

**COMMUNICATION**

# Keeping up to date!

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B2\_3031X

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can talk about the impact of new technology on our lives.
- I can discuss the importance of keeping up to date and explain how I do it.

# Warm-up

With the help of modern technology, our lives are now a lot different than they used to be.  
**Compare and contrast** your habits before and after the arrival of smart devices.

- 1 Completing homework or assignments
- 2 Cleaning your room or house
- 3 Keeping in touch with your friends and relatives
- 4 Finding out what is happening in the world
- 5 Getting to places you have never been before



# Vocabulary review

Are you familiar with these words and phrases related to modern technology?



**speech recognition**

**smart device**

**instant information**

**upgrade**

**automation**

**efficiency**

**cloud storage**

**data  
synchronisation**

# Reading

Read the text. Answer the questions.

In England, before the Industrial Revolution in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, goods such as cloth and thread had been produced manually by small-scale cottage industries, which operated mainly from homes and small workshops.

This so-called *putting-out system* developed into the factory system mainly due to the advent of new technologies. The development of steam engines played a pivotal role in the spread of the factory system. The introduction of steam engines to the factory made it possible to generate a considerable amount of energy that individual workers at home could not create.



What are cottage industries, according to the text?

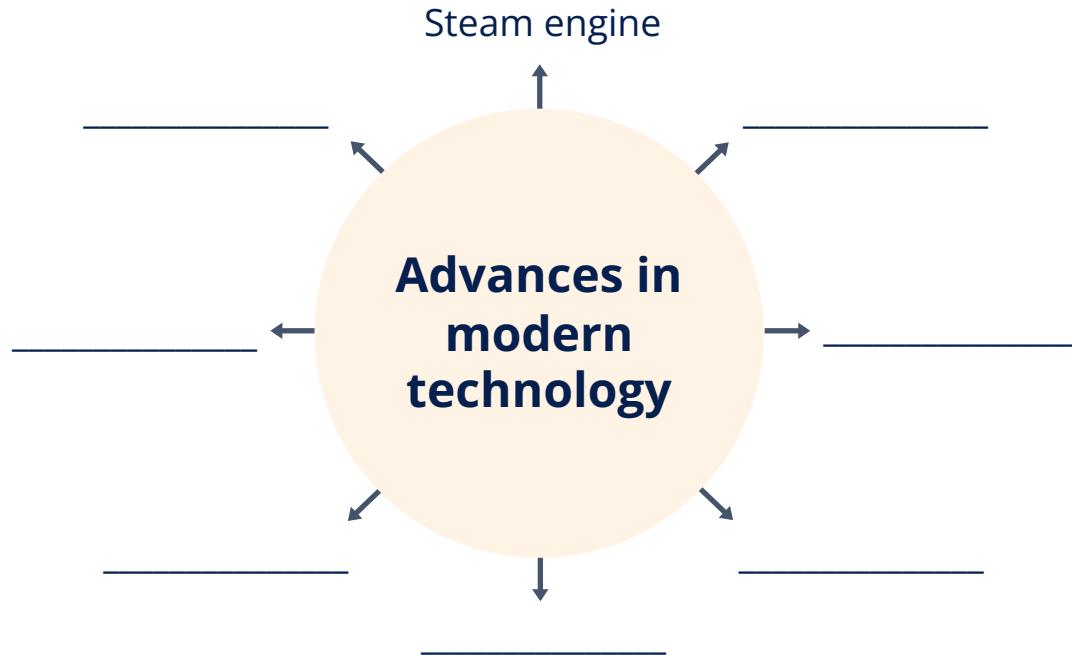
How did the methods of manufacturing change during the Industrial Revolution?

Which particular invention played a key role in the spread of the factory system?



# Brainstorm

The text mentions the steam engine as a crucial invention that made the Industrial Revolution possible. **As a class** or **in breakout rooms**, brainstorm other inventions from the past that have had a considerable impact on modern life.



You can use a search engine to help you!

# Matching: pros of modern technology

Match each text (a-d) with the correct heading (1-4).

Communication 1

Job opportunities 2

Medical care 3

Saving time 4

A Surgical procedures and improvement in curing once incurable diseases have been developed significantly, resulting in lower death rates and lengthening lifespans.

B Delivering messages can be done almost instantly with computers and the internet, at work and outside of work.

C Through technology with automated systems and manufacturing processes, a significant amount of time can be saved, compared to how a human typically works.

