

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

Is technology bad for our brains?

by James Sanders

Nowadays, many useful gadgets (small machines) are advertised as 'smart'. This 'smartness' generally means that the machine can change how it works to **suit** the user's needs, learn our preferences, and make intelligent choices for us. Smartphones can now take photos, play songs, send emails, and do a thousand other useful things, such as shopping online or **assisting** us with our homework. We used to need lots of machines to help us to do these things, but not any more. They fit in our pockets, but contain more **data** than we could ever possibly need, or remember.

If you asked most people, they would say that smart machines have improved life. Not everyone agrees, however. A few scientists are worried about the **effect** of using machines to do things that we used to do for ourselves. For example, we don't have to remember people's **contact details** any more, as our phones **store** this information. We can also find information **instantly**, via Internet search engines like Google. A few studies have shown, surprisingly, that people in their 50s and 60s are better than teenagers at studying and **memorizing** information, because they've always worked this way.

Technology has changed our expectations and made us very impatient. Now we want our news in tiny **soundbites**, and get bored if we actually have to read or listen for more than a minute or two. Scientists reported recently that the Internet was changing how we think and learn. One author even said that Google was making us stupid! It's certainly true that we often do two or three things **simultaneously** when we are online, and it's harder and harder to **focus on** one thing. Maybe technology is bad for our brains, and our memories, and we should stop depending on it all the time. But if you tell me to give up my smartphone, sorry, I won't!

Example: Gadgets nowadays can be very expensive.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☒

1 Different people use 'smart' gadgets in different ways.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

2 Smartphones can help us do many things.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

3 They are also cheaper to buy these days.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

4 Most people think that 'smart' technology makes things easier.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

5 One result of smartphones is that we remember more.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

6 The memory test results show that young people have quick memories.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

7 Older people have more smart gadgets than teenagers.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

8 We have less patience now than we used to have.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

9 On the internet, we do one thing at a time.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

10 James Sanders likes using modern gadgets.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

2 Match five of the highlighted words / phrases with the definitions.

Example: be right for something, or someone suit

1 learning facts, so we can say them later _____

2 small comments or pieces of information _____

3 telephone number, email and address _____

4 at the same time _____

5 helping _____