

1. A star that emits regular **pulses** of radio waves
2. A **stream** of smoke rose from the chimney.
3. Bad investments that led to the company's **downfall**. People don't want to invest on it.
4. It is **undeniable** that attitudes towards marriage have been changing.
5. Our financial affairs are in a complete **tangle**. I can't understand how we spent all that money.
6. The course allows students to progress at their own **pace**.
7. The film is set in a **dystopian** future. Where is very difficult to survive do to the lack of resources
8. The number of calls we got **skyrocketed**. Just in one hour we got more than 300.
9. These models are at the **cutting edge** of computer design. They came to market last week.
10. You **swipe** products to get further information and to add them to your shopping basket.

**a** \_\_\_\_\_ verb [I]: vibrating or sounding rhythmically

**b** \_\_\_\_\_ adjective: describing a place that is bad or degraded

**c** \_\_\_\_\_ verb [T]: passing a finger or card over a surface

**d** \_\_\_\_\_ adjective: the most up-to-date and technologically advanced

**e** \_\_\_\_\_ adjective: describing something that cannot be questioned

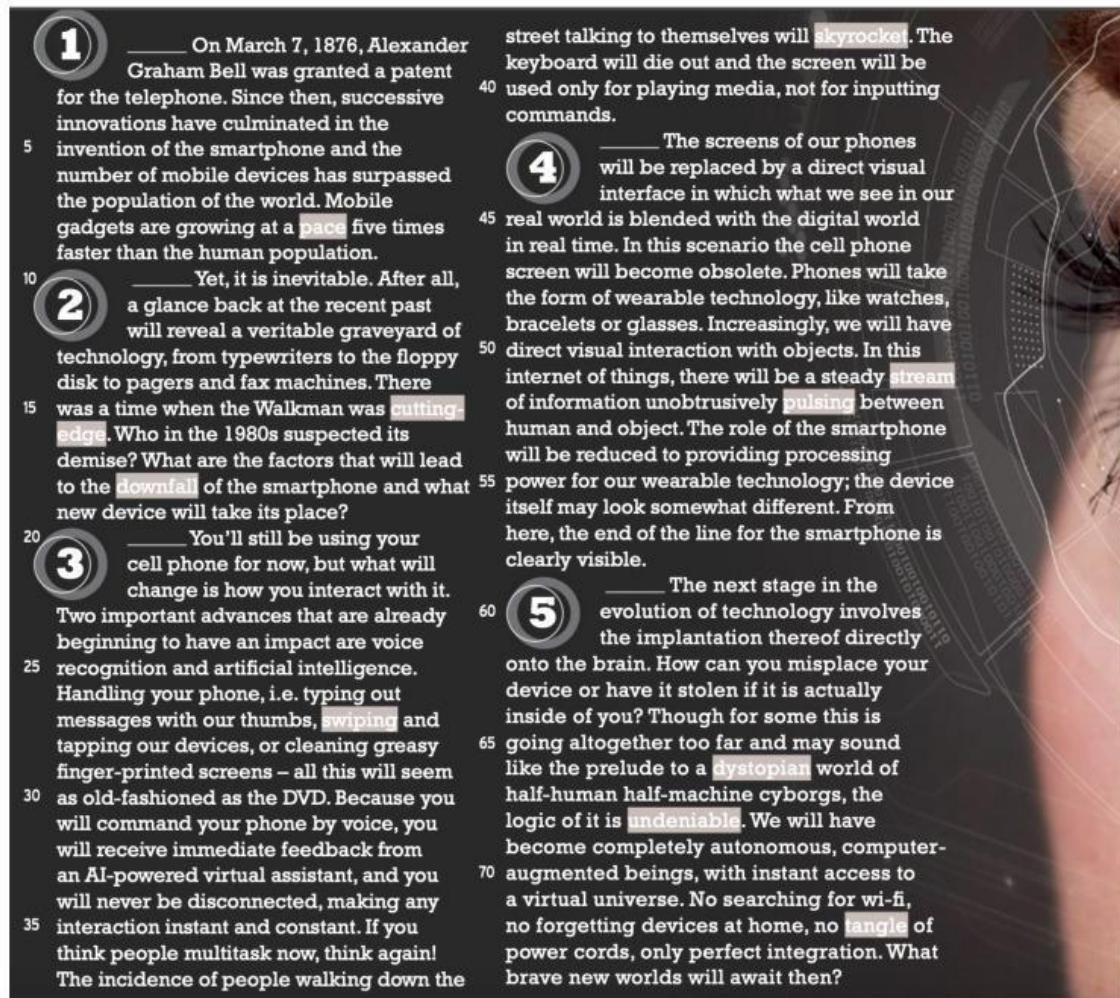
**f** \_\_\_\_\_ noun [C]: a continuous flow

**g** \_\_\_\_\_ verb [I]: to increase at a rapid rate

**h** \_\_\_\_\_ noun [C] a confused mass of something twisted together

**i** \_\_\_\_\_ noun [U]: the speed at which something happens

**j** \_\_\_\_\_ noun [U]: a loss of power, prosperity or status



**1** On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent for the telephone. Since then, successive innovations have culminated in the invention of the smartphone and the number of mobile devices has surpassed the population of the world. Mobile gadgets are growing at a **pace** five times faster than the human population.

**2** Yet, it is inevitable. After all, a glance back at the recent past will reveal a veritable graveyard of technology, from typewriters to the floppy disk to pagers and fax machines. There was a time when the Walkman was **cutting edge**. Who in the 1980s suspected its demise? What are the factors that will lead to the **downfall** of the smartphone and what new device will take its place?

**3** You'll still be using your cell phone for now, but what will change is how you interact with it. Two important advances that are already beginning to have an impact are voice recognition and artificial intelligence. Handling your phone, i.e. typing out messages with our thumbs, **swiping** and tapping our devices, or cleaning greasy finger-printed screens – all this will seem as old-fashioned as the DVD. Because you will command your phone by voice, you will receive immediate feedback from an AI-powered virtual assistant, and you will never be disconnected, making any interaction instant and constant. If you think people multitask now, think again! The incidence of people walking down the street talking to themselves will **skyrocket**. The keyboard will die out and the screen will be used only for playing media, not for inputting commands.

**4** The screens of our phones will be replaced by a direct visual interface in which what we see in our real world is blended with the digital world in real time. In this scenario the cell phone screen will become obsolete. Phones will take the form of wearable technology, like watches, bracelets or glasses. Increasingly, we will have direct visual interaction with objects. In this internet of things, there will be a steady **stream** of information unobtrusively **pulsing** between human and object. The role of the smartphone will be reduced to providing processing power for our wearable technology; the device itself may look somewhat different. From here, the end of the line for the smartphone is clearly visible.

**5** The next stage in the evolution of technology involves the implantation thereof directly onto the brain. How can you misplace your device or have it stolen if it is actually inside of you? Though for some this is going altogether too far and may sound like the prelude to a **dystopian** world of half-human half-machine cyborgs, the logic of it is **undeniable**. We will have become completely autonomous, computer-augmented beings, with instant access to a virtual universe. No searching for wi-fi, no forgetting devices at home, no **tangle** of power cords, only perfect integration. What brave new worlds will await then?

3 The sentences and phrases (a-e) are from the article. Match them with the appropriate places (1-5) in the article.

- a First of all, don't throw away your cell phone just yet.
- b The next wave will be marked by the rise of augmented reality.
- c It was not so long ago that human communication was very different.
- d What is perhaps frightening is the vision of the longer term future that some futurists have.
- e Given that, it hardly seems possible that a device so ubiquitous could go the way of the dinosaur.

## Bring on the Demise of the Smartphone!

1. The functions a cell phone could perform ten years ago.
2. The extra functions it can perform today.
3. Other things you think it might be able to perform in ten years time



### Discuss with your classmates

What other gadgets could be included in this article.

1. People should not throw away their ... just yet,  
(describe the reasons why)
2. The next edge of technology will be marked by the  
rise of ...
3. It was not so long ago that ... was very different,  
currently...
4. What is perhaps frightening is the vision of the  
longer term future regarding ....
5. It seems possible that a device like ... could ...

LIVEWORKSHEETS