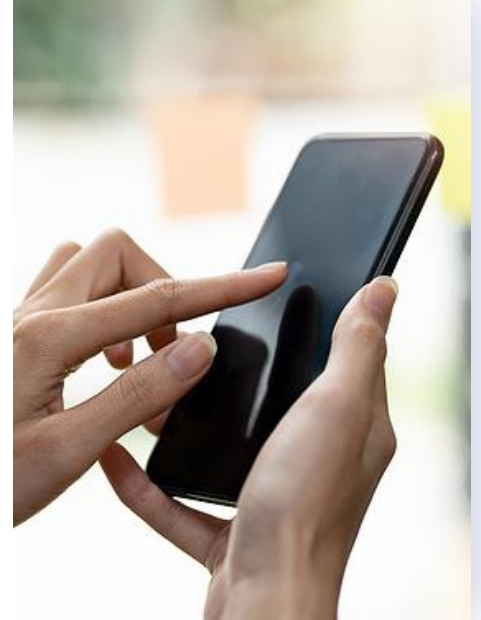


Scientific breakthroughs (1/2)

1. **Read** the first part of the text.
2. **Answer** the question below.

Science has had major effects on a range of fields such as communication, food, health and safety, technology and transport. Scientific breakthroughs keep these areas in a state of constant change.

Communication is one area which has undergone a profound change in the space of a century. From the telegraph came the telephone, which enabled people to communicate in real time. Following this came the radio and then the television. The Internet is the most recent, and perhaps the most significant of communication technologies which have changed our lives.



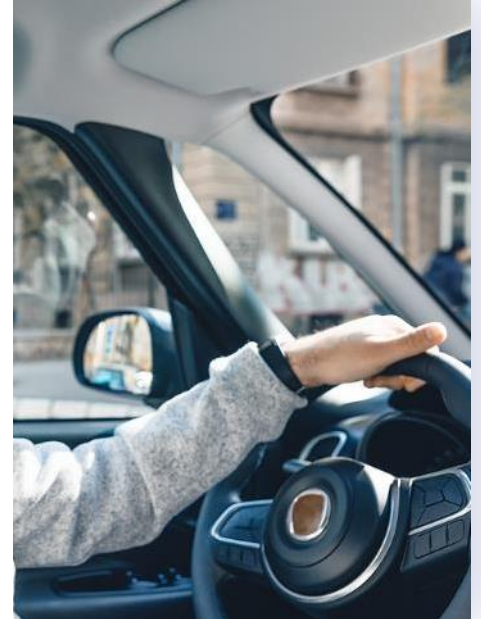
In your opinion, which communication technology mentioned in the text has been the most influential and transformative?

Scientific breakthroughs (2/2)

1. **Read** the second part of the text.
2. **Answer** the question below.

Transport is another field that has been revolutionised by science in the last century. For most of human history, the movement of people or goods was slow and costly. The internal combustion engine allowed for the invention of the automobile and, eventually, the aeroplane.

Health and medicine have also been remarkably affected by scientific discoveries. Our lifespans have been notably extended by medical breakthroughs such as penicillin, immunisation, and antibiotics. The advances in public health too, such as sanitation systems, have limited outbreaks of disease and shielded us from harmful bacteria.



In your opinion, what has been the most important scientific breakthrough mentioned in the entire text (including the previous slide)?



Transform the adverbs

- 1. **Transform** the adverbs into adjectives.
- 2. **Choose 3 words** (adverbs or adjectives) and use them to describe scientific breakthroughs.

