

# The power of technology

## Key words

bio-fuel, implement, suspension, windscreen

a) Cars are becoming more intelligent, being able to drive themselves in order to avoid danger and obstacles.

b) Vegetable oil can be reused to power cars after it has been filtered and cleaned.

c) Bio-fuel is preferable to petrol as a fuel source because it emits less pollution, reduces wasted oil and is completely renewable.

## Reading

### 1 Read the text about future car technology.

- How are cars changing? Why?
- How is vegetable oil used?
- Why is bio-fuel preferable to petrol as a fuel source?

## Future Travel



If you ask people about how cars might change in the future, they might say that cars will fly, go under water, or even drive themselves. While these suggestions might seem outlandish, some of the ideas we have about future travel really could happen. For example, scientists have designed intelligent cars that can drive themselves and, through the use of complex sensors and computer systems, avoid danger and obstacles. This technology has already been implemented in some high-end cars. For instance, the car can adjust certain features such as suspension or engine power depending on the situation. There are also cars whose lights come on automatically and whose windscreen wipers activate if they detect rain. To summarise, our fantasy cars are becoming a reality!

Perhaps the most important innovations in travel technology are those based on engine technology. In short, by making engines more efficient and economical, we can create less pollution and save the environment. Engines are constantly being improved to go further on less fuel. For example, scientists have developed systems which allow normal car engines to run on bio-fuels, namely used vegetable oil. After filtering and cleaning, the cooking oil that you use at home can be reused to power your family car. Using bio-fuel also helps to conserve petrol, which is in limited supply. Because vegetable oil is derived from plants it is a completely renewable fuel source. In conclusion, bio-fuel engines help to save the environment by emitting far less pollution than traditional car engines and by reducing wasted oil.

### 2 Find words with these meanings in the text.

Paragraph 1

put into action or effect implemented

a something bizarre or unfamiliar outlandish

b superior, deluxe or exclusive high-end

c a system of springs and shock-absorbers that cushion a car from road conditions suspension

d a piece of equipment which detects objects and things around it sensor

Paragraph 2

e a new or improved product or technology innovation

f fuel made from living matter bio-fuel

g to remove unwanted material or impurities filter

h to produce and discharge something emit

i to prevent wasteful overuse of something conserve

3 Fill in the table using linking words from the article.

Giving examples	Summarising
For example	To summarise
For instance	In short
Namely	In conclusion

4 Read the following statements. Which of them do not belong with the text you have just read?

- a Normally, however, these technologies are more mundane than some of the fantastical ones we dream of.
- b** Cars that fly could save the planet.
- c Unfortunately, engines have to be specially adapted to run on bio-fuels.
- d** Car design is becoming more attractive and more opulent.
- e Features such as these are not only futuristic; they also make driving safer.
- f** Ideas like these are inspired by science-fiction writers.

5 Write an extra paragraph about solar cars to add to the text. Use the following points for help.

*some solar cars already exist*  
*solar panels are used*  
*slower than normal cars*  
*very new technology limited range*  
*bad weather affects solar cars*

.....

**Students' own answers**

.....

.....

.....

.....

6 Imagine you are giving a talk to your class about future travel technologies. Summarise the text on page 58 into five short sentences which you could use as prompts to help you.

.....

**Students' own answers**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Over to you**

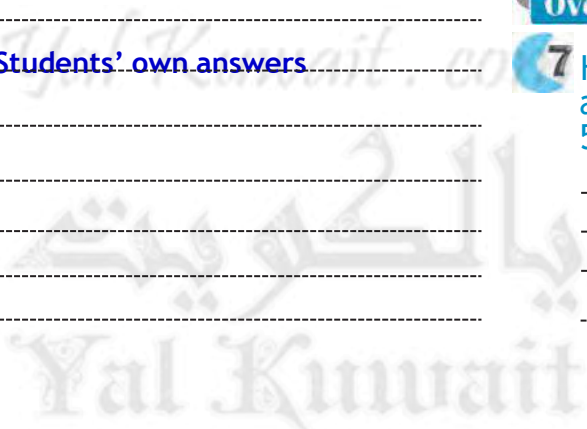
7 How do you think technology will affect the way we travel in 10 years / 50 years / 100 years?

