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Classroom materials

Part 1: Preview

1 The article is about the latest entertainment and communication technology that is popular in the UK. Compare these photographs and make some notes. What changes have happened in the last 20 years? Explain your ideas to a partner.

NOW



Graham Turner/Guardian

20 YEARS AGO



Rex Features

Notes

Notes

2 Discussion questions

Complete the sentences below about your country. Then discuss your ideas in small groups. You may need to check the words in bold in a dictionary.

a The latest **gadgets** that people are buying are ...

b The people who are most interested in the latest **devices** are aged ...

c People now use mobile devices such as smartphones for ...

d The most popular things that young people **access** the internet for are ...

3 Vocabulary from the article.

Match the parts of the sentences to make definitions.

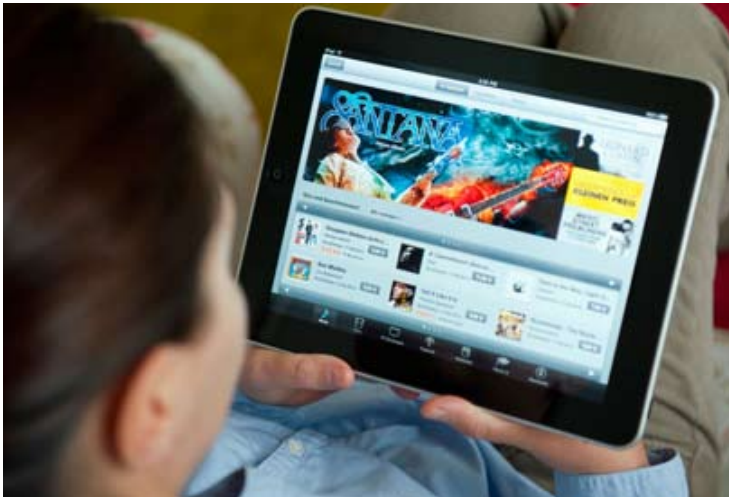
- a If you **catch up with** something,
- b If you do an activity **on the go**,
- c If there is a **drop in** something,
- d If something **remains stable**,
- e If you are **the most likely** to do something,
- f If one thing **overtakes** another,
- g If you are **obsessed with** something,

- 1 it doesn't change; it stays steady.
- 2 you can't stop thinking about it or doing it.
- 3 it becomes more popular or important.
- 4 you do it while you are moving or travelling.
- 5 it decreases in size or amount.
- 6 you spend time doing something that you haven't had time to do earlier.
- 7 you are the person who will probably do it.

Classroom materials

Part 2: Article

UK leads world in mobile web use



Ownership of tablet computers is increasing Ian Masterton/Alamy

- 1 Britain has become a gadget-obsessed nation, watching more television online and using smartphones and tablets to access the web more than any of the world's leading economies, according to new research.
- 2 The British love of the latest devices has even seen the UK overtake Japan in mobile internet use, according to a new report from the UK media regulator Ofcom. The research compared data across 17 countries, including the US, China, India, Russia, Brazil, Sweden, France and Germany.
- 3 An obsession with Facebook, Twitter and Gangnam-style clips on YouTube has seen UK consumers download 424 megabytes of data each per month on their smartphones and tablets. The figure is almost 60% more than a year ago.
- 4 Much of the increase in use of mobile devices, especially smartphones, has been driven by the popularity of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, with 40% of UK adults accessing their profiles on the go. British 18-to-24-year-olds are the world's top mobile social networkers, with 62% accessing their profiles from smartphones and tablets.

- 5 UK internet users spent an average of 728 minutes (more than 12 hours) a week online in total, although this is a slight drop from the 746 minutes recorded in the last report.
- 6 The British love of the latest gadgets is also seen in the changing face of the living room. Almost 24% of TVs sold in the UK in the first quarter of this year were "super large" - bigger than 84cm.
- 7 The popularity of video-on-demand services such as the BBC's iPlayer has made Britons the most likely to watch, or catch up with, TV online. Almost a quarter of Britons use an online catch up TV service each week, ahead of second-placed US on 17%.
- 8 Despite the rise of digital technology, good old-fashioned linear TV viewing is showing no signs of losing its popularity. TV viewing in the UK has remained stable at 242 minutes – more than four hours per person daily.

**Original article by Mark Sweney,
rewritten by Janet Hardy-Gould**

Glossary

economy (noun) a country, when you are thinking about its economic system

media regulator (noun) an organisation that supervises and controls media ownership and the content of media communications

the changing face of (expression) the changing character or look of something

linear TV (noun) traditional television, where viewers must watch a programme at a specific time and on a specific channel

Classroom materials

Part 3: While reading

1 Read the article and choose the correct answer.

1 The new research ...

- a looked at shopping data across 17 European economies.
- b studied technology use among children in the UK.
- c compared modern technology use in over 15 leading nations.
- d looked at online gadget buying around the world.

