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Volume 4 Number 4

Technology in Our Lives

Technology plays a role in all aspects of our lives—the way we work, the way we shop, the way we communicate with each other, and the way we live at home. The speed of technological change in the past one hundred years has been incredible.

The early telephones were very large, and they didn't even have dials or buttons. You picked up a receiver and talked to an operator who made the call for you. Nowadays, cellular telephones fit in our pockets, and we can use them to make phone calls from anywhere to anywhere. In grocery stores and supermarkets, cashiers used to punch keys on cash registers to enter the price of each item. These days, scanners read bar codes on product packaging, and the prices are recorded by a computerized cash register. In some supermarkets, customers can even check out by scanning products themselves and paying by credit card, all without the help of a cashier. In the past, we made a trip to the bank to deposit or withdraw money. Now we can use ATMs (automated teller machines) that are found everywhere. And many people now do their bank transactions at home online over the Internet.

Modern technology has dramatically improved our lives. Personal computers enable us to create documents, store information, and analyze data—at work or at home. The Internet allows us to send and receive e-mail messages, connects us to the World Wide Web, and allows us to go shopping online from our homes. Digital cameras enable us to take photographs that we can instantly put on our computers to store, change, and send over the Internet. Satellite communication connects doctors in one country with a patient in another country, bringing medical technology to remote places around the world. Miniature cameras that patients can swallow permit doctors to diagnose medical conditions without surgery. "Smart homes" operated by computers turn lights on and off as people enter or leave rooms and enable homeowners to "call their houses" to turn on the heat or air conditioning, or even to start the coffeemaker!



Telephones then and now

What will the future bring? "Smart highways" will carry us to destinations that we program into our cars' computers. Computer chips that are implanted under our skin will hold our medical information in case of an emergency. Household appliances, such as refrigerators and stoves, will have miniature computers that "know" how we like to store or cook our food.

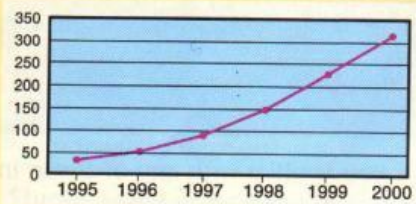
Many people feel, however, that technology has its price. With automated supermarket checkout lines, ATMs and online banking, and Internet shopping, we can meet our daily needs without having contact with other people. Life with technology can be very lonely! Also, many people are concerned about privacy. Technology makes it possible for companies or the government to monitor our use of the Internet. Our credit card numbers, bank account information, medical information, and other personal data are all stored on computers. Protecting that information will be an important issue in the years ahead.



Banking then and now

FACT FILE

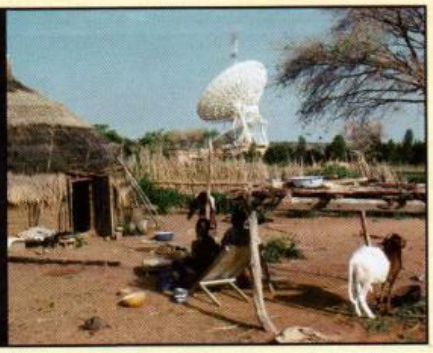
Internet Users (in Millions)



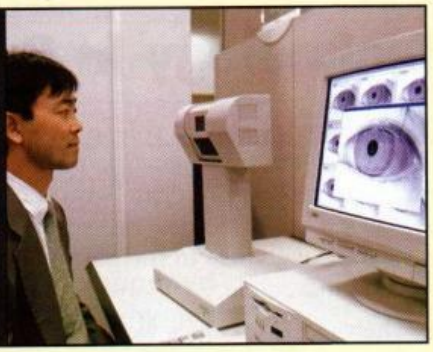
Technology in Action

Innovations in technology are happening throughout the world.

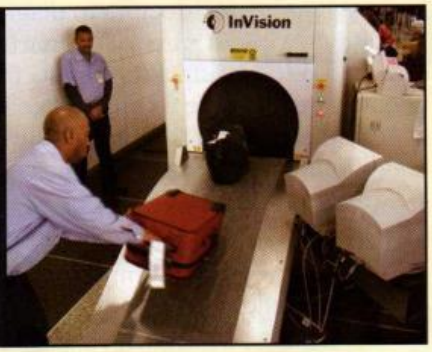
A satellite dish provides television service to a village in Niger in Africa.



Computer technology developed in Tokyo, Japan scans people's eyes to verify their identity.



A new type of scanner screens the baggage of airline passengers at an airport in Washington, D.C.



Solar batteries provide electricity for a hospital in Sudan.



