**Hardware basics**

1. *The availability of digital devices*

Every house today is full of smart devices, such washing machine, dishwasher, vacuum cleaner, microwave, stereo system, etc. These objects changed people’s lives. They made it easier to cope with household chores. It’s simply impossible to imagine modern life without gadgets.

Not so long ago, people had no idea what smartphones or iPhones were, but today almost everyone has them. It is the best communication and entertainment device. People can connect with each other everywhere they go through social network, text messaging, chats rooms. It is hard to stay even a day without such handy gadgets. Although, there are, of course, some disadvantages of rapid technological progress.

Firstly, doctors state that all electronic gadgets are dangerous for health. For example, we spend hours in front of computer or laptop monitors, which leads to poor vision, back pain, and headaches. Mobile phones are also harmful to health due to their electromagnetic radiation.

Secondly, all modern gadgets make us lazy. Thus, we easily gain excessive weight.

Thirdly, people have become too dependent on these gadgets. They get stressed or unconfident when they forget a mobile phone or tablet at home. In my opinion, gadgets produce addiction, which is bad for people’s mind.

Nevertheless, it plays an important role in our life.

1. *Hardware security*

For trouble-free computer use, it is important to secure and regularly maintain your computer equipment. Computers are prime targets for thieves. You may use some important tips for protection your portable computer from theft.

* Never leave your portable computer unattended, especially when you at a coffee shop, the library or the airport.
* If you have to leave your portable computer in your car, never leave it in plain view. Lock it up in the trunk or cover it up.
* Carry your portable computer in a carrying case or an anti-theft device.
* Record your portable computer’s make, model, and serial number and store them away from the computer.

1. *The issue of e-waste*

**E-waste** (электронные отходы) is all the unwanted and outdated computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, disk drivers, disks, CDs, DVDs and other devices. Computers and other electronic gear contain toxic substances which can leach into groundwater and streams. That can lead to harmful consequences for our environment. E-waste is a global problem. It can be solved by recycling all these devices.