

# Communication and the internet

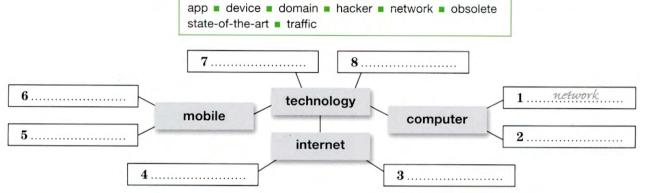
UNIT AIMS

TASK 1 Noun phrases
Describing trends
Adjectives and adverbs

TASK 2 Adjective and noun forms to establish opinion Introducing an evaluation and opinion essay Organizing ideas

## Task 1 Noun phrases

1 Complete the diagram with collocations. Use words from the box.





2 Choose two phrases from the diagram. Think of three ways that these things affect your own life.

At work I keep all my documents on a <u>computer</u> <u>network</u> because different staff members have to access them. When the network goes down it is annoying because I can't do any work. I don't have a computer network at home unless you count the internet.

#### **Technique**

Look out for nouns with the same or similar meaning in adjacent sentences. You may be able to combine them into one sentence, e.g. the nouns *brand* and *device* are used in a similar way in the example below so can be combined easily.

- The sentences in a have been rewritten as a single sentence. Following the same pattern, rewrite sentences b-f.
  - **a** The first mobile phone was a Motorola brand. It was a 9-inch device and an important innovation.

The first mobile phone, a 9-inch Motorola device, was an important innovation.

- **b** Mobile apps are software applications. They are downloadable tools and are often free.
- **c** The cloud is a virtual space on the internet. It is a storage environment not reliant on a PC.
- **d** The first website went online in 1991. It was a French-based technical web page.
- e Instant messaging allows quick transmission of text. It is an enhanced mode of communication in real time.
- f Smart phones have a wide variety of applications. They are one of the biggest selling technological devices available.

#### **Technique**

Use a variety of vocabulary and grammar forms in order to make your writing interesting. Repeating words and structures makes a text dull and difficult to read.

4 Look at the Task 1 question below. What key trends can you see in the table?

The table gives information about the number of people working as researchers in technology per million people in five countries. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Turkey	47	50	70	83	106
Poland	285	263	234	227	226
Mexico	147	212	242	179	183
Moldova	103	92	89	97	114
Togo	18	17	23	17	18

- **5** Read the sentences about the table. Look at the words in italics. Which is NOT correct?
  - 1 The table *illustrates/provides data about/draws* the number of technology researchers per million of population who were working in five countries from 2003 to 2007.
  - 2 Mexico and Togo followed a similar *pattern/style/trend* as they both reached a peak in 2005, with 242 and 23 researchers *respectively/in turn/each*.
  - **3** The number of researchers in Mexico was greater than for Togo *in general/overall/in summary*.
  - 4 In Turkey numbers *climbed/slipped/increased* steadily from 47 in 2003 to over double that in 2007.
  - 5 Poland's numbers fell/peaked/dipped to 226 in 2007 although they remained higher than those of any other country for most of the period.
- **6** The last two sentences in 5 describe upward and downward movements in the data. Write the verbs from the two sentences in the correct place in the table below.

Verbs showing downward movement	Verbs showing upward movement	Verbs showing little or no movement
	climbed,	

7 Add the verbs below to the correct place in the table in 6.

```
decline • decrease • drop • go down • go up • grow (to) • hold (steady at) • level (off) plunge • range • reach • remain (stable at) • rise • slump • soar • span • stay (constant at)
```

- 8 Match 1–3 with a–c to make sentences about Mexico. Underline the adverb in each sentence.
  - 1 The number of researchers in Mexico
- **a** rose very slightly, ending at a total of 183.
- 2 From 2005 to 2006 numbers
- **b** increased dramatically to a high of 242.

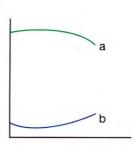
3 Finally they

c dropped steeply again to 179.

- **9** Look at the line graphs opposite. Which line a–d matches sentence 1 about Mexico in 8? Which matches sentences 2 and 3?
- 10 Match the sentences a-d to the line graphs opposite. Then write the adverbs in the correct place in the table below.

