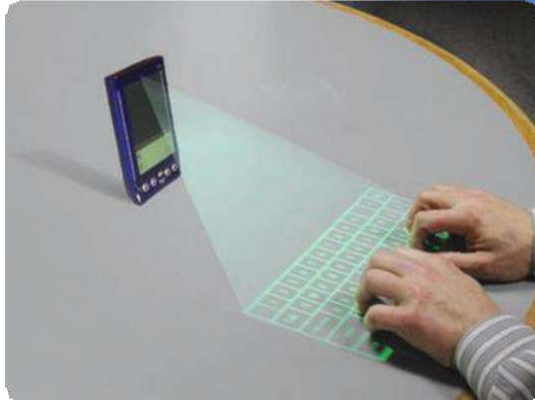


Unit 8

The power of technology

Grammar

Modals (*can / could; must / should*); *wish + simple past / past perfect*



Discuss

1 Work in pairs. Think about the power of technology.

a What can human beings do now that they couldn't do 100 years ago? Make a list.

We can travel around the world in a few hours.

We can talk to people thousands of kilometres away.

We can

.....

.....

b Read the following statement. Why do you think modern science is important?

An important part of modern science is to strive for clear understanding. Therefore, scientific explanations are always welcomed as they help us to have a greater understanding of the world. That's why Islamic society has always respected and had an interest in science.

Read

2 Read the article on page 63 about some of the inventions scientists are working on now. Predict inventions the writer will refer to.

As you read, note any of your ideas in exercise 1 which the writer mentions.

Check your understanding

3 Match four of these headings with sections 1-4 in the article on page 63. You do not need to use two of them.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| A A 'smart' future | 3 | D In the home | 1 |
| B The world of work | | E Connections | 4 |
| C Cure-all | 2 | F Clothes and fashion | |

Future Shock

Our grandparents thought they were fortunate because they could travel by car and they could see films at the cinema. Now, we think we're very lucky because we have appliances that can do the jobs we hate, like washing up or cooking; we have computers that can help us to communicate with people instantly; we have cars with 'satnav' that can tell us how to get to where we are going; and we have AC systems which can keep our houses and offices cool when the weather is hot.

But in just a few years, these latest inventions will seem old-fashioned compared to things that scientists are currently innovating. Here are a few of the ideas they are developing.

1

- ▶ Within a few years, we will all be able to watch 3D television without special glasses.
- ▶ We will have more spare time because robots will be doing almost any job in and around our homes, including cleaning, washing, gardening and mail delivery.

2

- ▶ There will be big changes in medicine, too. Gold-coated 'nanoshells' are being developed. They will be able to find cancer tumours and destroy them, using heat.
- ▶ Within ten years, researchers will have developed micro-robots which we can swallow. These will be able to travel through our bodies and repair organs that are not working properly.

3

- ▶ In the next ten years, we will be able to buy 'intelligent' or 'smart' refrigerators which will automatically inform us when we are running out of food and will be able to order supplies directly from an online supermarket.
- ▶ By 2020 we could see the end of traffic jams and road accidents: cars will drive themselves along 'smart roads'. Some people predict that we will even be able to buy flying cars.

4

- ▶ Mobile phones will continue to get smaller and become more and more sophisticated. We may be able to use our phones to pay for things we buy in shops. We will simply pass our phone over an electronic reader and money will be drawn from our bank accounts.
- ▶ We will soon be able to wear 'active contact lenses' which display our e-mails and Internet web-pages. According to scientists we will be able to 'see' these with our eyes closed.

4 Read the article again and answer these questions.

- a Why did our grandparents think they were lucky?
because they could travel by car and they could see films at the cinema.
- b How will housework change in the future?
Robots will be doing all the housework.
- c How will very small robots help doctors?
Micro-robots will be able to travel through the human body and repair organs that
- d Which future invention do you think is the most useful?
Summarise its benefits.

