

## IELTS Speaking #18 – Topic 1.15: Technology

### 1. Do you enjoy using technology?

“Well... to be honest I’m not a techie. I just love what it offers. I means I’d not like to find out about how a computer works or when my phone crashes I never know what to do but I can’t deny many great things we’ve benefited from it so far.”

#### Từ vựng:

techie	người thích công nghệ
crash	hỏng
benefit	hưởng lợi từ

### 2. How much time do you spend using a computer at work or at home?

“I have to admit that almost the whole time. Back in Vietnam when I worked at an office, I was exposed to the computers for 7 hours out of 8 and then when I was off work, my personal laptop continue to induce me to Facebook, online news, movies and other stuff.”

#### Từ vựng:

induce	quyến rũ, lôi cuốn
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### 3. Do you use the Internet for your studies?

“Yes ... I’d be lost without it ... I do watch a lot of online videos to practise my English skills and also social media like Facebook is a good way to meet up with my classmates for an assignment to come.”

### 4. Has the internet made your job / studies easier?

“Of course, Internet definitely contribute to my easier completion of my job as well as my study. For example, at work email is such a useful tool for my communication with my colleagues and business partners in different offices, or even in different countries. It offers immediate communication with my teachers, allows global connection without the need to travel and it’s also much more convenient as I can even communicate on-the-move.”

### 5. What technology or equipment is used in most workplaces nowadays?

“In most workplaces people use equipment such as computers, phones, printers, fax machines and copiers. I think the computer is probably the most essential piece of equipment because we rely on it for almost everything: communicating by email, writing reports, organising data, and finding information on the Internet.”

### 6. What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?

“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.”

**Từ vựng:**

wireless networks	mạng không dây
public wifi hotspots	nơi có wifi công cộng
intranet	mạng nội bộ

**7. Do you think that people are relying too much on technology?**

“Yes, indeed. Most of the students and children nowadays cannot even do brainstorming in time base task, they are losing their own personal skills, and this is all because they are not using their own knowledge and creativity. As an example, most of the students are using Wikipedia and imitating the same text in their projects or assignment which is an abominable way to pass the exam. Besides, they are actually spending too much time on technology, like if they get off their phone just 1 seconds, something terrible must have happened.”

**Từ vựng:**

do brainstorming	động não, suy nghĩ
imitate	bắt chước
assignment	bài tập
abominable	vi phạm đạo đức

**Từ vựng:**

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

## **Useful Vocabulary**

### **Uses of internet for communication**

sending emails  
sending text messages  
tele-conferencing  
video conferencing  
online chatting  
social networking  
blogging  
posting messages on forums  
using an intranet system

### **Advantages**

offers immediate communication  
cheaper than telephone calls / face-to-face meetings  
allows global communication without the need to travel  
more convenient / people can communicate on-the-move  
allows friends and family overseas to stay connected  
gives everybody the chance to have a public voice

### **Disadvantages**

people may lose “real” social skills  
people may spend less time socialising face-to-face  
people may become more introverted  
people may become addicted to social network sites  
people spend too much time in front of a screen

### **Technology and Education**

interactive whiteboards  
e-learning courses / e-books  
online degrees  
self-access centres / study  
online teaching / tutoring / training  
blended learning (online + face-to-face)

### **Advantages**

offers more flexibility for the learner  
allows people in rural areas the same study opportunities

cheaper for students (no travel / accommodation costs)  
students & teachers are less bound by time and space

### **Technology and Work**

automated processes  
automated manufacturing  
automated customer services  
high-tech computer systems  
computerised filing / administrative systems  
huge databases  
intranet system / internal emailing

### **Disadvantages**

has made some jobs redundant  
gives customers less personal service  
requires staff to be technically skilled  
may cause security issues / files may be lost  
requires a lot of investment  
breakdowns in the system may cause severe problems

### **IELTS Technology Vocabulary**

[Topic Vocabulary](#) >> **Lesson 3: Technology**

### **IELTS Technology vocabulary**

The subject of 'Technology' frequently comes up in the IELTS Speaking exam. You may be asked to talk about something you own, your favourite websites, how technology has impacted on education etc. You'll need to show the examiner your ability to express yourself using as wide a range of vocabulary as possible.

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in bold. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

### **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

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