## READING

A  **READING SKILL—Predict information** Look at the picture. What do you think the article is going to be about?

B  🔊 **1.01** Read the article. Then answer the questions.

### Technology Creating an Accessible World

Through the use of technology, we are changing the world that is accessible to us. People such as Hugh Herr, co-director of the MIT Center for Extreme Bionics, are responsible for these changes. After losing both of his legs in a mountain climbing accident, Hugh Herr designed and developed new bionic legs. These new legs have a number of features that were previously **impossible**. The legs can be made longer or shorter. The feet can change depending on the surface of the mountain. It is even possible to attach different climbing equipment. All of these advances mean that Hugh Herr can **achieve** climbs that no one else has ever been able to do before. The MIT Center for Extreme Bionics is currently working on a digital nervous system which will connect the brain with a computer that can control artificial arms and legs.

Another area in which connections with computers are having a huge effect is communication. Facebook is currently working on a "silent speech" project: computers that can **recognize** what people are thinking so they can type messages with their brain. This system can help people who are **disabled** because of **disease** or injury. It can also help **able-bodied** people who want a faster way to type their ideas. Early tests in similar systems have used a person's thoughts to **select** letters and then write words. However, systems will get much faster. The aim of the silent speech project is for thoughts to be **turned into** text at a speed of 100 words per minute. How would you use technology to access a whole new world?

**GLOSSARY**

**artificial** (adj): made by people and used instead of something natural
**accessible** (adj): when a place or object can be easily used by all.

1  What technology did Hugh Herr develop?_____
2  What is special about that technology?_____
3  How else can systems that connect people to computers help us?_____
4  What advantages of these systems are mentioned in the text?_____
_____

C  **THINKING SKILL—Apply** Explain how technology improves your ability to work, travel, socialize, and study.

## VOCABULARY

A  **Match the words in bold in READING B with the definitions (1–8).**

1  _____ (phr v): made one thing become another

2  _____ (adj): unable to use part of your body in the way most other people can

3  _____ (adj): not possible

4  _____ (v): chooses

5  _____ (v): know what you are seeing because you have seen it before

6  _____ (adj): able to use your body in the way most other people can

7  _____ (v): be successful, usually after hard work

8  _____ (n): illness

## GRAMMAR stative and dynamic verbs

**A** **Complete the sentences from the text in READING A.**

1 Through the use of technology, we _____ the world that is accessible to us.
2 These new legs _____ a number of features that were previously impossible.
3 Another area in which connections with computers _____ a huge effect is communication.
4 Computers that can recognize what people _____ so they can type messages with their brain.

**B** **Read the sentences in A and choose the correct options.**

1 Stative verbs, e.g., *know*, *have*, and *like*, describe **actions / states**.

2 Dynamic verbs, e.g., *write*, *walk*, and *use*, describe **actions / states**.

3 **Stative / Dynamic** verbs are not usually used in progressive tenses.

4 Some verbs, e.g., *be*, *have*, and *think*, can be used both ways with **the same / a different** meaning.

For more practice, go to page 142

**C** **Check (✓) the correct sentences. Both sentences may be correct.**

1 ☐ Do you know how disabled people use technology?
☐ Are you knowing anything about technology and disability?
2 ☐ I'm not understanding how the technology will help people.
☐ I don't understand what you're saying.
3 ☐ What do you think we can do to improve people's lives?
☐ What were you thinking about before this lesson began?
4 ☐ Do you have any problems that technology could solve?
☐ Are you having any problems with what I'm saying?

**D** **IN PAIRS Ask and answer the questions.**

1 What careers do you know that involve working with disabled people?
2 Which of those careers do you think would be most suitable for you?

**MAKE IT REAL**

Some people might use verbs such as *like* and *love* with progressive tenses, e.g., *Are you liking your new apartment? Yes, I'm loving it!* This makes the statement more intense. Remember, though, that some people don't think it's correct.

## SPEAKING

**A** **IN PAIRS Decide which of these pieces of technology you think would make the most difference in people's lives. Say why.**

• a device that knows what you are thinking about and says the words aloud
• a device that knows what you are looking at and recreates the image on a computer screen

**B** **Think of another device that would help the lives of others. Draw a simple picture or write a short explanation. Tell the class about your device. Use the Confident Communicator box to help you.**

**CONFIDENT COMMUNICATOR**

**START TALKING**

To start a discussion, use *What do you think about ...* ***What do you think about*** *a device to help people with reading?*

**LIVEWORKSHEETS**