D Many technicians and engineers are needed to maintain and further develop the new technology.

# Cons of modern technology

Can you think of any cons of modern technology for the same headings below?



Communication

Job opportunities

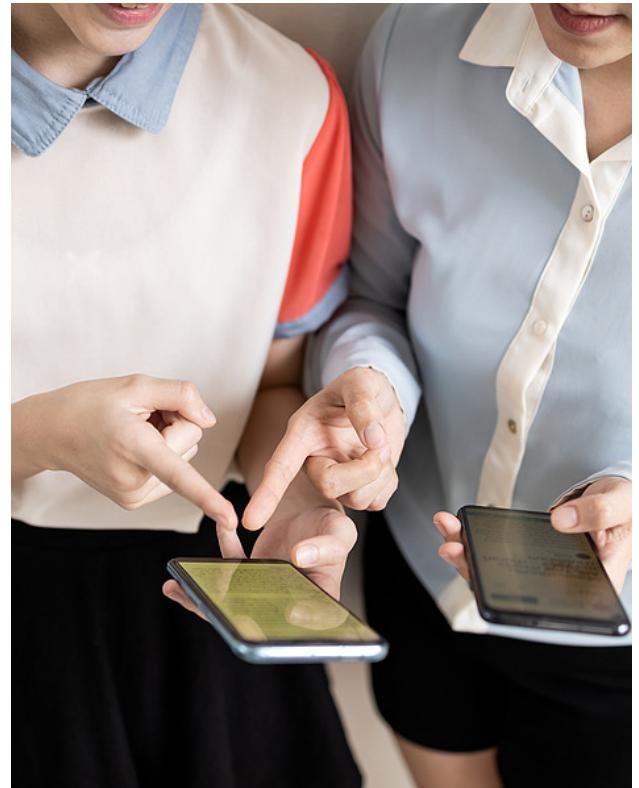
Medical care

Saving time

# Find the definition

Have you heard of  
the phrase *keeping  
up to date*?

What does it mean?