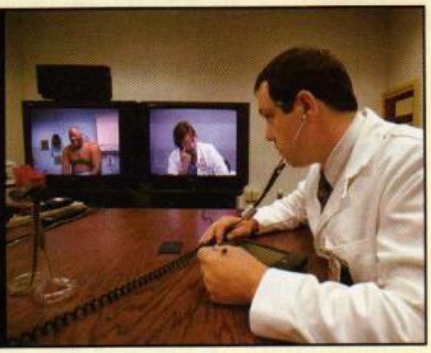
Business people in Sao Paulo, Brazil take part in a video conference with people at another location.



An on-board computer enables the driver of this car to get maps and other information over the Internet.



A doctor uses tele-medicine technology to examine a patient in another country.



A grandmother uses e-mail to keep in touch with her grandchildren who live far away.



Are you familiar with any of these innovations in technology? Which ones? What other innovations in technology do you know about?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Interview

A Side by Side Gazette ***reporter asked these people:***

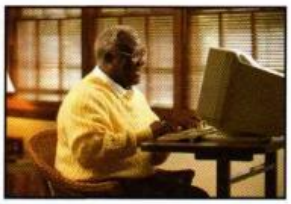
Q: How has technology changed your life?



A: With today's computer and information technology, I don't have to go to my office every day. I "telecommute." I can connect to the computer network at my company and work from home.



A: I love my new game system! The graphics are amazing, and the action is really life-like! When I grow up, I want to develop game system software.



A: I have three children and eight grandchildren, and they all live far away. I keep in touch with them through e-mail. They even send me photos over the Internet. Technology keeps our family together.



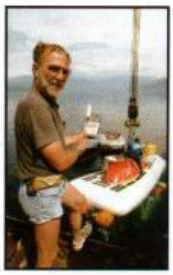
A: I use instant messaging all the time to stay in touch with my friends. I can have separate conversations with different friends at the same time over the Internet. It's better and cheaper than talking on the phone!



A: I don't know what I'd do without my cell phone! I'm never home, so I carry it with me everywhere. This way, my family and my friends can always reach me.



A: I have diabetes, so I have to monitor my blood sugar regularly. With my glucometer, I can check my blood sugar reading at any time of the day.



A: With my GPS device, I can navigate using global positioning satellite technology. It tells me the exact location of my boat at any moment.

FUN with IDIOMS









Do You Know These Expressions?

____	1. There's a bug in this software!	a.	The system is infected.
____	2. My computer has a virus!	b.	There isn't space for more information.
____	3. My computer is frozen!	c.	The program has a problem.
____	4. My computer is out of memory!	d.	Nothing is happening.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

We've Got Mail!

Dear Side by Side,

I have enjoyed using *Side by Side* in my English classes for the past two years. Now I'd like to ask for your advice. What is the best way for me to improve my English? Should I continue to study in school? Is there more grammar that I need to learn? What are some ways I can practice my English? I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
"Love Learning English"

Dear "Love Learning English,"

We're happy to hear that you have been enjoying your English classes. In our opinion, you should definitely continue studying the language. There is more grammar to learn, and you will also be able to improve your listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. In addition, try to use English as much as possible outside the classroom. Speak to people in English, watch English-language movies and TV shows, and try to communicate with people in English through letters or over the Internet. Thank you for writing, and good luck as you continue to study English!

Sincerely,
Side by Side

Global Exchange

Pop74: Hi, Sally. This is Grandpa. What's new?
CurlyGirl: NMU
Pop74: ?
CurlyGirl: Not much. And you?
Pop74: Grandma and I are fine. We loved the photos you sent us over the Internet of your Halloween party.
CurlyGirl: THX
Pop74: ?
CurlyGirl: Thanks.
Pop74: You looked great in your bee costume. Did you sting anybody?
CurlyGirl: LOL
Pop74: ?
CurlyGirl: Laughing out loud.
Pop74: Grandma says hello.
CurlyGirl: G2G ILU
Pop74: ?
CurlyGirl: Got to go. I love you.
Pop74: ILU2

Have an instant message conversation with a keypal. Talk about anything you'd like. Use some abbreviations in your message.

More Abbreviations

WU? = What's up?	OIC = Oh, I see.
UW = You're welcome.	IMO = In my opinion
L8R = Later.	TTYL = Talk to you later.

LISTENING

Thank You for Calling the Service Department

These people are calling the service department of the Supersonic Electronics store. Which person is going to press each number?

b 1 **a.** "When I try to play a video, nothing happens!"
___ 2 **b.** "I don't hear any sound in my headphones!"
___ 3 **c.** "Whenever I try to save my work, it freezes!"
___ 4 **d.** "All my photographs are too dark!"
___ 5 **e.** "I don't know how to record a message!"
___ 6 **f.** "When I call people, I can hear them, but they can't hear me!"

What Are They Saying?



LIVEWORKSHEETS