

## e-lesson

Week starting: October 19, 2009

### 1. Gadgets

This week's lesson is based on a conversation 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 / false / doesn't determine questions in Exercise 2.
4. Check answers in open class. If you like, 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 GPS.

**Exercise 2**

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

**Exercise 3**

1. cell phone 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. couch 20. No

**2. Related Websites**

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

<http://www.popsci.com/gadgets>

The PopSci.com (*Popular Science* online) website all about the latest gadgets and high tech equipment. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.trimble.com/gps/whygps.shtml>

A beginner's GPS tutorial from the Trimble company. Click the topic headings on the left-hand side of the screen to move through the tutorial. Additional animations are available with Adobe Shockwave Player. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/15/books/15libraries.html?\\_r=1&scp=3&sq=e-book&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/15/books/15libraries.html?_r=1&scp=3&sq=e-book&st=cse)

A *New York Times* article (2009) discussing the use of e-books in public libraries. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.