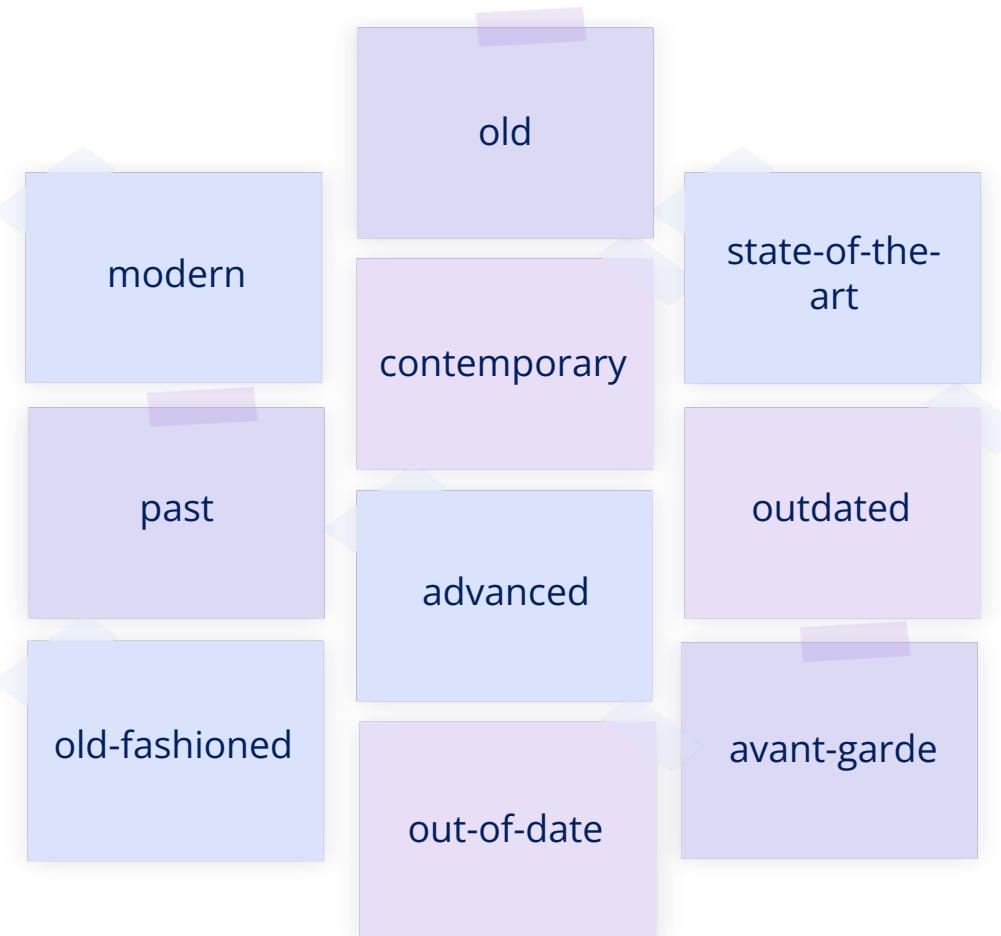


# Keeping up to date

- **to keep (someone or something) up to date** has different meanings depending on the usage.

Definitions	Examples
To ensure someone has the most current and accurate information about something.	<i>Now that I'm at university away from home, my parents want me to keep them up to date about everything happening in my life.</i>
To ensure something is the most current version available (usually with technology).	<i>I don't know where you find the time or money to keep your fashion up to date like that.</i>
To be informed about the most current and accurate information about something.	<i>I try to make a point of keeping up to date with news from around the world.</i>

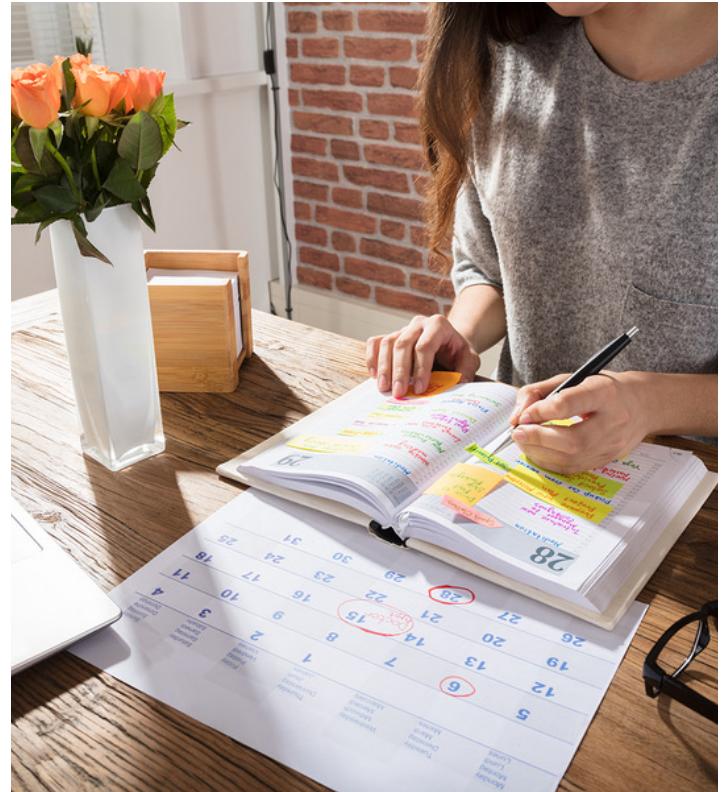
# Find the synonyms and antonyms



# Keeping up to date

With a busy schedule, it is understandably difficult to find time to stay up to date on current events. But it sometimes seems necessary, if you don't want to be isolated from society. How do you keep yourself up to date?

- 1 How do you keep up to date with the latest technology?
- 2 How do you keep up to date with world affairs?
- 3 How do you keep up to date with fashion trends?





**He went **off grid** for a while.  
Nobody could get through  
to him. We didn't even  
know if he was still in the  
country!**

In a literal sense, to be **off grid** means not being connected to public utilities such as electricity and water, or not having access to communication networks (having a phone, or internet connection).

Nowadays it can also describe being disconnected from society and the wider world, or simply the choice to reduce your digital footprint and use of social media.

# Discuss

Share your opinion with your teacher and classmates.

**Do you think it is possible  
(or desirable) to live a life  
off grid, completely  
disconnected from  
technology?**

**What are some different  
reasons why people might  
choose to do this?**



# Future technologies

**Talk about** technology in the following areas in the present day.

**Speculate** about how things might develop and improve in these areas in the future.

Transport

Communication

Leisure and  
entertainment

Work



# Mini debate

In pairs, choose one of the scenarios below.

Decide who will propose **advantages** and who will propose **disadvantages**.

Take a moment to **gather your ideas**, then **have a mini debate** with your classmate!

eternal life

car-free cities

colonisation  
of other  
planets

being able to  
read minds

breeding of  
extinct  
animals

eradication of  
mosquitoes

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# Let's reflect!

