UNIT 6: TECHNOLOGY
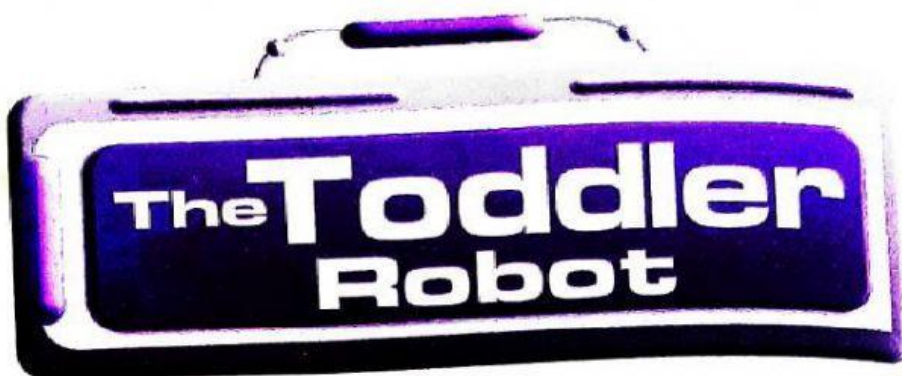
READING COMPREHENSION

1- Do exercises 1 and 2 of your Student's book page 86.
2- Read the text carefully. Check the words in the word list at the back of your Students' book (pages WL9 and WL10) or you can use a dictionary.

The Toddler Robot

A It is only one metre high. It looks and behaves like a human child of about three. It can crawl and sit up. It can even play the drums. [1] What is it? It's the iCub robot – the latest in artificial intelligence and technology! The humanoid iCub robot was created by scientists at the Italian Institute of Technology in Genoa, Italy, in order to understand how human children learn about the world around them. This is important because scientists believe that once they understand how human beings learn, they will be able to apply these principles to robots.

B How can a robot teach scientists about how humans learn? Well, many scientists believe that one way humans learn is by physically interacting with objects and other humans. [2] So, by building a robot with a physique that is as human as possible, scientists can study how our physical form helps us develop our learning abilities.

C [3] Well, it has a large number of motors in its body that generate movement in the head, arms, hands and legs. It has cameras for eyes and it listens with two tiny microphones on its head that record sounds. [4] This enables the iCub to crawl, walk and even pick up objects in its hand in a similar way to a toddler.

D On the outside, the iCub looks like a small child. However, a child will interact with interest to what it sees. [5] The iCub robot has only just managed to 'learn' how to control its eye movements based on external stimuli. That's a long way from being able to learn by interacting with its surroundings the way a child does.

E [6] If so, you could be in for a long wait! Nevertheless, the iCub – and robots like it – demonstrate that one day it should be possible to introduce 'thinking' robots into the workplace. Places such as hospitals and residential care homes could use these robots to assist with patient care. If the iCub experiment succeeds, many busy doctors and nurses will get a helping hand with their workload. Meanwhile, the iCub research team are patiently waiting and watching – much like normal parents – to see how their 'child' learns as it grows up!

3 Read the text and fill in the gaps 1-6 with a correct sentence A-H. Two sentences are extra. ⚫⚫⚫

1 ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

2 ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

3 ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

4 ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

5 ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

6 ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

A How has the iCub robot been equipped to help scientists research this idea?

B Also, it has been programmed with 53 different movements.

C In short, they will be able to build robots that can actually think!

D Would you believe such a future is likely to come about?

E What's more, it will investigate it, then store what it has learnt.

F It isn't made of flesh and blood, though; it's made of metal and circuits.

G A baby, for instance, learns many things simply by touching, smelling or seeing objects around it.

H Do you dream of a future where robots can think and make their own decisions?

5 Find words in the text which mean: CHECK ⚫⚫⚫

- act (para A)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- most recent (para A)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- have a human shape and appearance (para A)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- rules (para A)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- body structure (para B)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- advance (para B)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

- produce (para C)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- outside (para D)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- things which cause us to react (para D)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- communicate (para D)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫
- show (para E)
  ☐ ⚫⚫⚫

6 Fill in: ⚫⚫⚫

(residential) (artificial) (human)

(helping) (research) (pick up)

1 (_____) team ⚫⚫⚫

2 (_____) objects ⚫⚫⚫

3 (_____) care home ⚫⚫⚫

4 (_____) being ⚫⚫⚫

5 (_____) hand ⚫⚫⚫

6 (_____) intelligence ⚫⚫⚫

Vocabulary from the text

1 Fill in the correct word(s). CHECK ⦿

• *develop* • *grow up*

1 Babies [ ] learning skills by interacting with the environment. ⦿

2 Children who [ ] in big cities have more educational facilities. ⦿

• *investigate* • *research*

3 It took Sarah six months to [ ] her topic before she started to write her book. ⦿

4 "What's that strange smell coming from the kitchen?"