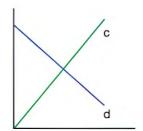
dramatically ■ gradually ■ marginally ■ markedly ■ moderately ■ modestly noticeably ■ progressively ■ sharply ■ significantly ■ slightly ■ steadily

a The numbers rose. b The numbers dropped.	c The numbers soared. d The numbers plunged.		
1	7 _dramatically		
2	8		
3	9		
4	10		
5	11		
6	12		



2

1



- 11 Draw two lines below to match the adverbs in bold in a and b.
  - a The numbers fluctuated wildly.
- b The numbers varied gently.

- 12 Read the sentences below. Which sentence has the pattern verb + adverb and which has the pattern *there is/was* + adjective + noun?
  - a The number of researchers in Mexico rose dramatically to a high of 242.
  - **b** There was a dramatic rise in the number of researchers to a high of 242.
- 13 Rewrite the sentences below using the alternative pattern.
  - **a** In Turkey numbers increased steadily from 47 in 2003 to over double that in 2007.
  - **b** There was a slight fall in Poland's numbers to 226 in 2007.
  - c From 2005 to 2006 we can see a steep drop in Mexican numbers to 179.
  - d Finally they rose very slightly, ending at a total of 183.
- 14 Look at the information about Moldova in 4. Write one sentence about the data using the pattern verb + adverb and one sentence using the pattern *there is/was* + adjective + noun.

### Technique

Include adverbs or adverbial phrases in Task 1 answers in order to show that you can evaluate the data given. Make sure that the adverb you choose collocates (matches) with an appropriate verb, e.g. The numbers soared modestly dramatically.

#### Technique

If you find it difficult to work with the numbers in a table, draw a very rough line graph of the information first to help you visualize it. Alternatively put a small 'up'  $\nearrow$  'down'  $\searrow$  or 'level'  $\rightarrow$  arrow after each number in the table comparing it to the preceding number, to help you see the trend.

## Communication and the internet

## **Task 2 Giving opinions**

- 1 What current issues related to the use of the internet and mobile technology does each picture show?
- 2 Make a list of the pros and cons of the internet and related technology. Think about
  - a communication.
  - b study.
  - c socializing.
  - d work.
- **3** Read the statements below. Do you agree or disagree with them? Why?
  - 1 Undoubtedly, mobile devices are popular because they are so convenient.
  - 2 Obviously, the rise in illegal downloads is due to the proliferation of websites which make this possible.
  - 3 Inevitably, people are increasingly reliant on technology to complete everyday activities.
  - 4 Naturally, social networking has led to an increase in online bullying.
  - 5 Shockingly, there is an unhealthy rise in the number of children under 10 who have access to online technology without supervision.
  - 6 Sadly, bookshops have been affected by the rise of online publications, reducing the number of books being sold on the high street.
  - 7 Interestingly, the advent of text messaging is encouraging an increase in the amount that young people write, even though this may not be extensive.
  - 8 Realistically, a computerized society leads to a society in which people are less, not more, connected to each other.
- 4 Does the writer agree with the statements in 3? Underline the word in each statement that shows the writer's opinion.
- 5 Look at the groups of adverbs/adverbial phrases below. If you replace the adverbs in 3 with those in each group below, how does this change the attitude shown by the writer?
  - Group 1: generally speaking/by and large/typically
  - Group 2: unfortunately/disturbingly/worryingly
  - Group 3: importantly/significantly/notably
  - Group 4: probably/apparently/as might be expected







