

Unit 5: It's an online world

1 Language: Talking about information and knowledge

Circle the correct choice in each sentence.

- 1 As children grow, they find out / absorb knowledge like sponges.
- 2 You'd better wait until you know / pick up all the facts.
- 3 When you've committed these facts / this knowledge to memory, let me know.
- 4 Do you think people look up / value knowledge like they did in the old days?
- 5 He's the kind of person who picks up / commits facts easily.
- 6 It's amazing how much knowledge / information she has found out.
- 7 Once I pick up / know knowledge, I never forget it.
- 8 I quickly acquired some knowledge / facts of the local customs.

2 Put the words of the sentences in the correct order.

- 1 I/if/information/me/could/some/out/vital/for/find/you/wonder/.
- 2 I've/about/some/industry/facts/picking/interesting/sugar/been/the/up/.
- 3 What/knowledge/technique/for/most/acquiring/is/useful/the/?
- 4 I/organisation/about/important/the/quickly/most/facts/the/all/absorbed/.
- 5 I/memory/to/useless/to/such/refuse/information/commit/.
- 6 Employers/knowledge/don't/like/to/general/they/value/used/.
- 7 How/the/sure/know/all/that/can/facts/you/be/you/?
- 8 I'm/smartphone/information/my/up/some/looking/new/on/.

3 Extension: Knowledge, facts and information

Match 1–9 with a–i.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Go and ask Stephanie. She's a complete mine | a information on the deal, if you want. |
| 2 It's said that he has an | b facts straight. |
| 3 I can give you some inside | c knowledge of Excel. |
| 4 She's a critical listener so be sure you get your | d of information. |
| 5 As we anticipated, the three men denied all | e information overload. |
| 6 They can't determine whether his statement is | f intimate knowledge of Gamelan music. |
| 7 I don't like museum audio guides. They give me | g fact. |
| 8 I suppose you could say I have a working | h knowledge of the robbery. |
| 9 Excuse me but your theories have no basis in | i fact or fiction. |

4 Rewrite the underlined parts of the sentences with expressions from exercise 3.

- 1 We don't know if it's true or not so we've asked the headmaster for clarification.
- 2 Conferences are exhausting because you usually get more information than you can cope with.
- 3 My younger brother knows a lot of facts, especially when it comes to technology.
- 4 During the interview, she told me she was reasonably good at German.
- 5 We've managed to get some private facts about the company's financial situation.
- 6 She said she didn't know anything about the missing package.
- 7 If you're going to argue, you should make sure what you say is true.
- 8 Most of his complaints were completely made up.
- 9 She knows a tremendous amount about Saint Petersburg, where she's lived for years.

Reading

Read the text below, then choose the correct heading (A–G) for each paragraph (1–5). There are two extra headings you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided at the end of the task. The first one (0) has been done for you.

The perils of overdependency on technology: a case of GPS misadventure

(0) _____

Advancements in technology have undoubtedly transformed the way we live, work, and communicate. From the ubiquitous smartphones to the convenience of GPS navigation, technology has become an integral part of our daily lives. While these technological innovations have undoubtedly brought numerous benefits, they also pose certain risks, one of which is the overdependency on technology. This essay explores the story of Sabine Moreau, a 67-year-old Belgian woman, whose overreliance on her GPS led her on a harrowing journey that ended 900 miles away from her intended destination in Croatia.

(1) _____

Sabine Moreau's unfortunate misadventure serves as a cautionary tale of how overreliance on technology, such as GPS navigation, can lead individuals astray. The incident highlights the dangers of blindly trusting technology without exercising critical thinking and common sense. In this digital age, many individuals have become so reliant on their devices that they unquestioningly follow their directions, even when faced with obvious signs of error.

(2) _____

GPS, or Global Positioning System, has revolutionized navigation and travel. Its accessibility on smartphones and navigation devices has made getting from one point to another seemingly foolproof. However, the ease of relying on GPS has also led to complacency in decision-making. People like Sabine Moreau might blindly follow the device's instructions, suppressing their innate sense of direction and spatial awareness. This overreliance on technology can have dire consequences, as evident in Moreau's journey across five international borders without her realising her error.

