



### Discussion

1. In your country, how do students manage financially? Do they ... ?
  - a. rely on their parents
  - b. get a part-time job
  - c. use student loans
2. What do you think is the best way? Why?
3. If you had to do a part-time job to earn some money as a student, what job would you choose and why?



### Watch Part 1 and answer the questions

1. Are Becky and Tessa friends? How do you know?
2. Why does Becky have to go?



### Watch Part 2. Are these sentences true or false?

1. Becky and Tom are married. (T/F)
2. Becky is free this evening. (T/F)
3. Becky is in a hurry. (T/F)



### Watch Part 3 and answer the questions.

1. What happens to Becky?
  - a. Becky meets Sam and learns how to make coffee.
  - b. Becky learns how to handle food and meets a cafe customer
2. What are the 3 things Sam explains to Becky?
3. What does Phil do in the cafe?
4. Why do they call him 'JK'?
5. Who is Emma?



### Watch Part 4. Which of these topics do Tom and Becky mention? What do Tom and Becky say about each topic?

- coffee
- food
- Becky's new job
- the reason Tom is here
- Phil's book
- wedding plans



### Discussion

1. In your daily life, how much do you depend on technology?
2. What aspects of technology make your daily life easier?
3. When has technology created a problem for you?
4. When has technology helped you solve a problem of some kind?



### Choose a process you are familiar with or something you know how to do and explain it. It could be:

- something connected with a sport or a hobby
- how to use a machine or an electronic device
- how to make or cook something.



### Look at the research results and discuss the questions.

1. Do you think people you know would agree with these results?
2. Do you agree with the results? Is there anything you would add to the list?



### Listen to Gina and Derek talking about technology.

1. What aspect of technology do they talk about?
2. What's the speaker's relationship with the other person in the story? Are they describing positive or negative experiences?
3. What made the experience positive or negative? Why?
4. Do you agree with Gina's reaction to her boss? Why / Why not?
5. Do you know people like Derek? Do you think they should try to change? Why / Why not?



### Read the article and choose true or false.

1. The woman has the same opinion as most other people.
2. She has noticed an imbalance in communication.
3. The experiment involved the couple not communicating for a day.
4. It was a positive experience for them.
5. Technology has made us forget our priorities.
6. We don't need technology.

### Choose the correct answer.

1. The purpose of the first paragraph is ...
  - a. to explain the writer's motivation
  - b. to compare different types of communication
  - c. to introduce a theory about communication
2. The main rule of the experiment was that ...
  - a. they had to communicate as little as possible
  - b. they couldn't say anything to each other
  - c. they needed to explain things very simply
3. The point about breakfast is that ...
  - a. making meals involves technology
  - b. it was an amusing situation
  - c. everything was so simple

### IT anxiety!

Recent research has revealed the things that make people the most anxious about information technology (IT). Here are the top five:

1. There is less face-to-face social contact.
2. IT companies know too much about us.
3. Artificial intelligence could mean job losses.
4. Too much time is wasted online.
5. Information online is often unreliable.

### Face-to-face texting

A lot of people think that technology brings people closer together, but I'm not so sure. People spend so much time texting and looking at screens that they hardly ever speak to one another. This made me think, and I decided to do a little experiment.

One day my husband and I decided not to speak to each other at all. We could email, text, etc., but we couldn't actually communicate in spoken words. So, at breakfast, he sent me a text to ask if I wanted any more toast and I replied that I didn't, but I wouldn't mind another cup of tea.

We both thought it was funny at first, but things got more complicated as the day went on. For example, a friend phoned me about a special party she was organising. I had to text my husband for about 20 minutes to discuss everything.

The whole thing made me appreciate that nothing can replace face-to-face communication – talking to each other. Communication may be easier because of technology, but people aren't machines. We sometimes forget that simple things are often the most important in life.

