

1. Gadgets

This week's lesson is based on a dialogue between two people with differing views on the usefulness of electronic gadgets.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Introduce the word 'gadget' (and 'electronic gadget') to your students, and collect examples in English. Do your students own any of these gadgets? If so, how useful have they found them, and how difficult would they now find it to live without them? Are there any popular gadgets, electronic or otherwise, that the students consider unnecessary or even ridiculous?
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the comprehension questions in Exercise 1 and the True or False questions in Exercise 2.
4. Check answers in open class. If you want you could also ask the students which character (Ken or Dave) they identified with more, and why.
5. Tell the students they will now need to remember as much as possible about the text on Worksheet A. Ask them to turn over Worksheet A, or temporarily hand it back to you, then hand out Worksheet C. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to attempt Exercise 3, in which the words in bold from the original text have been mixed up. The students' task is to put these words back in their correct positions.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. He probably means that Ken's phone is big and heavy (in comparison with more recent models).
2. He says it is from the 1990s.
3. Unnecessary
4. High-tech equipment in hospitals (that saves people's lives)
5. Read a map; stop to ask someone
6. A phone that can make him breakfast
7. An e-book reader
8. On the bookshelves in his house.
9. He probably means Ken is not a modern person.
10. He probably means he doesn't understand why people think they need electronic gadgets such as e-book readers and sat nav.

Exercise 2

1. T
2. F
3. D
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. F
8. D

Exercise 3

1. mobile
2. heavy
3. works
4. access
5. check
6. invented
7. high-tech
8. computer
9. read
10. being
11. handy
12. wasting
13. breakfast
14. e-book
15. amazing
16. collection
17. bookshelves
18. button
19. sofa
20. No

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_7820000/newsid_7821800/7821837.stm

A BBC *Newsround* forum (2009) asking 'What's your top gadget?', with numerous responses from children and teenagers. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/chat/your_comments/newsid_3179000/3179611.stm

Another *Newsround* forum (2003), this time asking 'Will new ebook gadgets replace books?' Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/mobiles/ebook_1.shtml

A text on the BBC website that explains what e-books are lists some of their 'pluses'. The beginning of the text would be challenging for pre-intermediate level, the rest accessible only to intermediate level and above.