**Students' own answers**

.....

.....

.....



## Language practice

1 Complete the conversations with the correct verb form. Some verbs are used more than once.

can can't could couldn't  
haven't been able to  
won't be able to to be able to

- a A: What's on TV tonight?  
I can't read the newspaper without my glasses.  
B: Where are your glasses?  
A: I lost them two days ago. I Haven't been able to read anything since then, and I won't be able to read anything until I get my new glasses tomorrow.
- b A: can you drive a car?  
B: Yes, I can. I passed my test last week.  
A: Great! could you drive me to the airport tomorrow morning?  
B: No, sorry, I can't - my car's in the garage.
- c A: can you fly a plane?  
B: Well, I probably could if I had to, but I've never had flying lessons.
- d A: How many languages can you speak?  
B: Only two now, but when I was three years old I could speak four.  
A: I can only speak Arabic, but I'd love to be able to speak two or three.  
B: I can teach you French if you like.  
A: could you? Brilliant.  
When can we start?

2 Expand this paragraph using words from the box.

for example for instance namely  
to summarise in short in conclusion

People need to wear glasses for different reasons. Some people feel completely lost without their glasses. Others only need them for watching TV or reading. Every eye problem is different. Advancements in technology, such as the development of the contact lens, are helping people repair their eyesight. More and more people now have the option of permanent operations, laser surgery. Modern science means that ordinary glasses may soon become a thing of the past.

People need to wear glasses for different reasons. **For example**, some people feel completely lost without their glasses. Others only need them for watching TV or reading. **In short**, every eye problem is different. Advancements in technology, such as the development of the contact lens, are helping people repair their eyesight. **For instance**, more and more people now have the option of permanent operations, **namely**, laser surgery. **In conclusion / to summarise**, modern science means that ordinary glasses may soon become a thing of the past

3 Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense.

- a I wish it were possible to finish the work tonight. (to be)  
b She wished she had known how to sew. (to know)  
c You wished you had left better. (to feel)  
d I wish I found the subject more interesting. (to find)  
e They will wish it were warmer. (to be)

4 Write *wish* sentences using the cues provided.

we / not eaten / so much / lunch / too full

I wish we hadn't eaten so much at lunch; I'm too full now.

a we / won the match / play this weekend

I wish we had played this weekend; we could've won the match

b you / not / do that / really irritating

I wish you hadn't done that; it was really irritating

c I / studied / harder / pass / exam

I wish I had studied harder; I would've passed the exam

d teacher / not given / homework / relax / tonight

I wish the teacher hadn't given us any homework; I would've relaxed tonight

e I / not missed bus / arrived on time / not told off

I wish I hadn't missed the bus, I would've arrived on time and not been told off

f I / entered competition / won prize

I wish I had entered the competition; I would've won a prize

g you / told me / problems / I / help

I wish you had told me about your problems; I could've helped you

h I / stay up late / not tired today

I wish I hadn't stayed up late last night; I wouldn't have been tired today

i I / not spent / money / buy / new book

I wish I hadn't spent all my money; I would have bought that new book

j I / gone shopping / new game / not bored

I wish I had gone shopping for a new game; I wouldn't have felt bored

5 Complete the first gap in each part of the conversation with the correct adjective. Complete the second gap with the negative form of the same adjective. There are more words than you need.

*comfortable frequent friendly happy honest legal loyal polite tidy*

Q: Are there.....*frequent*.....flights to Rome from here?

A: No, I'm afraid flights to Rome are very.....*infrequent*.....- only twice a week.

a Q: Were the cabin crew on your flight *polite*.....?

