Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People nowadays depend too much on new technologies (such as social media and text messaging) to communicate with each other.

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The technologies in these years have altered ~~the path that~~ how people communicate with each other. More people start to use social media and text messaging to exchange idea. Some people worry ~~about~~ that people depend too much on ~~those~~ these new communication technologies ~~in communication~~. However, ~~I do not think the worry is necessary. Rather,~~ I think we should encourage more people to enjoy them instead ~~altering their communication way in more areas~~.

First, technologies positively change how people maintain their relationship with friends and families. Before the ~~renovation of communication~~ these developments, people mostly interacted with others face-to-face or by letters. However, nowadays, ~~modern society does not allow people to do that like the past. These days,~~ people ~~are more likely to~~ who travel or live far from their hometown~~. They need some~~ use new technologies ~~can allow them contacting the distant~~ to contact other people more efficiently. With the new technologies, people can ~~watch~~ view their friends on social media~~, can~~ or send text messages to their families at any time. ~~In spite of this~~ Besides, people still can invite their friends for tea or barbecue on ~~a~~ ~~sunshine~~ weekends ~~day~~. ~~New technologies are not fetters which impede people to interact.~~

In addition, ~~by virtue of new technologies,~~ official and business communication has become easier. For instance, in ~~In~~ our company, we mostly communicate through e-mail ~~Email is almost like the engine of organization~~. It connects engineers from the sites all over the world. We also use teleconference to host meetings with other sites, which~~. It~~ helps the company save ~~saving~~ a huge amount of money~~, because~~ since we ~~do not~~ no longer need to travel abroad. However, we could still arrange some travels when deemed ~~When it is~~ necessary~~, for example,~~ such as when we transfer projects between sites~~, we can still arrange some travels~~. ~~So~~ Therefore, engineers still have many chances to interact with others face-to-face.

Meanwhile, technologies also invent new ways for meeting new people. ~~Not a few~~ Some of my friends met their partners ~~on internets~~ over the Internet and they~~. All of them have~~ interacted ~~with partners via~~ either through social media or text messaging. Moreover, more people start to look for new friends online ~~internet. On internet~~ where people can ~~more~~ easily find mates ~~which have~~ with same interests. Especial when it is not realistic for everyone making friends in their real-life. After people get familiar with their new friends, they can more easily entry the life of each other.

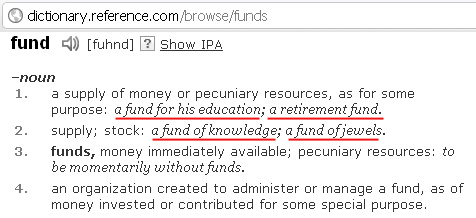
~~Based on the reasons above~~ Overall, I think it is clear that new technologies bring more choices ~~to~~ for us ~~on how~~ to communicate, which is advantageous for~~. I believe~~ more people ~~would~~ [~~benefit~~](javascript:void(0);)[~~by~~](javascript:void(0);) ~~it~~.

Hi! You were able to sufficiently provide necessary details to answer the question on a logical manner. I really like how you managed to explain your arguments with examples that really support such ideas. However, your discussion are sometimes too wordy. You need to learn to choose your words to make your statement clear and concise. You may combine closely related sentences to avoid wordiness and to have a smoother flow of idea. Take time to edit your work. Nevertheless, you got a score of 24. Keep practicing!

* Ceejay -

**COLLOCATION**

When you look up new English words in a dictionary, always pay attention to collocations in which they’re naturally used! [**Dictionary.com**](http://dictionary.reference.com/) for instance always provides collocations next to the search results, please refer to the screenshot below:



**What to do if I can’t think of a proper collocation containing the particular word?**

Don’t forget that **you can always paraphrase** what you intended to say if you get stuck for words. In other words – you’ll still speak decent English even if you don’t know a proper collocation with the particular word you want to use.

There are thousands upon thousands of English collocations, and learning them all would be a very time-consuming process that would take you long years of study to accomplish. It would be an epic task indeed to purposefully learn a huge number of collocations and then being able to USE them all when communicating!