1

remarkably

2

notably

3

profoundly

4

monumentally

5

influentially

6

innovatively

7

majorly

8

significantly

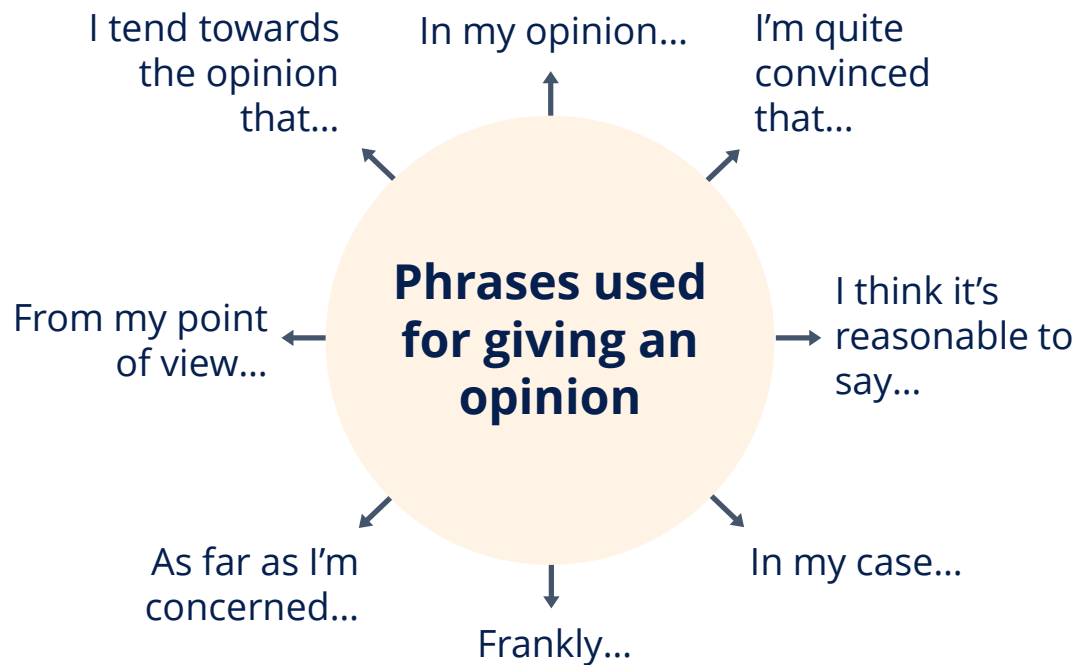
Adjectives

remarkable



Brainstorm

1. **Review** the phrases used for giving an opinion.
2. Are any of them new to you?



Reorder these inventions

1. **Reorder** the inventions below, oldest to most recent.
2. **Give your opinion:**
 - What do you think life was like before these inventions?
 - Which invention below do you think has had the biggest impact?

1 Personal computer

2 Vacuum cleaner

3 Petrol powered automobile

4 Sewing machine





Discuss

Answer the questions.

**Do you think
technology has made
us more impatient?**



**Technology has made
our lives better than
our grandparents' lives.
Do you agree or
disagree?**

**If you could upload
your brain to a
computer, would you
do it?**



My sister is a
technophile.

My brother is a
technophobe.

Do you know anyone who is a
technophile? A **technophobe**?



What's your opinion?

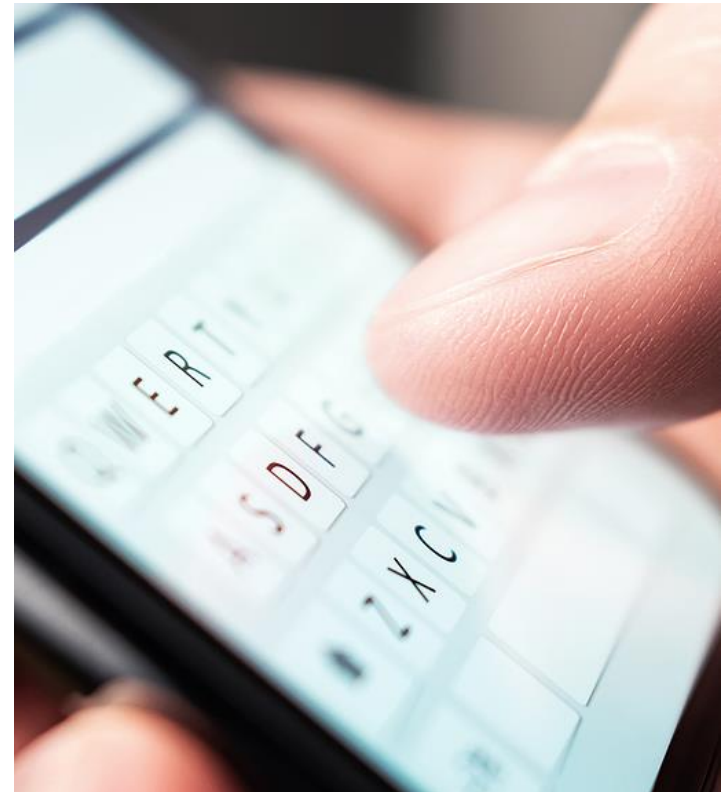
1. **Read** the statements below.
2. Do you **agree** or **disagree** with them? Why?

1 Technological progress will continue to accelerate in the coming century.

2 We can solve most of the planet's problems through technological progress.

3 Technological innovation cannot be sustained without harming our planet and ourselves.

4 Life was simpler in the past, before so many technological breakthroughs.





End of the lesson

Idiom

Hold the phone!