A: No, they were very *unpolite*..... - they were often really rude.

b Q: Were they *honest*.....?

A: No, in fact they were quite *dishonest*..... . When I bought some gifts, they didn't give me enough change.

c Q: But the other passengers were quite *friendly*....., weren't they?

A: No, they were very *unfriendly*..... - nobody smiled or even talked to me.

d Q: Was the plane *tidy*.....?

A: No, it wasn't. It was very *untidy*..... - there was rubbish all over the place.

e Q: What about the seats? Were they *comfortable*.....?

A: No, the seats were terribly *uncomfortable*..... . They were hard and rough.

f Q: So when you got off the plane you weren't *happy*.....? A:

No, I was very *unhappy*..... . In fact, I'm going to complain to the airline company.

Self-assessment

## Writing

1 Look at the four magazine advertisements. How do the advertisers try to sell each thing? Choose one of these methods:

- a Good price / value for money
- b It's essential - everyone needs one
- c It's fun and it's good for you
- d It will save you time or money
- e It will protect you from some kind of danger

### Mini-bouncer - Home trampoline

Essential for everyone who wants to keep fit.

It will keep you fit and healthy.

It will last for years.

You can use it inside or outside for gentle exercise or a full workout.

You can use it whatever your age: suitable for children and the elderly.

Try it out in our showroom – or in your own home.

Call now on 965 6 123 45 67

Mini-bouncer: b / cTalky-Walky: c

Red alert security camera: a / eDr CD: a / d



### Talky-Walky

The talking pedometer

that makes walking fun.



It counts your steps as you walk.

It can tell you how far you have walked at any time.

It can play music to make walking more fun.

It can tell you the time and has an alarm.

You can clip it on to your belt.

**Order one tomorrow. You won't regret it!**

**Special offer: Buy One Get One Free if you**

**order online.**

The realistic video camera that keeps you safe.

### YOU WON'T REGRET IT

- It 'sees' people if they are somewhere they shouldn't be.
- It says: "Leave the room now!" or "Don't touch anything!"
- It has a flashing red light and moves round like a real security camera.
- Put one in your room to keep people out.

### RED ALERT SECURITY CAMERA

A bargain at only KWD 56.700

Visit our showroom or order online.



### Dr CD

**Don't throw your old CDs away – Dr CD can repair damaged or scratched CDs.**

It can get rid of scratches in just a few seconds.

Just spray your discs and turn the handle.

Watch scratches, dust and fingerprints disappear!

Don't buy new CDs – Buy a Dr CD

**It's a bargain at KWD 2.650**

**Order by phone or online.**



2 Complete this advertisement for a bio-fuel car. Use the information from the text on page 58, along with your own ideas. **Students' own answers**

**BIO – CAR**  
 An environmentally friendly way to travel.

Bio – Car can run on \_\_\_\_\_, thereby reducing your fuel costs.

After \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the oil you cook with at home can \_\_\_\_\_ and you can help to \_\_\_\_\_.

Bio – fuel is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ than traditional fuels.

Bio – Car: It will change your life.

Contact us now – \_\_\_\_\_

3 Now write your own advertisement for a new product. Use the outline below and some of the words and phrases from the advertisements in exercise 1.

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name of product)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Headline: Summary of the best things about the product) **Students' own answers**

It can \_\_\_\_\_

It can \_\_\_\_\_

You can \_\_\_\_\_

You can \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And it's only \_\_\_\_\_ (Price)

Order \_\_\_\_\_ now!

\_\_\_\_\_

**It'll change your life!**

Want to find out more?

Look at our website: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Imagine you are directing a television advert for the product you advertised in the previous exercise. Storyboard (plan out the events within) your advert. You should think about

- the different kinds of adverts (dramatic, funny, serious) and which best suits your product.
- people in your advert and the situation they find themselves in.
- the set, amount of actors and any specialised equipment you would need.
- A potential voice-over or slogan you could use for your advert.