

THEME 8 DIGITAL ERA READING SKILL (COUNT ME IN)

A. Read the text and find the followings in it.

Perhaps, when people read or hear about future predictions such as “students will learn from robot teachers over the Internet” and “people will live much longer because organ replacement will be possible”, most do not think about the possibility. Instead, they are curious about what it will be like. This is so because humanity has witnessed and is witnessing the incredible evolution of technology. They are sure that everything will keep changing and will be much different.

A top futurist, Thomas Frey of Da Vinci Institute, gave an interview to a world famous newspaper in 2016 and said “Thirty years ago, it was a big deal when schools got their first computers. Today, it’s a big deal when students get their own laptops. In 14 years, it will be a big deal when students learn from robot teachers over the Internet.” Thomas Frey gives examples of some changes in education sector, but technology lies under almost any change in our lives. Here is a brief journey of how technology evolved and changed life in some industries.

Computing : When the first computer, which was the size of a room was invented, perhaps, a desktop computer was not even part of people’s imaginations. More than that has happened. Today, millions of people are holding their pocket-size computers in their hands with tens of more functions. The first computer could only store data and perform basic arithmetic while today, the modern PC can store, save, process and share data as well as communicate with other PCs and people. I believe, these are the most important factors of everyday life. This is not the ultimate level of the modern PC. The next step is artificial intelligence.

Medicine : Medical technology is a field which helps humans most. Fortunately, experts are doing great jobs, here. In 1986, my father had to stay in hospital for an entire week after a pterygium operation. Today, it is an operation which takes only 20 minutes, and you don’t need to stay in hospital afterwards. In 2013, he left the hospital where he had an aortic valve replacement surgery just one day after the operation. The technique that his doctors used is called TAVI. To me, it is one of the greatest innovations in medicine because it saves people’s lives without any cuts in their chests in a very short time. It’s incredible. This example alone shows us how much medical technology has grown and improved. The advances introduced us to small innovations like adhesive bandages and wrist braces as well as more complicated technologies like MRI machines, robotic prosthetic limbs and artificial organs. And thanks to information technologies in medicine, a patient in Iran can connect to and consult a doctor in Canada, today.

Automotive : In 1886, the year when Carl Benz made his first car, a gasoline engine which had one-cylinder was enough to make it the best innovation of all times. Today, people’s car choices depend on many more factors. They want to get a car which is economical, fast, comfortable, safe, silent and one which has advanced technology. Self-drive cars, selfparking cars, sound activated dashboards which can connect you to the Net, navigation systems and some other applications have been produced today. However, some people believe this much technology may be dangerous and they think the driver should have the control over the vehicle and traffic around. In my opinion, people should be aware of their capabilities in using technology before getting a car.

1. The name of a futurist: _____
2. Functions of the first computer: _____
3. Year of the writer’s father’s aortic valve surgery: _____
4. An innovation in aortic valve replacement surgery: _____
5. The name of a car maker: _____

B. Read the text and fill in the chart below. First one has been done for you.

Cause

Effect

1. Humanity has witnessed and is witnessing the incredible evolution of technology.
2. Information technologies in medicine have developed.
3. Medical technology has grown and improved.
4. Organ replacement will be possible with artificial organs.

People are curious about what it will be like.

C. Read the text about the effects of social media and decide whether the following conclusions are true or false.

There are various reasons why social media affect life so much. First of all, smart devices make Internet access possible anywhere at any time. We can see a lot of people with their eyes on their smart mobile devices on the street, on public transportation, even in the living room of a house. People seem to have less face to face communication with each other, but they may be in contact with many other people on a social media platform or with a teacher or the boss. Secondly, the number of social media users is increasing rapidly day by day, and it gives individuals the advantage of faster, economical and easier communication with more people. More people can interact with each other, build images and show who they are, and participate and feel involved in things in the world. Every person with marginal views can find more support and feel that they are not lonely. Another reality is that organizations, institutions, commercial companies, etc. find their target audiences on social media platforms. This is a great opportunity for them as they can share their activities, promotional videos, podcasts, profiles, etc. in a faster and cheaper way, and they can connect with customers and prospects for more income. Similarly, customers may demand for newer and better services. In conclusion, using social media is a new way of communication and interaction for people and institutions and it is becoming more common day by day.

1. People care less about others because of excessive Internet usage.
2. Use of social media makes people's lives easier.
3. People generally prefer communicating via Internet these days.
4. People feel lonely as many people prefer social media interaction.

D. Read the short story below and answer the questions.

Ms. Ritto, who was the writing teacher, wanted to give a message about smart phones to her students. She wanted to boost her students' imagination to do this and wrote the sentences "Mrs. Hopkins was lying terribly ill in her bed. Her daughter, Mary was doing something on her smart phone. Mr. Hopkins came in and saw this. Then, he asked angrily 'Are you looking after your smart phone or your mother, Mary?' on the board. Then, she went on to give the instruction "Now, I want you to create a collaborative story. You will work in pairs and each pair will add their sentences to the lines on the board by turn and we will have a story."

The students worked for a couple of minutes and then, a student came to the board. He wrote "Mary did not say a word." Then followed another pair by writing "She went on doing something on her smart phone." Another pair added "The same thing happened the following day." Sentences of the pairs followed each other: "Mr. Hopkins got angrier and angrier but nothing changed." "Mary kept looking at her smart phone." "One day, when Mr. Hopkins came in, Mary hugged him and said 'Daddy, we are not desperate! Mum will walk again, hooray!'" "Mr. Hopkins just looked and asked how that could happen." "I shared the problem on a health forum and asked for help." "People recommended some doctors and I contacted one of them." "He read the reports and told me about a new cure." "I made an appointment. Can you take us there?" "They went there and her mother recovered." "Mr. Hopkins apologized to Mary for being rude to her about the smart phone." And

finally, the last sentence was written on the board: "If you use them for cooperation at the right time, smart phones and social media are great, dad."

Ms. Ritto was surprised. She didn't know what to say. She asked the students how they had managed to create such a nice story without any serious preparation. One of the students admitted that it was a story from the literature class. They all laughed and she congratulated her students before she left the classroom.

1. What was Ms. Ritto's opinion on smart phones at the beginning of the class?
2. What did she ask her students to do?
3. Did everything go as she planned?
4. What message did the students give her?