

IELTS Technology vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy using technology?

Stephan: Well ... I wouldn't call myself **a techie** or a **computer buff** but I enjoy using computers ... I'd like to find out more about how they work ... when my **computer crashes** I never know what to do.

Examiner: Do you use the Internet for your studies?

Sophie: Yes ... I'd be lost without it ... I do lots of **video conferencing** to practise speaking and **social media** like Facebook is a good way to meet up with other students ... and I **download podcasts** that teach English vocabulary and grammar.

Examiner: Do you have your own computer?

Tania: Yes ... I have a Macbook Pro ... I use it all the time ... for **word processing** ... **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I've missed.

Part 2-style task

Describe an item of technology you have that is very important. You should say:

- what the technology is
- when you got it
- how often you use it

and say how different your daily life would be without it.

Mattie: I don't have many **gadgets** ... just a computer ... a laptop and my mobile phone ... but I'll talk about my computer as it's so useful ... it's funny really ... 2 years ago I was still learning to use computers ... how to use email ... **send attachments** how to **access websites** ... then I decided to do a **digital editing** course for video and photography ... and so I bought the laptop when I started the course ... my husband had a **desktop PC** but it was very slow so I decided **to upgrade** to a powerful one because we do a lot of video editing on the course ... it's a **high-spec** laptop ... very fast ... the latest **operating system** ... it **boots up** really quickly and it's fun to use so it makes working a pleasure ... I've become a competent computer user now ... if I didn't have it I daresay I'd have to spend more time at college using their computers ... but on the positive side I suppose I'd read a lot more if I didn't have it ... I probably waste a lot of time **surfing the web** ... but hopefully I won't have to be without it ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?

Alejandro: Well ... there are things like how to use the Internet ... how **to enter a web address** ... how **to navigate websites** ... that kind of thing but it's also important to know how **to back up** your files in case your computer crashes ... and all about **Internet security**.

Examiner: What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?

Faydene: In my lifetime it has to be the Internet of course but I also think wifi has made a huge difference to how we interact with the Internet ... **wireless networks** at home and public **wifi hotspots** mean we can **go online** easily ... **access our mail** ... log into our work intranet and basically be connected wherever we are.

Examiner: Do computers make it much easier to study?

Jane: Definitely yes ... researching information is much easier with the Internet .. you can **bookmark webpages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier ... being able **to cut and paste** sections of text means you can experiment with organisation ... so yes ... compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper ... it's now much easier.

Definitions

- **to access websites/email**: to locate
- **to back up files**: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem
- **to boot up**: to start a computer
- **to bookmark a webpage**: to mark a webpage for future reference
- **to browse websites**: to look at websites
- **a computer buff**: an expert computer user
- **to crash**: to suddenly stop working
- **to cut and paste**: to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
- **a desktop PC**: a computer that isn't portable and remains in situ on a desk
- **digital editing**: to edit digital materials like audio or video files
- **download (podcasts)**: to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
- **to enter a web address**: to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
- **a gadget**: a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
- **to go online**: to start using the Internet
- **high-spec (laptop)**: powerful computer with top quality components
- **Internet security**: Internet safety
- **intranet**: a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
- **to navigate a website**: to find your way around a website
- **operating system**: the software that tells the computer how to work
- **send an attachment**: send an email with an accompanying file
- **social media**: media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
- **to surf the web**: to look at a series of websites one after the other
- **a techie**: somebody who has an interest in technology
- **to upgrade**: to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
- **video conferencing**: to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet

- **wireless hotspot:** a public place where you can access the Internet
- **wireless network:** a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
- **word processing;** producing written texts on a computer