4. The rest of the day showed that the experiment ...
  - a. needed to continue for longer
  - b. only worked until a friend got involved
  - c. was not as easy as they thought
  
5. She texted her husband to discuss ...
  - a. plans for a party
  - b. the effectiveness of the experiment
  - c. her friend's communication problems
  
6. The conclusion is that ...
  - a. the experiment was mostly a failure
  - b. technology has changed relationships between people
  - c. speaking is still an effective kind of communication



## TECH FREE!

by Sam Winton

 HOME  BLOG  FOLLOW ME

<sup>1</sup>Have you ever wondered what it would be like to give up technology? I'm a freelance marketing consultant and I spend a lot of my working life in front of a computer. I've been working on a marketing campaign for this nature resort where any kind of digital device is banned. I wanted to know what it's like, so I decided to conduct my own private experiment: Spend a day without technological devices – scary!

<sup>2</sup>The first thing I usually do every day is reach for my smartphone to check the time and read any messages, but I'd locked it in a drawer the night before. Already I was feeling very cut off from the world, and it was only ... actually, I had no idea what time it was!

<sup>3</sup>After breakfast, I needed to get some cash. Inevitably, this meant a trip to the bank because I couldn't use my card or a cash machine. I had to queue at the bank, but I had a very nice conversation with a woman while I was waiting. She told me how they're going to upgrade the local park with a new playground and a running track. Not surprisingly, the bank clerk thought I was a bit strange to be making a cash withdrawal in person. Most people use machines.

<sup>4</sup>Afterwards, I came home to try writing my marketing plan by hand. Interestingly, I found it easier to concentrate on my writing. But my hand got really sore from writing with a pen! And I have to confess – by this stage, I was having to make a real effort not to get my phone out and check my messages.

<sup>5</sup>Then, I wanted to relax and watch the next episode in a series that I'm streaming. Naturally, that was out – I had to read a book. It's a crime story a friend recommended to me and it's great. I couldn't put it down and I ended up going to bed late.

<sup>6</sup>All in all, I wouldn't say I could live without technology. Predictably, I really missed my phone all day. However, I kept to my promise of a tech-free day and had more face-to-face interaction by avoiding machines. Undoubtedly, it has made me realise just how addicted to technology we all are.



### Read the text. Are the sentences true or false?

1. Before the experiment, Sam was a bit worried by the idea.
2. Sam was annoyed that he had to chat to someone in the bank.
3. The bank clerk was surprised that Sam wanted to withdraw money.
4. Sam was able to work better when he wrote by hand.
5. As the day progressed, Sam thought less about using his phone.
6. The book he read made him fall asleep.
7. Sam learned something about the way we depend on technology.

**How does Sam organise his article? Choose the correct summary.**

1. He explains his attitude towards technology, describes his day, requests readers to do the same thing.
2. He explains his level of dependency on technology, describes his day, finishes with an evaluation of the experience.
3. He explains his feelings about technology, describes his day, finishes by promising to repeat the experience.

### Complete the tasks.

1. How does Sam get the reader's attention at the beginning of the article?
2. In paragraphs 2-5, underline the linking word or phrase that sequences the events in Sam's day. The first one has been done for you.
3. In paragraph 6, what linking phrase shows that Sam is going to summarise his experience?
4. The adverb 'inevitably' shows the writer's attitude. Find five other comment adverbs in the article.



**Add the adverbs in the box to the gaps. There is more than one possible answer.**

amazingly naturally inevitably (not) surprisingly

1. Why do some websites ask you to change passwords so often? \_\_\_\_\_  
after changing the password for my bank, I was asked to change it again just a week later.
2. I usually hate anything to do with technology. \_\_\_\_\_, I like using the self-service check-out at my local supermarket.
3. I always expect digital devices to be expensive. \_\_\_\_\_, the tablet I bought last week cost very little.
4. I find it very difficult to install new software. \_\_\_\_\_, I've downloaded the new version of a program, and now my computer is frozen.



Which piece of advice is not correct for writing an article? Why?

1. Begin the article with a question to get the reader's attention.
2. Use direct questions to connect with the reader of your article.
3. Think about how you can structure the main part of the article. You can use a sequence of events or you could compare and contrast ideas.
4. Use linking words to guide the reader.
5. Be as objective as possible.
6. Use comment adverbs to show your opinions.
7. Summarise your experience or ideas and evaluate them.



**Imagine you had to live for a week without a technological device you use in your daily life.** Choose a device from the article or use your own idea. Make notes about what the experience might be like.

**Write an article about your experience.** Organise your article to follow the structure in the previous exercise. Use the linking phrases and adverbs from the previous exercise to help you.

