

Grammar

Present perfect

1 Complete these sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Use the past simple or present perfect.

- Petrol prices increased (increase) by 20% last year, and so far this year they've gone (go) up by another 30%.
- I (have) a really awful meal last night, and I (feel) ill since I got up this morning.
- Since websites like Facebook and Twitter (become) popular a few years ago, they (change) the way people communicate.
- I (have) this camera for three months, and I still (not / learn) how to use it properly.
- Where's Susan? I (not / see) her all day. (she / phone)?
- Amy (not / come) to work yesterday, and she (not / be) at home when I (try) calling her last night.
- I think people (become) too dependent on modern technology, and (forget) how to do many simple tasks.
- (you / see) Tom this morning? He (borrow) my laptop a couple of days ago and I need it back.

2 Complete these sentences with *for* or *since*.

- I've lived here since I was born.
- I've worked for the same company ages.
- We haven't seen each other my birthday.
- It hasn't stopped raining I got up today.
- I've needed a new computer months.
- Judy has lived abroad more than five years.
- I've been on a diet April.
- He moved to London in 2003, and he's lived there ever

3 Complete the gaps in this passage with the past simple or present perfect forms of the verbs in brackets. If there is no verb, use *for* or *since*.

Brian is my best friend. I 1 've known (know) him 2 for years. We 3 (meet) at school, and we 4 (be) best friends ever 5 We 6 (do) so many great things together. In 2005 we 7 (travel) around the world together, and a couple of years later we 8 (run) the London Marathon together. We 9 (always / be) interested in computers, and nine months ago we 10 (set) up our own computer company. 11 then, we 12 (become) well-known among the big companies in our area, who 13 (use) our services several times. 14 the last two months, we 15 (have) a contract with IGH Bank. We're now so busy that we 16 (decide) to employ some extra staff.

Writing

Task 2

1 Here are some inventions which have changed or improved our lives. Match (1-11) with (A-K).

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 aspirin | ☐ | 2 digital camera | ☐ | 3 elastic band | ☐ |
| 4 mobile phone | ☐ | 5 paper | ☐ | 6 paper clip | ☐ |
| 7 pencil | ☐ | 8 sticky tape | ☐ | 9 syringe | ☐ |
| 10 watch | ☐ | 11 wheel | ☐ | | |



2 Read this Writing task and underline the key ideas.

Most successful inventions do not rely on complicated technology. In fact, some of the world's greatest inventions have been very simple things.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

3 Number paragraphs A–E in the correct order to produce a sample answer to the Writing task.

A Many other great inventions are even simpler. A wheel requires parts which move. This means that compared with a paper clip, an elastic band or a sheet of paper, it is quite complicated. But these smaller items are an essential part of every office. The same can be said for pencils, sticky tape, and many other stationery items.

This is paragraph

B In conclusion, I believe that a great invention does not need to be complicated or technical. It can be something small or simple which has changed or improved our lives in some way. After all, most of us have a mobile phone, but it could not cure us if we became ill.

This is paragraph

C However, many of the inventions which have changed our lives have been very simple things. Without the wheel, for example, we would not have cars, motorbikes or bicycles. Aeroplanes would not exist, as they would not be able to take off or land without wheels. Furthermore, wheels, in one form or another, are an important part of many smaller machines, like watches and computers.

This is paragraph

D When people think of inventions, they often think of things which are technically complicated, or which require electricity in order to work. This is especially true in the 21st century, with our obsession for mobile phones, portable computers, digital cameras and other electronic items.

This is paragraph

E Great simple inventions can also be found outside the office, of course. In my opinion, some of the most important inventions are those which have a medical purpose. Aspirin and syringes, for example, have helped to relieve pain and prevent or cure disease.

This is paragraph

4 In which paragraph does the author

- 1 focus on inventions which he/she personally feels are extremely important?
- 2 summarise his/her opinions and give reasons for those opinions?
- 3 discuss several very small, very simple inventions?
- 4 give an example of an invention that has been an important part of other inventions?
- 5 introduce the subject by giving a popular definition of an invention?

5 Now write your answer to this Writing task. You should write at least 250 words.

Write about the following topic.

The Internet is probably the most significant invention of the last 30 years. Without it, our lives would be completely different.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.