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Technology

- **computer age:** the period in modern history characterized by rapid technology development and widespread computer use. *Living in a computer age has many benefits.*
- **computer buff:** a user who is good at working with a computer. *Mike is a computer buff. He got an A+ on his programming exam.*
- **computer fatigue:** a syndrome of tiredness resulting from long computer usage. *About 60% of IT specialists are affected by computer fatigue.*
- **cutting-edge:** something innovational and leading. *Cutting-edge technology.*
- **desktop PC:** a personal computer that remains on a desk. *I have an old desktop PC that I use for surfing the net when I'm home.*
- **digital editing:** a process of changing digital materials like audio or video files. *Being good at digital editing is essential in our time.*
- **download (podcasts):** to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device. *Yesterday I downloaded a few films that I plan to watch during the weekends.*
- **essential:** something you can't imagine your life without. *Internet is an essential piece of technology for many people.*
- **gadget:** an advanced piece of technology, like smartphone. *Nowadays almost everybody owns a gadget.*
- **geek:** someone who is obsessed with technology, especially computers. *My friend is a real geek. He owns a bunch of computers and other gadgets.*
- **hold the line:** wait a minute. *She told me to hold the line, because she had to open the door.*
- **large screen:** a big-sized monitor. *A few days ago I decided to renew my computer, so I bought a large screen for it.*
- **light years ahead:** very far away from. *Modern computers are light years ahead of those which people used in 90s.*
- **on the cutting edge:** at the forefront of progress. *Paul's new laptop is on the cutting edge of technology.*
- **operating system:** the most important program that runs the computer. *I chose to buy a laptop which is based on the Windows operating system.*
- **out of steam:** tired, exhausted. *Due to today's intense workday I am out of steam, so I won't be able to work tomorrow.*
- **rocket science:** a very complicated subject for someone. *Biology is a rocket science for me. I don't understand anything in it.*
- **send an attachment:** send an email with an added file. *My brother sent an attachment with his homework to the professor.*

- **silver surfer:** an old person, who uses the Internet. *Uncle Bob is a silver surfer. He uses the Internet every day, although he's almost 70.*
- **social media:** media used to interact with other people. *Facebook is the biggest social media in the world.*
- **time-consuming and inefficient:** something that takes too much of your time and isn't rational to do. *I find watching football time-consuming and inefficient.*
- **to access websites/email:** to visit websites/email. *John accessed his email today to see if he had received any letters.*
- **to back up files:** to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem. *I had to back up files on my computer, because I was going to reinstall my operating system.*
- **to be stuck behind a computer:** to use computer for a long period of time. *A lot of teenagers are stuck behind their computers all day.*
- **to boot up:** to start a computer. *I booted up my computer as soon as I got home.*
- **to browse websites:** to search for websites. *I spent a few hours browsing the websites today, until I found what I was looking for.*
- **to crash:** to suddenly stop working. *My computer crashed when I was writing my essay.*
- **to go online:** to use the Internet. *Millions of people go online every day.*
- **to navigate a website:** to find what you need on the website. *Navigating a website is not very easy, especially if the website is poorly designed.*
- **to pull the plug:** to end an activity. *After being stuck behind a computer all day, I decided to pull the plug.*
- **to push someone's buttons:** to do specific thing to irritate somebody (usually intentionally). *I became so angry because he pushed my buttons by adding pepper to my ice cream!*
- **to surf the web:** to look through websites, searching for something you need, or simply for entertainment. *I was surfing the web yesterday for three hours, because I had nothing else to do.*
- **to upgrade:** to renew a software or a piece hardware. *Thanks to the new program for students, I updated my computer for free.*
- **well-oiled machine:** something that works perfectly well. *My computer, despite being 7 years old, is still a well-oiled machine.*
- **widespread computer use:** that is to say people use computers very often.
- **Wi-Fi hotspots:** a public place where you can access the Internet. *Our university has a Wi-Fi hotspot. It is very convenient.*
- **wireless network:** a network where users can access the Internet without using any cables. *We have installed a wireless network at home.*
- **word processing:** writing, editing and producing words on a computer, using special programs. *There are tons of word processing programs.*