"I'll go and [ ] !" ⦿

• *control* • *manage*

5 The joke the student told was so funny that the teacher couldn't [ ] her laughter. ⦿

6 Will scientists ever [ ] to find a cure for the common cold? ⦿

2 Choose the odd word out in the following sentences. ⦿

1 Andrew's father offered to help him ***build/prepare/make*** a robot for his school science project. ⦿

2 The presentation gave students a better idea how to ***apply/follow/join*** scientific principles when conducting their experiments. ⦿

3 Modern technology such as the Internet has made it easier for people to ***interact/ connect/combine*** with one another. ⦿

4 It is said that children can ***develop/improve/grow*** their learning abilities by listening to classical music. ⦿

5 Tom's teacher told him to ***research/probe/investigate*** a topic for his essay. ⦿

6 My alarm is ***programmed/set/formulated*** to go off at 6:30 am every day. ⦿

3 Fill in: ⦿

| chat | design | print | read | save | surf |

1 We use Skype to [ ] online with our friends in Australia. ⦿

2 My computer won't [ ] the DVD, so I can't watch the film. ⦿

3 They [ ] websites for various companies. ⦿

4 Please [ ] the document and leave it on my desk. ⦿

5 I usually [ ] the Net in the evening. ⦿

6 [ ] your documents in different folders to find them easily. ⦿

4 Fill in:

| click | connect | copied | disconnect | search | turn | upload |

How to 1) _____ **videos from your digital video camera to your computer**

■ First, **2)** _____ on your digital video camera and **3)** _____ it to the computer.

■ Then, **4)** _____ for your video files in 'My Computer'.

5) _____ on the video you want to upload.

■ Click on 'Upload selected video.' The video will automatically be **6)** _____ onto your computer.

■ Finally, **7)** _____ the video camera from your computer.

5 a) Match the verbs to the nouns.

Computer problems

1		can't connect to	**a**	a file
2		save	**b**	emails
3		forget	**c**	a password
4		can't check	**d**	a document
5		can't install	**e**	the server/the Internet
6		upload	**f**	software

6 Complete the text with the correct word in the list.

| networking | processing | transfer | employs |
| format | browser | files | installing |

A new mobile phone was introduced yesterday which is expected to revolutionise the use of keyboards on mobile devices. Modern phones encourage communication through texting with SMS and on social **1)** _____ sites. However these phones are not actually very easy to type on! This new phone **2)** _____ innovative text-prediction software. The makers have also redesigned the keypad for effortless typing. Included with the phone is its own word **3)** _____ software which allows users to **4)** _____ text – including font, layout and spacing. You can even link wirelessly to your PC! This means you can **5)** _____ any document with a simple click. There is no need to access your Internet **6)** _____ to download a file from your web-mail. By **7)** _____ a simple application to your PC, the software can retrieve **8)** _____ from your phone automatically.

Prepositions

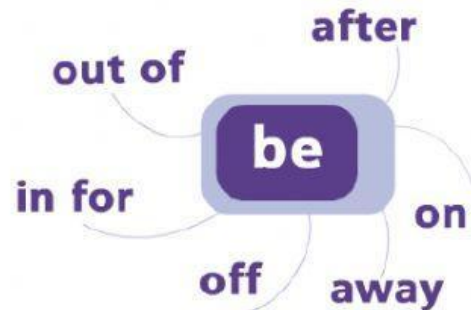**7** Choose the correct item. ⦁⦁ Check in the Word List.

1 He couldn't connect **to/on** the Internet. ⦁⦁

2 A smartphone is a great way to keep **in/of** touch with friends. ⦁⦁

3 Plug your MP3 player **into/onto** the computer to download the music files you want. ⦁⦁

4 She removed the battery **from/at** the digital camera. ⦁⦁

5 A strange message keeps appearing **in/on** my computer screen. ⦁⦁

Phrasal verbs: *be*

8 Fill in the correct phrasal verb. **CHECK** ⦁⦁
Check in the Word List.

1 Do you know what time the programme about new technology is ☐ tonight? **(be shown on TV)** ⦁⦁⦁

2 I must be ☐ now – it's getting late. **(leave)** ⦁⦁⦁

3 Dan's been ☐ an iPod for ages so I think I'll get him one for his birthday. **(want)** ⦁⦁⦁

4 The printer's ☐ ink; can you buy some? **(have no more left)** ⦁⦁⦁

5 I knew I was ☐ a difficult day at work when the Internet crashed. **(expect sth bad)** ⦁⦁⦁

6 Jack had been ☐ for two weeks in the Bahamas and came back looking relaxed and tanned. **(be absent)** ⦁⦁⦁

out of   after

in for   **be**   on

off   away

Word formation *(verbs from adjectives)*

9 Read the rule, then form verbs from the adjectives to complete the sentences. **CHECK** ⦁⦁

> We use the prefix **en-** or the suffix **-en** to form verbs from adjectives to give the meaning 'make'. – Make sure you **enable** the firewall on your computer. We had to **widen** the doorway to get the new equipment in the room.

? 1 Digital photography makes it easy for people to ☐ their own pictures. **(LARGE)** ⦁⦁

? 2 Computers have definitely ☐ the time it takes to do a lot of repetitive tasks. **(SHORT)** ⦁⦁

? 3 One problem with using computers is that it can ☐ your eyesight. **(WEAK)** ⦁⦁

? 4 Run your anti-virus program regularly to ☐ that your computer is kept virus-free. **(SURE)** ⦁⦁

? 5 Many people who use the Internet say it has ☐ their horizons. **(BROAD)** ⦁⦁

? 6 This office chair helps you ☐ your back when sitting in front of your computer. **(STRAIGHT)** ⦁⦁