READING

A magazine article

1 **Look at the photo and the title of the article. What do you think the article is about? Read the article and check your ideas.**

High-tech or no-tech?

Juan Carlos García investigates how a school in California's Silicon Valley uses technology – or doesn't!

Silicon Valley in California has become the world centre of technology, innovation and social media. It's home to some of the world's biggest tech companies. So, with all this technology around, you probably think that all schools in Silicon Valley use lots of computers, laptops and tablets in their classrooms, right? Wrong! In Masters Secondary School, the school I visited, there isn't a tablet, screen or laptop anywhere. The classrooms have plants, traditional wooden desks and even blackboards with coloured chalks!

So why don't they use technology? The surprising thing is that the parents of these children – many of them technology experts at major tech companies – believe that bringing technology to class isn't a good idea! Many think that it doesn't help young people use their own minds. So, in this school, there are no electronic teaching devices in the classroom. Teachers here think that kids use their imagination better without them!

This means that students don't use the Internet to study or download apps to help them learn, and they use pens and paper to write, not tablets or laptops. They study their main subjects through artistic activities like music and painting. One student told me, 'Our teachers believe that technology will only be helpful when we're older and we know how and when to use it properly.'

So even the tech experts think that technology has its limits! High-tech or no-tech: which is the best? What do you think?



2 **Read the article again and check the meaning of these words in a dictionary. Then complete the sentences.**

expert	~~imagination~~	innovation
major	minds	properly

1 I'm not very good at writing stories because I've got no imagination.
2 My aunt knows a lot about computers. She's a technology _____.
3 When you use this dictionary app _____, it's very easy to find the words you want.
4 This young company is famous for its _____ and new ideas.
5 My brother made a _____ decision to move to the US to study.
6 People who develop software have got creative _____.

3 **Read the article again. Are the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false)?**

1 Juan Carlos visited the school to learn about new classroom technology. F
2 The school is home to technology and innovation. ___
3 Juan Carlos expected to find a lot of electronic teaching devices in the school. ___
4 Some parents think that classroom technology stops young people from thinking creatively. ___
5 Students learn through artistic subjects. ___
6 Teachers believe that technology will never help students learn. ___

4 **Answer the questions with your own ideas.**

1 How do some schools use technology in class?

_____

2 What electronic devices do you use in class to help you learn?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS