## Unit 2: Technological Evolution

# 10 Greatest Technological Inventions

*Adapted from https://smallbusiness.chron.com/10-greatest-technological-inventions-40511.html#page1*

Since the age of modern man began roughly 200,000 years ago, the world has seen a progression of innovation and invention. From primitive developments such as the wheel and paper to today's high-tech gadgets that would blow the mind of any Neanderthal, there's certainly no shortage of impressive developments that have changed the way we live and work. In modern times, a handful of technological wonders that started out as novelties, have become indispensable to our daily routines.

### CELLULAR PHONES



Communication has always been a key to success, from wars to relationships. The comparison between today's cell phones, which offer instantaneous and untethered communication, to the old-fashioned paper-and-pen process is nothing short of incredible. And the Nielsen ratings service predicted that one out of every two Americans would own smartphones at the end of 2011, according to the website GigOm. So, it's not just calls these phones are good for; they offer a veritable banquet of computer access at your fingertips.

### MICROWAVE OVEN



Though humankind got along just fine without microwaves before they were developed in the late 1940s, the invention has been a major game changer in terms of food preparation and the office break room. Not only have microwaves modernized the way we eat, they've also made meals far more convenient -- read quicker -- to prepare. Now if only there were a way to contain that unmistakable aroma of microwave popcorn.

### GPS



Thanks to the GPS, or Global Positioning System, and its integration in just about everything tech-related, most of you will never get lost again. And we're not talking just about those dashboard displays. Half of Americans carrying smartphones likely have GPS apps guiding the way. According to the British newspaper The Telegraph, GPS was originally developed in 1978 by the U.S. military.

### PERSONAL COMPUTER



No list of the "greatest technologies ever invented" is complete unless it includes the personal computer. The magazine Popular Mechanics reports the first general purpose computer was a 30-ton behemoth invented in 1947. Though an incredible machine, it was far too large for any home. The invention of the personal computer, or PC, happened in the 1970s and revolutionized the entire world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## DIGITAL MUSIC



Music has graced the world with its presence for thousands of years, but digitizing music has improved sound quality and sharing ability. Now, we even have music online. For example, Spotify is a digital music, podcast, and video streaming service that gives you access to millions of songs and other content from artists all over the world.

## COMPUTER MOUSE



The computer mouse is one technology that often gets overlooked and taken for granted. Back when early computers were the size of a house, they could only be manipulated through hundreds of tiny buttons and sliders. The mouse -- named after its tail-like cord and round body -- was invented in 1964 by Douglas Engelbart, a radar technician from the Stanford Research Institute, according to the British newspaper The Independent.

## INTERNET



Compared to inventions that have existed for hundreds of years, such as the microscope or telescope, the Internet is still in its infancy. Still, the Internet has arguably changed the world more than most other inventions. The Internet was invented in the late '60s and made available to the public in the '90s. Since then, it has improved both communication and information dissemination and changed daily life for virtually everyone on Earth.

## REMOTE CONTROLS



Like the microwave, remote controls aren't necessary to humankind's survival. With that said, they're certainly convenient. Accordingly to Popular Mechanics, remote controls were invented in 1955. Though we take them for granted today, the way they wirelessly change the TV channel or run through your slideshows -- without making you move from your couch or podium -- is undeniably impressive.

## DIGITAL CAMERAS



Digital cameras are beloved by many because they capture sentimental moments and personal adventures. They come in handy for recording such memories, but they also play a significant role in news dissemination and recording history in general. While film-based cameras paved the way for their digital descendants, today's high-tech cameras and integrated phones eliminate long processing times and allow us to share pictures instantly.

## VIDEO CONFERENCING



The idea of video conferencing may not seem like a big deal in today's tech-saturated world but consider how science-fiction-like the idea was even 100 years ago. Today, talking face-to-face, without actually being face-to-face, is commonplace -- with just two or three clicks of the mouse, through the digital camera on your PC or smartphone, across the Internet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## I. READ AND CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE

**1. Which other title do you think would be the best for the text?**

A. Impressive technology
B. Technological wonders
C. Technology in our daily lives
D. Progression of innovation and invention

**2. According to the text, which invention is still evolving?**

A. Internet
B. Digital music
C. GPS (Global Positioning System)
D. Digital cameras

**3. Which two historically important inventions are mentioned in the text?**

A. Personal computer and GPS.
B. Cell Phones and microwave oven.
C. Wheel and paper.
D. Paper and high-tech gadgets.

**4. According to the text, which of the inventions are not really necessary for people to survive?**

A. Personal computer and GPS.
B. GPS and Remote control.
C. Personal computer and cellular phone.
D. Remote controls and Microwave oven.

**5. The first time they invented the ____, it was an enormous machine:**

A. Computer
B. Camera
C. Internet
D. Computer mouse

LIVEWORKSHEETS