

The dangers of technology

1. Can be bad for the environment

Technology has contributed to environmental deterioration far more quickly than it has contributed to solving environmental problems. We see this in pollution and in the uncontrolled use of plastics.

2. Might replace humans in jobs

If almost every activity in manufacturing industries can be automated, this means that technology can be seen as a threat to people's jobs.



3. Can distract from studying

Technology has indeed made learning more fun and interactive for many, and in advanced countries many young students have access to smartphones.

The problem with mobile devices is that they open up a world of distractions, and this is a real challenge for educators.

Glossary

1 lowers: reduce



4. Lowers¹ socialising

Today, everyone can be 'friends' on social media without spending time to meet and socialise in real life. People are more connected digitally, but sadly they have also become more disconnected socially.

5. Data security and privacy problems

How much privacy do we have in the 21st century? No one knows for sure. Software systems are vulnerable to attacks from hackers, and in some countries our data may be susceptible to state surveillance. We must learn to be very careful about what we post about ourselves.

6. Misinformation

An untruth that is started on the Internet is a difficult thing to kill. 'Deepfakes' - the production of fake videos that are nearly indistinguishable from genuine ones - make misinformation even more powerful.

1 READING In which paragraph of the text do you find reference to the following?
Write the number (1-6).

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Can we believe it? | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Jobs may be at risk | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Security risks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Environmental problems | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Problems for students | <input type="checkbox"/> | • Who are friends? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 SPEAKING  **Life Skills** Discuss the following questions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Which of the dangers above affect young people? | 3 Does technology help you to study? How? |
| 2 How many 'online friends' and how many real friends do you have? | 4 All things considered, do you think technology gives you more problems or benefits? |

3 DEBATE  **Life Skills** Debate the 'motion' in two teams: Proposition team vs Opposition team.

"Schools should eliminate pens, paper and textbooks and replace them with digital devices like tablets."

Consider your own ideas and experience. You might use some of these expressions:

tomorrow's world • less weight to carry • rapid access to information • sharing • collaborating • better organisation • dependence on a device • creativity • imagination • time for thinking • copying