Meaning: wait a moment (whether you're on the phone or not)

Example: Donald was telling me about everything he planned for us to do today, when I interrupted and said, 'Hold the phone. I need a cup of coffee first!'



Additional practice



The Industrial Revolution

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

A scientific outlook along with many technological innovations enabled the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s.

During this period, production and the output of material goods increased successively. Scientific discoveries such as electricity, steelmaking, the refining and drilling of oil, and the steam engine allowed for goods to be produced on a mass scale. The result was lower costs for a range of items, increasing the quality of life for many people.

Much of this was made possible with the discovery of new energy sources – such as coal and petroleum, as well as the invention of new machines such as the spinning jenny or power loom. This growth of industry led to significant social and cultural changes.

1. When was the Industrial Revolution?

2. What innovations made the Industrial Revolution possible?

3. What social changes do you think were brought about by the Industrial Revolution?



Transform the adjectives

1. **Transform** the adjectives into adverbs.
2. Can you **use the adverbs** or **adjectives** in a sentence?

1 remarkable



remarkably

2 innovative



3 monumental



4 influential



5 profound



6 notable





What's your opinion?

1. **Read** the inventions below.
2. Which one do you think has had the biggest impact on the world?

Airplane

Printing press

Electric light

Vaccination





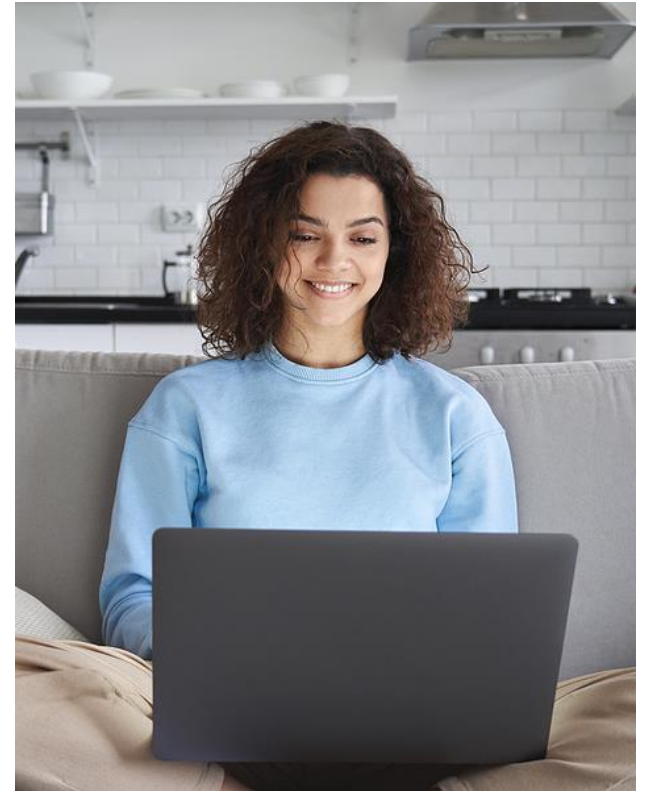
Discuss

1. **Read** the quote below.
2. Then **answer** the question.

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.

— **Isaac Asimov**

Do you agree or disagree?





Answer key

P.6: notable, profound, monumental, influential, innovative, major, significant

P.8: Sewing machine (1790), petrol powered automobile (1886), vacuum (1901), personal computer (1977)

P.15:

1.) 1700s

2.) The discovery of new energy sources – such as coal and petroleum, as well as the invention of new machines such as the spinning jenny or power loom.

3.) Suggestions: urbanisation, the emergence of new social classes, harsh working conditions, long hours, poor living conditions.

P.16: innovatively, monumentally, influentially, profoundly, notably



Summary

Scientific breakthroughs

- *remarkably; notably; profoundly; monumentally; influentially; innovatively; majorly; significantly*
- *Technological advances have **profoundly** affected our daily lives.*
- *Our knowledge of health and medicine has **significantly** developed over the course of the last century.*

Expressing opinions

- *In my opinion,...; I'm quite convinced that...; I think it's reasonable to say...; In my case,...; Frankly,...; As far as I'm concerned...; From my point of view...; I tend towards the opinion that...*
- ***I tend towards the opinion that** most scientific breakthroughs are positive.*



Vocabulary

profoundly

monumentally

influentially

I tend towards the opinion that...

I'm quite convinced that...

I think it's reasonable to say...

Frankly...

technophile

technophobe