I’ve always opposed the idea of focusing too much on technical aspects of English improving and learning such as grammar rules and then trying to implement them later on. It has a detrimental effect on your spoken English fluency because fl**uent English speech is more about improvising and producing instantaneous speech.**

Therefore you don’t have to be too hard on yourself – if there’s something you’re not sure how it can be said, put it in your own words! I’m telling you – the art of paraphrasing is equally important to being able to use naturally occurring English collocations, and **never be ashamed of sounding unique and using your own way of describing things!**

And this brings as to yet another point I want to make in connection with English collocations –

**Most English collocations aren’t as strong as they may seem!**

Let’s take a typical collocation – *“to borrow heavily”*. This is how a fact of huge borrowings would be described in fluent English – you can’t say *“I borrowed strongly”* or *“I borrowed intensively”*. Well… To be more precise – you CAN say it, but it just doesn’t sound right, remember what the whole collocation thing is about? Someone who hasn’t spent enough time among native English speakers would probably find it more difficult to distinguish between a “good” and a “bad” English word combination, but over time you’ll definitely develop that “sixth sense”.

Anyway, *“I borrowed heavily”* is how most English speakers would describe the process of taking out massive bank loans, and I would say it’s a fairly strong English collocation. In other words – you can’t easily replace the adverb *“heavily*” with another adverb.

But here’s a very important thing for you to bear in mind – many foreigners make a mistake of getting too much focused on details such as – “what adverb can I use with the verb “to borrow”? And they’ll keep thinking only “inside of the box” without seeing that one doesn’t necessarily have to use an adverb to describe the fact of heavy borrowings!

If you’re not sure how it’s said naturally, you can always put it in very simple words – *“I borrowed a lot!”* You see – we transformed the problem of breaking the bond in the strong collocation *“to borrow heavily”* into something completely different – how to say it in the simplest way possible!

So as you can see, it’s a stick with two ends – English collocations are part of a natural and fluent English, but at the same time – even if you don’t know what a particular word collocates with – you can nearly always put it in different words!

**10 TIPS FOR THE TOEFL ESSAY**

1) **Read the statement carefully and make sure you understand it.** Always decide on what you are going to write before you start. Make a list of your main points.

2) It **should be easy to identify the introduction, development and conclusion**. Each section should have at least one separate paragraph.

3) Type or write in a **clear, large script.**

4) **Address the entire question or statement**, not just part of it.

5) Learn the **rules of English punctuation** and use them. Each sentence should start with a capital letter and end with a period, question mark or exclamation point.

6) **Write short, simple complete sentences.** This style sounds strong in English

7) **Do not begin sentences with the conjunctions** and, or, but or with because.

8) Make sure that **each sentence has a clearly identifiable main subject** and main verb and that they agree in number and tense.

9) **Use a variety of sentence structures;** at least one question, passive voice sentence, conditional sentence, complex sentence, etc.

10) **Use specific examples** or reasons to support your ideas. Stories or examples from your personal life are best. **Remember, no one is checking up to see if these stories are true.**

**REVISED VERSION:**

The technologies in these years have altered how people communicate with each other. More people start to use social media and text messaging to exchange idea. Some people worry that people depend too much on these new communication technologies. However, I think we should encourage more people to enjoy them instead.

First, technologies positively change how people maintain their relationship with friends and families. Before these developments, people mostly interacted with others face-to-face or by letters. However, nowadays, people who travel or live far from their hometown use new technologies to contact other people more efficiently. With the new technologies, people can view their friends on social media or send text messages to their families at any time. Besides, people still can invite their friends for tea or barbecue on weekends.

In addition, official and business communication has become easier. For instance, in our company, we mostly communicate through e-mail. It connects engineers from the sites all over the world. We also use teleconference to host meetings with other sites, which helps the company save a huge amount of money since we no longer need to travel abroad. However, we could still arrange some travels when deemed necessary such as when we transfer projects between sites. Therefore, engineers still have many chances to interact with others face-to-face.

Meanwhile, technologies also invent new ways for meeting new people. Some of my friends met their partners over the Internet and they interacted either through social media or text messaging. Moreover, more people start to look for new friends online where people can easily find mates with same interests. Especial when it is not realistic for everyone making friends in their real-life. After people get familiar with their new friends, they can more easily entry the life of each other.

Overall, I think it is clear that new technologies bring more choices for us to communicate, which is advantageous for more people.