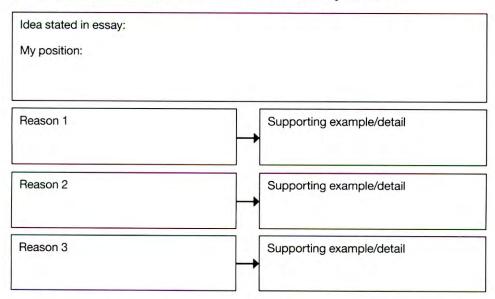
lead to better results and new technological developments some years later.		Evidence has		n that too	much gar	ning can damage	
lead to better results and new technological developments some years later.							
lead to better results and new technological developments some years later.		,	a higher level of fu	inding in te	echnologi	ical research will	
older people tend to be 'digital immigrants'.  , 70 per cent of teenagers report seeing cyberbullying on a regular basis.  A highly B clearly C strongly D vastly A Unfortunately B Conclusively C Without doubt D Severely A Apparently B Seriously C Distinctly D Worryingly A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly complete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a		lead to better resu					
older people tend to be 'digital immigrants'.  , 70 per cent of teenagers report seeing cyberbullying on a regular basis.  A highly B clearly C strongly D vastly A Unfortunately B Conclusively C Without doubt D Severely A Apparently B Seriously C Distinctly D Worryingly A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly complete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a			younger people ar	e more like	ely to be '	digital natives' and	
a regular basis.  A highly B clearly C strongly D vastly A Unfortunately B Conclusively C Without doubt D Severely A Apparently B Seriously C Distinctly D Worryingly A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly complete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a							
a regular basis.  A highly B clearly C strongly D vastly A Unfortunately B Conclusively C Without doubt D Severely A Apparently B Seriously C Distinctly D Worryingly A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly complete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a			70 per cent of teer	agers reno	rt seeing	cyberbullying on	
A Unfortunately A Apparently B Seriously C Distinctly D Worryingly A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly complete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in trackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a			To per cent of teen	agers repo	rescents	eyberbunying on	
A Unfortunately A Apparently B Seriously C Distinctly D Worryingly A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly complete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in trackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a		A highly	B clearly	C strong	ly	D vastly	
A Consistently B Probably C Amazingly D Disturbingly omplete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a							
omplete each sentence with an adverb to suggest the opinion shown in rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a		A Apparently	B Seriously	C Distinc			
rackets. There may be more than one possible answer.  a		A Consistently	<b>B</b> Probably	C Amazin	ngly	<b>D</b> Disturbingly	
b		c	good with tec				
their time online. (This could be a problem.)  (This has a key impact.)  multinational (This is terrible.)  companies have too much control over what appears on the internet.  (This is definitely true.)  (This is mostly true.)			, neonle snend	a lot of			
a			their time onl	ine.			evaluation and opinion
b							
appears on the internet. (This is mostly true.)  you are taking.  you are taking.  tead the Task 2 question below and decide which kind of essay it is.  theory-based essay contrasting viewpoints essay evaluation and opinion essay		a			(This is	terrible.)	
theory-based essay contrasting viewpoints essay evaluation and opinion essay		b	companies ha	ve too	(This is	definitely true.)	adverbial phrases to
contrasting viewpoints essay evaluation and opinion essay		b	companies ha much control	ve too over what	(This is	definitely true.)	adverbial phrases to identify the position
evaluation and opinion essay		b	companies ha much control appears on th	ve too over what e internet.	(This is (This is	definitely true.) mostly true.)	adverbial phrases to identify the position
	2	bead the Task 2 quest	companies ha much control appears on th	ve too over what e internet.	(This is (This is	definitely true.) mostly true.)	adverbial phrases to identify the position
	ı	bead the Task 2 quest theory-based essa contrasting viewp	companies ha much control appears on th tion below and dec	ve too over what e internet.	(This is (This is	definitely true.) mostly true.)	adverbial phrases to identify the position

Some people suggest that social networking and online

Write at least 250 words.

communication have increased social isolation. In what ways do you think this has happened? Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

**9** Complete the notes below with ideas for the Task 2 question in 8.



10 Read the model answer below. Do you think the writer had similar notes to you or were the points different?

In recent years the use of social networking has grown beyond recognition, bringing a new set of concerns with it. Most young people now text regularly and are familiar with a variety of other platforms used for communication, such as FaceTime and instant messaging. It has never been easier to keep in touch with family and friends wherever they are in the world. Despite this, however, there is evidence that social isolation is rising and not decreasing. I therefore agree that rather than helping people communicate, technology has actually weakened social bonds. I will attempt to outline some key reasons for this.

