Mar 12 2021~ **Considering technology during the Covid-19 crisis**   (Lesson **144c**)

Terms/idiom: **sth** = something; **sb** = somebody.
[see http://eflsuccess.com/common/ for common abbreviations and punctuation names]

take for granted = fail to properly appreciate something because it is so familiar   *Many of us **take for granted** the support and sacrifices of or parents.*
technology = the practical application of scientific knowledge to do things better; new equipment and ways of doing things that reflect growing or modern knowledge
critical = involving careful judgments or thoughts about sth (Note: unlike "criticize", "critical" can be both positive or negative)
trivial = something that is not important at all
to cope = to succeed in dealing with a difficult problem or situation
in the long run = in the end; eventually   *Will advanced technology hurt or help people **in the long run**?*
cut down on sth = reduce the amount of sth   [opposite meaning: increase sth = increase the amount of sth]
   *To protect the environment, we all need to **cut down on** the amount of plastic we throw away every day.*
cut sth = cancel sth; remove sth; delete sth
   *If we want more money for our retirement, we need to **cut** unnecessary spending while we're young.*
has come a long way = has made a lot of progress   *Computer technology **has come a long way** since the 1980s.*
you are sick and tired of sth or sb = strongly dislike sth or sb that continually bothers you   *James **is sick and tired of** his wife's daily criticisms.   Susan **is sick and tired of** driving in rush hour traffic.*

Considering Technology During the COVID-19 Crisis[1]

Many of us take for granted the modern digital technologies that we did not have access to even a few decades ago. Some people, however, are very critical of these devices and services, arguing that they steal everything from our jobs and privacy to our very humanity. Because of COVID-19, some technology that was considered to be trivial has become an important part of how we cope with the pandemic. As you read these examples, think of the good and bad aspects of each technology.
(If you don't know what some of these technologies are, ask your teacher.)
   ~Broadband connections have allowed people to work or study from home, but we miss personal interaction.
   ~Mobile devices allow us to keep talking while separate, and apps help in countless ways; but they also allow others to see your personal information.
   ~Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook connect friends, while also spreading distrust and panic.
   ~Video conferencing (like Zoom) lets groups meet and work together, but may be making us lazy.
   ~Online entertainment protects us from viruses in large crowds, but conveniently allows us to "click" our money away.
   ~E-commerce brings food and goods to our door, but has closed many shops and put people out of work.
The pandemic has changed technology. In the long run, it is unclear if these changes will be great for the world, or will cause more harm than good. What do you think?

Questions:

1. Name something you took for granted in the past. Do you take it for granted right now?
2. What types of technology have you used during the Covid-19 situation, since we've had to cut down on face-to-face interaction?
3. How has technology affected this crisis? (think about hospitals, transportation, work, communication, media…)
4. What are 2-3 reasons new technology is always being developed? Explain
5. Technology has come a long way since you were a child. In what ways has modern technology made life better (especially during the Covid-19 crisis) than 20 years ago? Give a specific example.
6. Has technology made life worse for you in any way? What technology or software are you sick and tired of? Explain.

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[1] Adapted from: https://www.mercatus.org/bridge/commentary/reconsidering-technology-during-covid-19-crisis. (Mar 24, 2020)
Definitions from: http://www.learnersdictionary.com/ or www.ldoceonline.com

7. Share one aspect of life in your own country that <u>has come a long way</u> in the past 20-30 years. Ex: education system, women's rights, tolerance between segments of society, transportation system, economic development, etc.
8. Which kind of modern technology are you most grateful for in your own daily life (especially during the Covid-19 crisis), and why?
9. Give a realistic example of new technology you hope will exist in the future that would <u>cut down</u> on something bad.

Bonus: Describe a situation in the past when you felt you were in <u>over your head</u>. How did technology help or hurt you? How did you deal with that situation?

<u>sth is over sb's head</u> = sth is too difficult for sb to understand   ***Chemical engineering <u>is over my head</u>.***

<u>be in over your head</u> = be in a situation too difficult for you   ***Mike <u>was in over his head</u> in that research project.***

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     *To protect the environment, we all need to **cut down on** the amount of plastic we throw away every day.*

Considering Technology During the COVID-19 Crisis[2]

Many of us take for granted the modern technologies that no one had a few decades ago. Some people, however, are very critical of these devices and services. Yes, they are convenient, but some people believe that they steal jobs, privacy and much more. Before COVID-19, we thought of some technology as trivial, but now it helps us to cope with the pandemic. As you read these examples, think of the good and bad aspects of each technology.
(If you don't know what some of these technologies are, ask your teacher.)
~Broadband connections have allowed people to work or study from home, but we miss personal interaction.
~Mobile devices allow us to keep talking, while apps help in countless ways; but they also allow others to see your personal information.
~Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook connect friends, while also spreading distrust and panic.
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~Online entertainment protects us from viruses in large crowds, but allows us to quickly "click" our money away.
~E-commerce brings food and goods to our door, but has closed many shops and put people out of work.
The pandemic has changed technology. In the long run, will this be great for the world, or cause more harm than good? What do you think?

Questions:
Content questions:
a.   In the first sentence, which word means "10 years"?
b.   What do some people think that technology "steals"?
c.   Which technology allows people to work or study from home?
d.   Which technology lets people waste money with a mouse "click"?
e.   According to the article, which technology connects friends?

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4.   What are 2-3 reasons new technology is always being developed? Explain
5.   Which kind of modern technology are you most grateful for in your own daily life (especially during the Covid-19 crisis), and why?

If you have more time:
has come a long way = has made a lot of progress   *Computer technology **has come a long way** since the 1980s.*

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7. Has technology made life worse for you in any way? What technology or software are you <u>sick and tired of</u>? Explain.
8. Share one aspect of life in your own country that <u>has come a long way</u> in the past 20-30 years. Ex: education system, women's rights, tolerance between segments of society, transportation system, economic development, etc.

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