

I. INVENTIONS



- 1) The following inventions changed our lives and lifestyle. In pairs, put the following words into the right category:

refrigerator - fax machine - mobile phone - car - video game - train - Mp3 player - the Internet - microwave - camcorder - toaster - computer - scanner - DVD player - LCD TV - vacuum cleaner - aeroplane - printer - washing machine

Transport and Communications	Entertainment	At home	My favourites
<i>Fax machine;</i>		<i>refrigerator;</i>	



- 2) Find which of these inventions your classmate couldn't live without and why:

- 3) Let's vote! In pairs, elect the invention that you consider the most important.

II-TECHNOLOGY

Before reading: do you know in what year was the first computer invented? And nowadays, where can you find computers?





The computer age

(1) The second half of the twentieth century saw the start of the Computer **Age**. At first, computers were very difficult to use, and only a few people understood them. But soon, computers began to appear in offices and then homes.

(4) When the first computers were built in the 1940s and 1950s, they were as big as a room. In 1949, the magazine *Popular Mechanics* wrote: "one day, computers will be really small, and they will **weigh** less than 1.5 tonnes".

(7) Today, they are everywhere. Some people still say they never used a computer, but they probably use computers every day, they just do not realize it. This is because there are computers in so many **ordinary** things: cars, televisions, CD-players, washing machines...

Man versus computer

(10) The idea that computers are more powerful than humans is interesting to scientists and computer technicians. Every year **programmers** try to write new software to make computers smarter. Now computers can follow instructions and play mathematical games very well, but are they really intelligent? Do they really think in the same way the human beings think?

Adapted from *Information Technology*, Oxford's Bookworms

4) Find the synonym of the following words: **Age** (l. 1), **weigh**, (l. 6), **ordinary** (l. 9), **programmers** (l. 11).

A period in the history of humankind marked by a distinctive characteristic or achievement	familiar, everyday	a person who writes computer programs	to be heavy

5) Complete the sentences according to the information on the text:

a) Computer Age saw its start in the _____

b) In the beginning, computers _____

c) Nowadays, computers _____

6) Nowadays, computers seem to play an inevitable part in our lives. But, what are really, the advantages and disadvantages of technology?