Students' own answers

Words to remember

contact lens, cure-all, currently, draw, gold-coated, innovate, instantly, latest, micro-robot, nanoshell, satnav, shock, sophisticated, tumour

Think and speak (expressing opinions: agreement / disagreement)

5 Discuss these questions in pairs or groups.

- a Do you think any of these inventions could improve your life? If so, how?
- b Which future development do you think is the most exciting? Why?

Grammar

• Modals (can / could; must / should) Grammar reference pages 131-132

1 Complete the sentences with *can / can't* and *could / couldn't*.

- I need my bifocal glasses. I can't see without them.
- Computers can help us to instigate new learning technology.
- I can research at school because there is a new software library.
- Ten years ago, you could easily find a spot to park in town.
- I wanted to text you but I couldn't remember your number.

2 Read these extracts from a guide written for foreign businessmen and women who are visiting countries in the Middle East.

- What should / shouldn't visitors do? What must / musn't they do?

Clothes / Appearance	Behaviour in public and at meetings
1. Visitors must cover most of their body.	3. You mustn't keep your shoes on when you visit a mosque.
2. Men should wear a tie for business meetings.	4. When you meet someone, you should not shake hands with your left hand.
3. Clothing should not attract attention or be worn to show off.	5. You should use the greeting 'Al-salaam alaykum'.

- Compare your answers with those of a partner, then together write a few more helpful guidelines for businessmen and women visiting Kuwait.

Talking about abilities and possibilities

3 Look at the inventions in the pictures and answer these questions in pairs.

- What can these things do? **or** What can't we do with these things?
- What will these things be able to do in the future?
- What technology do you have that your grandparents didn't?

4 Think about these future possibilities.

- What would people do if computers started to act by themselves? Explain.
- What could happen if all the computers in the world stopped working at the same time? Elaborate.

• Wish + simple past / past perfect Grammar reference page 132

5 a What difference in meaning does each sentence have?

They **wish they had studied harder when they were young**.
He **wishes he were rich**.

b Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb.

- Now that he is in China, he wishes he (understand) understood Chinese.
- I wish you (call) has called earlier.
- They wish they (listen) had listened to us sooner.
- When we begin the trip, they will wish they (be) were with us.

The first sentence uses the past perfect to express a regret (a wish that a past event had turned out differently).

The second sentence uses the simple past to express a wish that something might happen, even though the wished event is very unlikely to happen.



Vocabulary Negative adjectives

Note

1 Prefixes are often used to give a negative meaning to an adjective.

Example: lucky - **unlucky**

- a) Do you know any more negative adjectives which start with **un-**?
- b) What are the negative forms of the following adjectives? The notes in the box in question c may help you.

*formal frequent friendly honest legal legible
obedient patient polite regular relevant tidy*

b) **un-** friendly, tidy **im-** patient, polite
dis- honest, obedient **ir-** regular, relevant
il- legal, legible **in-** formal, frequent

- c) Check your negative adjectives in a dictionary or the Student's Book glossary.

Negative adjective prefixes

un- is the most common negative prefix
dis- is used with some adjectives
il- is used with some adjectives beginning with *l* ...
im- is used with some adjectives beginning with *p* ... or *m* ...
ir- is used with some adjectives beginning with *r* ...
in- is used with a few adjectives

- d) Complete these sentences with the negative form of some adjectives from question b.
- 1 My room is a bit **untidy** . I wish I had a robot to clean up the mess.
 - 2 It is **illegal** to drive faster than the speed limit.
 - 3 **disobedient** children should learn to do what their parents tell them.
 - 4 People who live in cities often have a reputation for being **unfriendly** , but I get on very well with them. **illegible**
 - 5 I can't read your writing. It's completely .

Words to remember
bifocal, frequent,
instigate, legible,
obedient, patient,
reputation, software,
spot

Think and speak

2 Answer these questions in pairs.

- a) What should parents say to their disobedient children?
- b) In what situations do you get impatient? Explain.
- c) What should companies do with dishonest employees? Elaborate.

