Technology and the Traveller

a Like everyone else, I love my technology. However, when I'm travelling it's different. I understand how technology can affect the experience. I want to escape day-to-day life, not be connected to it every minute of the day.

b I remember travelling twenty years ago. At a typical hostel, groups of backpackers collected in groups. Some played cards or chess, but most just sat around exchanging stories about the difficulties and problems they had while they travelled. I used to arrive and make friends really quickly.

c Now, young travellers sit in silence, each updating family and friends with news and photos on their social media sites. If I want to start a conversation with one of them, I have to drag him or her away from their devices. They're more interested in the latest episode of *Game of Thrones* than talking to me. Travellers used to share their travel experience with those having the same experience. Now, they prefer to share it with their mum and dad or best friend two thousand miles away.

d Of course, technology brings benefits. I used to spend hours in banks changing travellers'

READING

A **PREDICT** Read the title of the webpage. What examples of technology do you think will be in the article?



B Read the article quickly to check your predictions in Exercise A.

C **READ FOR MAIN IDEA** Read the article again. In which paragraph (a–f) does the writer make points (1–5)?

1 Some things were more difficult without modern technology. ___

2 Young travellers used to enjoy each other's company. ___

3 Modern technology has both advantages and disadvantages. ___, ___ and ___

4 He doesn't want to be always in contact with people back home. ___

5 It is difficult to get to know strangers these days.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Another modern invention which we take for granted is the fridge-freezer.

C READ FOR GIST In which main paragraph (1–4) would you expect to read about the following items?

a soap

b food

c different kitchen gadgets

d coal

D READ FOR DETAIL Read again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

1 According to the writer, people today appreciate the household appliances which they use every day. ___

2 Only the rich benefited from advances in technology in the Victorian era. ___

3 Some of the Victorians' appliances were similar to those we use today. ___

4 Servants had to take coal out of the kitchen range to keep it burning. ___

5 It was possible to preserve food by covering it with salt. ___

6 Rich Victorians could only keep their food cold in winter. ___

7 Water was available in every Victorian household. ___

8 The 'dolly' was a kind of simple washing machine. ___

order to make it last longer. However, the very rich had ice houses. The ice house was built underground, near a water source such as a lake, so that during the winter, ice could be taken from it into the ice house. The ice blocks, packed together underground, stayed frozen, even during the warm summer months. Here, the Victorians were able to keep food throughout the year.

[4] ___ As there was no running water, it usually had to be carried some distance, before being boiled in a huge pot over a wood or coal fire. And then just add soap? No, because the soap had to be made by hand, using a mixture of fat and ashes! In wealthier households, the clothes would be put into a *dolly*, a kind of bucket with a long wooden pole which was used to hit and move the clothes around. The whole process would take an entire day!

So, next time you take a carton of cold milk out of the fridge, press a button on your electric cooker or complain about having to put on the washing machine, spare a thought for the women of the Victorian era, who spent most of their lives doing what electricity and modern gadgets do for us in a few minutes!

Glossary

accomplish (v) to succeed in doing something

kettle (n) electrical appliance used for boiling small amounts of water

LIVEWORKSHEETS





READING

A How long do you spend every day doing the following household tasks? Make a list of the electrical appliances you use to do them.

- washing the dishes
- cooking food
- doing the laundry

B **TOPIC SENTENCES** Read the article about household gadgets in the Victorian kitchen. Match the topic sentences (A–D) with the main paragraphs (1–4).

A The task of washing, ironing and folding clothes may seem never-ending, but that's nothing compared to how tiring and time-consuming it was in Victorian times.

B The Industrial Revolution was marked by the invention of steam power and the use of mass production, but was this technological progress also reflected in the home?

C Perhaps the most important task in any household, old or modern, is cooking, which today we do on a gas or electric cooker.

Must-have gadgets – Victorian style!

For most of us, an ordinary day will probably include boiling the kettle for a cup of coffee, preparing a meal on the cooker or in the microwave (using fresh ingredients from the fridge) and maybe loading the washing machine with the family's dirty clothes. These are all household gadgets that we take for granted and wouldn't dream of doing without. But how did people manage in the not-so-distant past?

[1] ___ For poor families, the answer is 'no', but for the aristocracy and for well-off middle-class homes, then the answer is a definite 'yes'. Although the gadgets which were used in the Victorian kitchen relied on hand power rather than electricity, they were sophisticated machines which could accomplish many of the jobs which today we do with modern appliances. They had food processors to chop food, machines to slice bread and even a gadget to make ice cream!

[2] ___ The Victorian kitchen used an iron *range* which consisted of a kind of iron box with a coal fire – this heated the oven and the hotplates and also boiled water. Although this style of kitchen stove was efficient, it certainly wasn't convenient. Coal had to be carried in regularly and ashes removed throughout the day. A servant would have to light the stove in the early hours of the morning and keep it burning all day.

[3] ___ But without electricity, how did the Victorians keep things cold? Traditionally, both rich and poor used other food preservation techniques, such as keeping food in salt or vinegar, or smoking it, in

LIVEWORKSHEETS

cheques. Now, I go to an ATM and get my money in seconds. I remember losing my friend in Mexico. We were miles from our hostel and wasted a day trying to find each other. Now, a quick text and we would reunite immediately.

e I guess it's all about balance. Booking your hotel in advance is convenient, but arriving in a city with nowhere to stay can be exciting. Knowing exactly where everything is and how long it'll take to walk there makes you feel in control, but takes away a sense of adventure. Getting lost opens your eyes, and might result in an experience you didn't expect.

f So when travelling, spend half an hour phoning home or checking your emails but then turn all the technology off and look around you. You're surrounded by new and exciting things ... you're not going to discover them on social media!

Glossary

drag (v) pull somebody
reunite (v) bring together again after separation
sense of adventure (phrase) wanting to do new and exciting things

D READ FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION Read carefully and complete the sentences below with one word from the article.

1 Travellers used to spend time telling each other _____.
2 The writer used to make _____ easily when he travelled.
3 Nowadays, travellers are more likely to spend time _____ their social media.
4 The writer says that ATMs and text messaging are both _____ of modern technology.
5 It is sometimes more _____ not to have everything carefully planned.

E READ FOR DETAIL Identify each sentence from the text below as fact (F) or opinion (O).

1 At a typical hostel, groups of backpackers gathered in groups. ___
2 I used to spend hours in banks changing travellers' cheques. ___
3 Arriving in a city with nowhere to stay can be exciting. ___
4 Getting lost opens your eyes. ___
5 You're surrounded by new and exciting things. ___

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