2 The amount of data downloaded on mobile devices in the UK ...

- a has shown a slight drop since last year.
- b has remained fairly stable compared to 12 months ago.
- c has gone up slightly since the beginning of this year.
- d has increased sharply compared to last year.

3 The rise in the use of mobile devices in the UK has been caused by the ...

- a large number of 18-to-24-year-olds catching up with TV on the go.
- b increase in people accessing social networking sites away from home.
- c drop in price of most smartphones and tablets.
- d improvement in quality of the latest mobile gadgets.

4 The British more frequently ... than people in other countries.

- a catch up with or watch TV programmes on the internet
- b pay for video-on-demand services
- c buy expensive TV sets
- d watch traditional linear TV

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

a Which things are British people particularly obsessed with online?

b Which habits in the UK have stayed the same or become less popular?

c Which part of people's homes shows the obsession with new devices? How?

d What is the BBC iPlayer an example of?

3 Your response

Answer the questions and compare your ideas with a partner.

a Which parts of the article did you find the most surprising? Why?

b There were a large number of online comments on the original Guardian article. Some readers thought that smart phones and tablets had a very negative effect on people's attention spans. What do you think?

Write your comments on this version of the article at bit.ly/gadgetuseuk.

Classroom materials

Part 4: Homework

1 Answer the questions below. Use some of the vocabulary from the article shown in the box below. Be prepared to share the answers with your classmates in the next lesson.

Vocabulary

- be gadget-obsessed
- have an obsession with the latest devices/ gadgets
- spend an average of ... minutes online in total
- download ... megabytes per month
- access the web / my Facebook profile on the go
- catch up with TV online
- use an online TV catch-up service

a What is your attitude to the latest technology?

Example: I'm definitely not gadget-obsessed and I don't go out and buy the latest devices.

b How much time do you spend online every day?

c How long do you spend watching TV every week?



How do you access social media? Alamy

d How do you access your social network profile, if you have one?

e What do you do if you miss your favourite TV programme?

Classroom materials

Part 5: Teachers' notes

Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardian.co.uk/weekly. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Lesson focus

Reading a text about trends in the use of communication technology, vocabulary related to the latest technology

Part 1: Preview

Use this section to focus students on the main topic of the article, generate existing knowledge on the subject and enable them to understand key chunks of vocabulary from the text.

Use the Preview section in class as part of the main reading lesson, or at the end of a lesson to prepare students for the follow-on lesson. Alternatively, give it to students for homework so that they have time to prepare their ideas and check vocabulary, ready for speaking and reading in the next class.

Part 2: While reading

The text and questions are designed to form a significant part of a skills lesson. The Your Response section encourages students to consider their personal reaction to the text, and possibly post their ideas as online comments with the article. Students will need to register on the Guardian website and give themselves a user name at bit.ly/guardianregister. Students could post their comments individually or put up a comment as a group or class.

Part 4: Homework

Students reuse key language from the text and apply themes from the article to their own situation. Encourage students to monitor their own TV and internet use and answer questions b and c honestly. At the beginning of the follow-on lesson, ask students to mingle and ask and answer the homework questions. Students note the answers and develop statistics about TV and internet use among their classmates.

Further resources

Try these Guardian Weekly Classroom Materials related to technology from our archive:

Why wearing headphones on the move is bad for your health

bit.ly/headphonesrisk

Gadget addiction is pushing up energy bills

bit.ly/gadgetenergy

Ebook sales overtake printed books

bit.ly/ebooksovertake

Share your experience

How did you use these activities in your teaching? We would like to get feedback from teachers so please share your experiences and tips by emailing the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section:

classroommaterials@guardian.co.uk

Answers**Preview**

1 Students' own answers.

2 Possible answers:

a smartphones, tablets and e-readers.

b 14 to 25.

c online shopping and social networking.

d Facebook, Spotify and YouTube.

3 a 6 b 4 c 5 d 1 e 7 f 3 g 2

While reading

1 1 c 2 d 3 b 4 a

2 a Facebook, Twitter and Gangnam-style clips on YouTube.

b Traditional TV viewing has stayed the same. Internet users now spend slightly less time online.

c The living room. You can now see "super large" TVs there.

d A video-on-demand service, which allows people to catch up with TV online.

Homework

1 Students' own answers.