Pronunciation

3 (8.1) Listen and repeat. Underline the most stressed word in each sentence.

- a) Gold-coated '**nanoshells**' are being developed.
- b) We will be able to buy '**smart**' clothes.
- c) According to scientists, we will be able to '**see**' these with our eyes closed.

4 (8.2) Listen to the sentences again. How have they changed? a: are .. b: will .. c: will

Quote "The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them."

Antoine de Saint Exupéry

Speaking Selling an idea

Introduction

- 1 Read this short article about 'smart clothes' of the future. Which of the clothes do you think would be the most useful?

In a few years, we will be able to buy 'smart clothes' which can control our temperature, keeping us cool in the summer and warm in the winter. One company is already working on 'smart trainers' which can generate electricity as you walk, and power an electronic terminal you wear on your torso. Other clothes will help to save lives by checking the wearer's heart rate and blood pressure and transmitting this information to a doctor. Life-saving ski jackets will heat up if the wearer's body temperature falls too low, and will transmit a message to a satellite to help rescue teams to find the wearer.



Plan a sales talk

- 2 Work in pairs or groups. You are going to sell a new item of 'smart clothing' to other students in the class.
- How could the language of the article change if the writer wanted to sell the items?
 - Choose one of the articles of clothing in the photograph, and discuss these questions.
 - What is it and what do you think it can do?
 - What are its special features?
 - Who would find it particularly useful?
 - How would it improve the wearer's life?
 - Plan a 'sales talk' to persuade other people to buy this article of clothing. Use your answers to questions b1-4 as the different sections of your talk. Use some of the expressions from the *Useful Language* box below.

Give your talk

- 3 Work with another group of students.
- Take turns to give your sales talk to the other group.
 - Finally, each student in the two groups should say whether they found the talk persuasive. Would they buy the new article of 'smart clothing'?

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Introducing a subject

I'd like to tell you about our fantastic new invention.
It's a ... which can ...
This is the invention you have all been waiting for.
It's a ... which ...

Stating advantages

The best thing about (our new shoes) is ...
This is what our ... can do for you.
It isn't expensive. It only costs ...
It's available in these sizes / colours: ...

Writing An advertisement

Read and analyse

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You are going to write a magazine advertisement for a new invention.

- 1 Read this advertisement for a new household robot. Which of Robomate's abilities would you find most useful?

ROBOMATE

This is Robomate and here are some of the things it can do for you:

- It can translate between languages.
- You can ask it to do jobs around the house for you. It particularly likes the jobs you find boring.
- It can look after the house when you go out. If someone trespasses, Robomate will phone you.
- If you are away, and you want to check everything is okay at home, you can see what's going on through a special webcam.
- It can remember everything you tell it and remind you about important dates like birthdays and anniversaries. This is particularly useful if you have a busy life or a bad memory.
- Its batteries last for 48 hours without recharging.

So, what are you waiting for?

Order your own personal Robomate today. It'll change your life!

Still not sure? Check our website and watch Robomate in action!



- 2 Read the advertisement again and answer these questions.

- a Why does the writer of the advertisement use the word *you*?
You can ask it to do jobs ... to make the advert more personal
- b Why does the writer ask questions?
So, what are you waiting for? to make the reader feel actively engaged with the advert
- c Is the style of writing formal or informal? What effect does this have?
informal; makes the advert seem more like a friendly conversation than an advert
- d Why does the writer use a list of bullet points [•]?
to make the advert quick and easy to read.

Words to remember

anniversary,
heart rate, recharge,
transmit, trespass,
wearer

Write and check

- 3 Write your own magazine advertisement for a new invention which will save time in your school or your home.

- a
 - ▶ Think of your invention and give it a suitable name. It can be big or small, cheap or expensive, simple or complicated.
 - ▶ Write in the same style as the advertisement for Robomate.
 - ▶ Include the price of your invention.
- b Now check your spelling, grammar, punctuation and style. Exchange advertisements with another student.