Firstly and most obviously, if people are using tablets, phones or other devices, they are focused on the technology rather than what is happening around them. While this might help us keep in touch with people who are far away from us (for example those travelling), often it means that the user forgets those in their vicinity. For example, it is now common to see people in restaurants and cafes all looking at their phones instead of speaking to each other. Secondly, although using social networks might seem a good solution for someone who is shy or worried about meeting others, ironically it is more likely to keep them at home. In fact, if people didn't have that option they would have to go out and meet real friends, which is a much healthier way to deal with being lonely. There are reports of people who rarely leave their houses because they are addicted to an 'online existence' and young people who become aggressive when their parents tell them to come offline.

Finally, even if people do meet online friends, these friendships are often not really what they seem. Unfortunately, there have been several reports of people being harmed by someone they believed was a friend. This is because the internet allows us to disguise who we really are. As honesty is key to a good relationship, clearly this is not a good basis to meet friends.

In conclusion, I would argue that while the internet can help with quick and convenient communication for business or travel, or when people live in distant places, for a number of reasons it has not increased social cohesion overall.

11 Underline the adverbs and other phrases in 10 that show the opinion of the writer.

#### Technique

Reading news articles and noticing the language used will improve your own writing and ensure you have some ideas for some of the typical topics that appear in the exam.

- 12 Below is a description of the elements in the introductory paragraph in 10. Read the paragraph again and number each item in the order they appear in the text.
  - a explain the structure of the essay
  - b clarify if the writer agrees or disagrees with the viewpoint given
  - c state an assertion or viewpoint (often taken from the question)
  - d introduce the essay topic
  - e give some background context/examples of the topic
- 13 Match the phrases 1–12 with the elements a–e in 12.
  - 1 I shall argue that ...
  - 2 The main aim of the essay is ...
  - 3 Initially I will ... before going on to ...
  - 4 It seems to me that ...
  - 5 One commonly held idea is ...
  - 6 I would maintain/suggest that ...
  - 7 In recent years it is clear ...
  - 8 A typical argument is that ...
  - 9 This essay explores the issue of ...
  - 10 Reports often suggest that ...
  - 11 This issue has become more important as ...
  - 12 This essay will firstly ... then ...
- 14 Look at the Task 2 question below. Number the sentences a-d in a logical order to make an introductory paragraph.

The internet is often harmful, especially to young people, due to the amount and type of information people can access. To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience.

- **a** However, it has also never been easier for young people to access information that is not appropriate, such as violent or adult sites.
- b Nowadays most houses have at least one computer or a mobile device so young people and children have constant access to the internet. This can be a useful tool for their school work and for keeping in touch with friends.
- c While there is no doubt this can be a drawback to the benefits of the internet, it seems to me that the problem could be reduced with greater control over the access of young people to the internet; the internet itself is not particularly harmful.
- **d** This essay explores several reasons why the internet could be considered a positive rather than a harmful factor in people's lives.
- **15** Match each key point 1–3 with the correct supporting details a–c.

#### **Key points**

- 1 Most information on the internet useful and informative.
- 2 Some inappropriate information available parents should control this.
- 3 Important for young people to learn how to select information.

#### Supporting details

- a Key life skill knowing how to see what is true and what is misleading, e.g. conspiracy theories typical but young people should learn how to weigh up evidence.
- **b** Internet helps young people with research skills and very helpful learning tool for school or university and outside.
- c Always likely to be inappropriate information, e.g. violent or adult sites, but there are filters and controls that parents can use to control access to these.

#### Technique

When you plan, note down your key points. Then use a different coloured pencil or pen and add a note of a possible example or detail so that each point has supporting information.

## Practice Test 2

#### Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table shows the number of mobile phones sold in millions for a period of six years. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

	Nokia	Ericsson	Samsung	Motorola	Apple
2006	345	74	117	210	
2007	436	102	154	165	2.3
2008	475	95	202	108	12
2009	442	57	238	59	24
2010	463	42	282	39	42
2011	422	33	330	40	89
2012	335	28	396.5	28	135.8

#### Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

To what extent has the internet made life more convenient? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.