

Burrillville Middle School Technology Vocabulary

Progress words

When you write and speak about computers and technology, very often you will be asked to say how technology has changed or progressed.

word	other word forms	phrase
innovation	innovative	the cloud is one of the latest innovations in computer technology
advance		one major advance is in the use of computers in transport regulation
develop	development	it is not easy to predict how this technology is going to develop
progress		the 21st century has already seen considerable progress in computer technology
revolution	revolutionary/ revolutionise	it is undeniable that computers have revolutionised our lives
breakthrough		one of the greatest technological breakthroughs ever made was the microchip

Notes:

Progress is an uncountable word, while advance is countable. So you say that “digital technology is an advance” but you cannot say that “digital technology is a progress”

Impact words

Another common topic is to talk about what effect computer technology has had on our lives

word	other word forms	
change		it goes without saying that the computer revolution has changed all our lives
affect	effect	generally speaking, most technology has had a beneficial effect on our lives
influence	influential	few inventions have had a greater influence on mankind than the computer
impact		it remains to be seen what the long-term impact of this technology will be

Notes:

Be careful with the difference between “affect” (generally a verb) and “effect” (generally a noun). Just to confuse you, in English they sound exactly the same.

“impact” and “influence” are often used with the preposition “on”

Technology and computer words

It is very easy to keep on repeating the same word without knowing it. One way not to do this is to change the form of the word or to use it in a different phrase.

word	example
technology	one of the disadvantages for consumers of modern technology is that it rapidly becomes obsolete
technological	simple as it is, I believe that cell phone is the most significant technological innovation
technophobe	there are a minority of people who remain technophobes and do not have mobile phones or even know how to text
technophile	others, of course, are technophiles and will buy the latest gadget whether they need it or not
computer technology/ ICT	nowadays one of the core subjects on any school's curriculum is ICT and it is essential for school leavers to be computer literate
information technology/IT	while computers have many possible applications, their greatest use is to allow us to exchange information - hence the name information technology
digital native	young people have an advantage by being digital natives and having grown up with laptops and mobile phones
computer literate	it is now almost impossible to work in an office, if you are not computer literate
the computer age	in fact, we could now be said to live in the computer age

Notes:

Be careful with the spelling of **technology**.

A "technophile" loves technology and a "technophobe" hates it. In speaking, you could use the less formal word "geek" for technophile, but I would avoid it writing.

There is no great difference between "ICT" and "IT". However, as my example shows ICT is most frequently used as the name of an academic subject.

Adjectives

adjective	example
cutting-edge	one such cutting-edge innovation is the concept of the cloud
state-of-the-art	it is not always, however, necessary to have the latest state-of-the-art technology
modern	modern technology has changed the way in which we lead our lives and communicate with one another
labour-saving	perhaps the most influential inventions are relatively simple labour-saving devices such as the vacuum cleaner
advanced	more advanced technology is not always the best
high	an example of this is how some high tech solutions are less reliable than the technology they replaced
outdated	the pace of change in the computer industry means that hardware can become outdated or even obsolete within the space of 2 years

Notes:

It is normal to use hyphens (-) in adjective phrases such as “state-of-the-art” when they are used before nouns (“state-of-the-art technology”), but you do not always need them when they are used without a noun (“this technology is state of the art”).

“obsolete” is similar in meaning to “outdated”, but is a stronger word to show that the technology is so old that it cannot be used any longer.

It is normal to write “high tech” rather than “high technology”.

Device words

This is a rather confusing set of words to describe different kinds of objects.

word	example
device	we now have more leisure time because of labour-saving devices in the home such as the dishwasher
equipment	a computer is no longer a luxury, but has become an essential piece of equipment for any student or employee
gadget	we should not forget that many technological gadgets not only make our lives easier but are also fun to use
appliance	almost all modern kitchens have several electrical appliances that save our time

Notes:

A “device” is often something fairly small that allows you to complete a task. There is a strong collocation (very common phrase): “labour-saving device”.

“Equipment” is an uncountable word so you need to say “a piece of equipment”. It is a very general use word that can be used to describe almost anything mechanical.

“Gadget” is a word often used to describe objects that are either small or have a less serious purpose.

“Appliance” is typically used in the phrase “electrical appliances” (eg irons and kettles) that are less advanced technology.

Other useful words

This is a selection of other words that may come in useful when discussing technology

Read more: [Technology vocabulary http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-vocabulary/technology-vocabulary/#ixzz2DL0pRZ12](http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-vocabulary/technology-vocabulary/#ixzz2DL0pRZ12)

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word	phrase/example	phrase/example
connection	have an internet connection	
online	go online	shop online
e-books	e-commerce	e-ticket
digital	digital camera	digital technology
cyber	cyber-crime	cyberspace
access to	have access to the internet	access a document
game	be addicted to computer games	
application	the application of IT	