(3) _____

Sabine Moreau herself admitted that she was distracted when she took the wrong turn. Distractions are commonplace in today's fast-paced world, with technology playing a significant role in causing such distractions. Smartphones, social media, and other digital devices can divert our attention from our surroundings, leading to poor judgment and potentially hazardous situations. When individuals are immersed in their screens, they become less attentive to the real world, making them vulnerable to errors like the one experienced by Moreau.

(4) _____

Overdependency on technology can lead to the erosion of basic navigational skills and critical thinking. In the case of Sabine Moreau, she followed the GPS instructions blindly, without questioning the validity of her route or noticing the changing languages on the road signs. This loss of spatial awareness and critical thinking is a worrying trend, as it diminishes our ability to make sound judgments in various situations.

(5) _____

Sabine Moreau's misadventure also raises concerns about personal safety and security. Her family had reported her missing to local authorities, who eventually tracked her down through her bank statements. Such situations can cause unnecessary distress for loved ones and consume valuable resources in search and rescue operations, all of which could have been avoided with more responsible and cautious use of technology.

(6) _____

The story of Sabine Moreau's GPS misadventure is a stark reminder of the perils of overdependency on technology. While technology undoubtedly offers convenience and efficiency, it should not replace our innate abilities and common sense. It is essential to strike a balance between utilizing technology as a helpful tool and retaining our critical thinking, spatial awareness, and decision-making skills. As technology continues to advance, it becomes increasingly crucial for individuals to remain conscious of the potential pitfalls and to use technology responsibly to ensure a safer and more secure future.

A	Pitfalls of blindly trusting technology
B	Navigating the technological balance
C	Misguided by GPS
D	Loss of critical thinking and spatial awareness
E	Cautionary tale of GPS misadventure
F	GPS technology and its impact on decision-making
G	Hazards of overreliance on technology
H	Distraction and technology overdependence
I	Impact on personal safety and security

0	C
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

6 Writing: Technology and education

Your school is launching a digital initiative; this should also reflect students’ views on the use of technology in school. Therefore the head teacher is asking for blog entries to be published on the school’s website; the best blog entry will receive a prize. In your blog entry, you should:

- highlight the ways in which technology has revolutionised education over the last few decades
- discuss the benefits and drawbacks of using technology in school
- argue what skills need to be taught in schools today to equip students for the world of work

Write around 250 words.

Key

exercise 1

1 absorb, 2 know, 3 these facts, 4 value, 5 picks up, 6 information, 7 pick up, 8 knowledge

exercise 2

- 1 I wonder if you could find out some vital information for me.
- 2 I've been picking up some interesting facts about the sugar industry.
- 3 What is the most useful technique for acquiring knowledge?
- 4 I quickly absorbed all the most important facts about the organisation.
- 5 I refuse to commit such useless information to memory.
- 6 Employers don't value general knowledge like they used to.
- 7 How can you be sure that you know all the facts?
- 8 I'm looking up some information on my new smart phone.

exercise 3

1 d, 2 f, 3 a, 4 b, 5 h, 6 i, 7 e, 8 c, 9 g

exercise 4

- 1 We don't know if it's fact or fiction so we've asked the headmaster for clarification.
- 2 Conferences are exhausting because you usually get information overload.
- 3 My younger brother is a mine of information, especially when it comes to technology.
- 4 During the interview, she told me she had a working knowledge of German.
- 5 We've managed to get some inside information about the company's financial situation.
- 6 She denied all knowledge of the missing package.
- 7 If you're going to argue, you should make sure you get your facts straight.
- 8 Most of his complaints had no basis in fact.
- 9 She has an intimate knowledge of Saint Petersburg, where she's lived for years.

exercise 5, Reading

1 A, 2 F, 3 H, 4 D, 5 I, 6 B