

Science and technology

1 Match the words from the texts (1–8) with the definitions (a–h).

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 high-tech (text 1) | a equipment that produces a powerful beam of light |
| 2 gadget (text 1) | b idea that tries to explain something |
| 3 online (text 1) | c events that are hard to explain |
| 4 laser (text 2) | d show how something works |
| 5 demonstrate (text 2) | e using the most modern technology |
| 6 phenomena (text 4) | f a person who studies a subject in detail |
| 7 researcher (text 4) | g a small tool or machine that helps you do something |
| 8 theory (text 4) | h connected to the Internet |

2 Decide which of the following are parts of a computer (C) and which relate to the Internet (I).

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| World Wide Web | download | online |
| virtual | webpage | keyboard |
| website | interactive | mouse |
| screen | forum | software |
| crash | hard drive | chat room |
| monitor | | |

3 Complete the sentences with words from Exercise 2.

- When you type something on the computer, it's a good idea to save it onto the or onto a CD.
- You change the position of the cursor on your computer screen by moving the with your hand.
- Teen Second Life* is a kind of computer game where you leave real life behind and enter the world of reality.
- You should take care that a person you meet in an Internet is who they say they are.
- I managed to all the information I need for my essay from the Internet.

4 Match the subjects (1–6) with the areas of study (a–f).

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Astronomy | a living things |
| 2 Biology | b the structure of objects |
| 3 Chemistry | c numbers and shapes |
| 4 Geology | d rocks and soil |
| 5 Mathematics | e stars and planets |
| 6 Physics | f chemicals |

WORDZONE

Words often appear close in meaning, but **only one may fit the context** correctly.

The mobile phone is one example of a hand-held gadget (not appliance)

How do you choose the right word? **Think about the context!** The words *gadget* and *appliance* both describe types of machines; but if you're talking about a small item, like a mobile phone, the word you want is *gadget*. If you're talking about something large, like a washing machine, the word you want is *appliance*.

5 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- Astronomers have *discovered/invented* a new planet outside our galaxy.
- Scientists are *searching/researching* the causes of cancer.
- We carried out an interesting *experiment/trial* in our chemistry class today.
- If you press the delete *switch/key* on your computer, you'll lose your work!
- The printer won't work unless you *wire/plug* it into the socket!

6 What gadgets do you use regularly? Make a list and put them in order of importance in your life.

Memorise

Remember! When you collect vocabulary, **group words into topics** where possible. It's easier to learn groups of similar words together.

Do this competition with a partner: each of you write down in one minute as many words as you can on the topic of **science and technology**. Count up your words and see who is the winner.

The passive

GRAMMARZONE

The passive: be + past participle:

Active → *They launched the website ...*
 Passive → *The website was launched ...*

who does the action is unknown or not important
*This unique science museum **was opened** in 1969.*

the sentence is formal
*Shows **will be staged** at 11.00 a.m.*

to make important information stand out
*Additional IMAX tickets **may be purchased** at the Admissions Desk.*

in signs and notices, the verb *be* is sometimes left out
*Museum ticket-holders (will be) **admitted** for free!*

if the active verb has two objects and one is a person, the person usually becomes the subject of the passive verb
*You'll **be given** tips on making your own music video.*

let becomes *be allowed to*; *make* + object + bare infinitive becomes *be made* + *to*-infinitive
*We **were allowed** to mix our own music tapes.*

we mention who does the action with *by*
*Find out how it feels to be shaken **by an earthquake**.*

→ Grammar File, page 163

1 With a partner, decide what tense the underlined verbs are in these sentences.

- They are screening *Superman Returns* at the moment.
present continuous
- We can't go into the science laboratory because another class is using it at the moment.
- I'm fed up because they have cancelled our trip to the museum.
- Robots will do more jobs as this century advances.
- When we tried to get into the museum yesterday, we found they were reorganising it.
- Someone has removed the website I was looking for!
- They will send a new spacecraft to Mars next month.
- When did someone invent the first car?
- They don't let visitors take drinks into the hall.
- They made us leave the museum because one of our group misbehaved.
- My uncle nearly became an astronaut, but they turned him down at the last minute.

2 Rewrite the sentences in Exercise 1 in the passive. Use by + someone only where necessary.

- They are screening *Superman Returns* at the moment.
Superman Returns is being screened at the moment.

3 Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Start with a person.

- Someone was giving visitors a science demonstration.
Visitors were being given a science demonstration.
- They will show us a replica of the first car ever made.
- They gave visitors a free video to take home.
- They have paid the inventor \$50,000 for his idea.
- Someone offered them free IMAX tickets.
- They are telling the children a story.
- Someone taught Jessica the guitar when she was just six years old.

4 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Invisibility is a common theme in modern fiction. In *The Lord of the Rings*, the hero 1) (become) invisible as soon as he puts on a magic ring. In the Harry Potter books, Harry 2) (give) an invisibility cloak, which allows him to hide from danger. And in the TV series *Star Trek*, alien space travellers 3) (use) special technology when they want to make their starships disappear from view. Incredible? Not any more! Yesterday journalists 4) (show) pictures of the world's first invisibility cloak. This amazing gadget, which 5) (just/test) in the USA, is still quite limited. But in the future its inventors hope it can 6) (use) to make large objects totally invisible. Scientists 7) (believe) the technology could even be used to hide an object the size of a truck. Now that the theory 8) (prove) to work, who knows how the technology may develop in the future.



Time to talk

5 Do you think an invisibility gadget is a good invention? How might it be useful?