- Can you talk about the impact of new technology on our lives.
- Can you discuss the importance of keeping up to date and explain how you do it?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.

# End of the lesson

Idiom

## ***To be on (the same) wavelength***

**Meaning:** To think the same as someone; to be in agreement

**Example:** I can see that we're on the same wavelength. Sushi it is!



# Additional practice

# Match the sentence halves



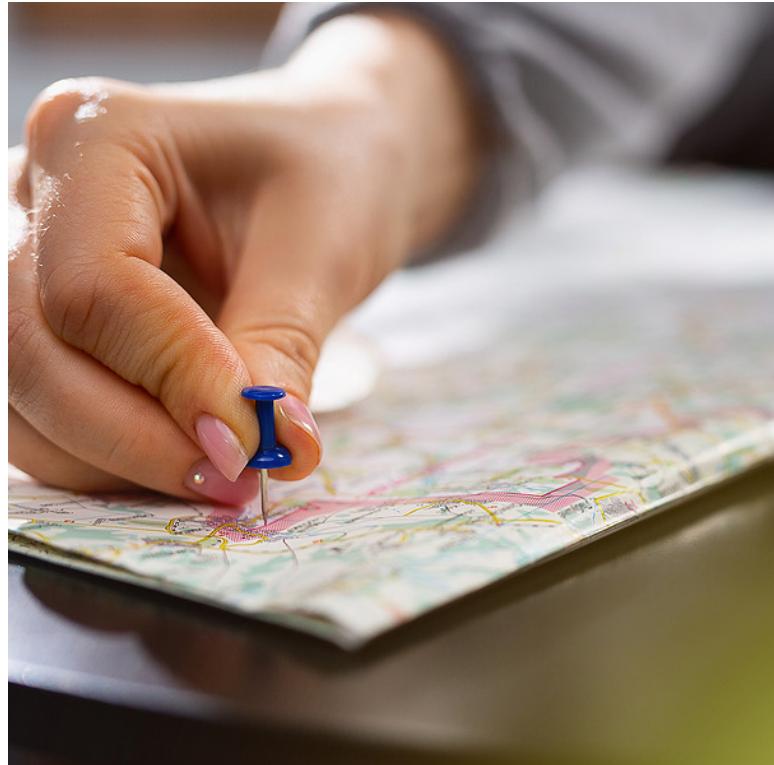
- 1 Advances in technology allow us to do things that we may have only dreamed of
- 2 Our era of digital revolution is moving towards
- 3 I tried to stay informed with current technological trends, but
- 4 Physical maps or asking for directions are becoming things of the past due to
- 5 Speech recognition technologies

- a the rate of change is so fast sometimes that it's hard to keep up to date.
- b the use of satellite navigation systems which provide turn-by-turn directions.
- c cloud or internet-based services and away from physical storage devices.
- d doing 50 years ago, such as video calling someone 2,000 miles away.
- e allow us to give commands by speaking to our smart device..



# Planning a trip abroad

Imagine that you have a whole month off and have saved more than enough money to go on the holiday you have always dreamed of...



Where would you go, how would you get there, where would you stay, and what excursions or activities would you do?

**Plan a trip to a place of your choice,** starting from booking your flights and accommodation.

Explain the steps of your planning process in detail. Don't forget to mention the technology you would use to assist in your booking.





# Keeping up to date

What are the best sources for keeping up to date with developments and news around the world?



social media

personal blogs

magazines

talking to people

search engines

newspapers

websites

books

radio

# Answer key

**P.7:** 1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c)

**P.20:** 1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (e)

# Summary

## Vocabulary connected to modern technology:

- speech recognition; smart device; instant information; to upgrade; automation; efficiency; cloud storage; data synchronisation
- **Automation** improved the **efficiency** of manufacturing.
- This app uses **speech recognition** technology.

## **Off grid:**

- To be **off grid** means not being connected to public utilities such as electricity and water, or not having access to a communication network (having a phone, or internet connection). Nowadays it also describes being disconnected from society, or the choice to reduce your digital footprint and use of social media. *I'm going off grid this weekend.*

## **To keep up to date:**

- To ensure someone has the most current and accurate information about something.
- To ensure something is the most current version available (usually with technology).
- To be informed about the most current and accurate information about something.

# Vocabulary

speech recognition

smart device

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off grid

# Notes