

1 Before you read

Fact or Opinion?

Talk with your classmates. Answer the questions.

1. How has technology changed transportation?
2. How has technology impacted the way we communicate with others?

2 Read



Read the magazine article. Listen and read again.

STUDENT TK 24
CLASS CD2 TK 6

The Impact of Technology

By Katelyn Houston

Changes in technology can change people's lives.

When my great-grandmother was born in 1900, her family lived on a ranch, and they went to town in a horse and buggy. Cars were rare; people thought they were dangerous pieces of machinery. By the time my great-grandmother died in 1979, nearly everyone owned a car, and horse buggies were in museums.

Although transportation technology has not changed significantly in my own lifetime, there have been huge changes in the way we get the news. Newspapers were once people's primary source for the news: in 1965, 72 percent of Americans reported that they read a newspaper on an average day. By 2005, that number was down to 50 percent. Today hardly anyone reads the newspaper! Another common way that people got news in the past was by listening to the radio, which began to broadcast news in the 1920s. I suppose nearly everyone had a radio then. However, by the 1950s, television was overtaking radio. Now even the number of people watching the news on television has declined, dropping from 60 percent in 1993 to 28 percent in 2006. So what's the latest source for news? The Web. The number of Americans who use the Internet to get the



news is increasing. Most people access the news on their smart phones.

Yet another example of change is how we pay for goods and services. Until the mid-1940s, people had to carry large amounts of cash in their purses and wallets. Then, one day in 1949, when a man named Frank McNamara took some business associates to dinner, he left his wallet at home. He had to call his wife to bring him money to pay the bill. I think it was probably the most embarrassing moment of his life!

Mr. McNamara vowed to find a way to avoid carrying cash. Some stores already had their own charge cards, but there was no single, multi-purpose credit card. A year later he returned to the same restaurant with the same people, but paid with the credit card he had created, called "Diner's Club." A year after that second dinner, 42,000 people in the United States had the card, and two years after that, the card was also used in Canada, Cuba, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. I bet that paying with plastic will soon be as antiquated as the horse and buggy. Already, many people pay for things with their smartphones.

In what other ways do you think technology may change our lives in the future?

3 After you read

A Check your understanding.

Look at the reading tip. Then write *F* for fact or *O* for opinion, based on the reading.

Critical readers recognize the difference between *facts* and *opinions*. Facts are known or proven. Opinions are feelings or beliefs.

- F 1. The author's great-grandmother was born in 1900.
- ___ 2. By 2006, only 28 percent of Americans got their news by television.
- ___ 3. Nearly everyone had a radio in the 1920s.
- ___ 4. In 1965, 72 percent of Americans read a newspaper most days.
- ___ 5. Frank McNamara was embarrassed because he didn't have cash to pay for dinner.
- ___ 6. McNamara created the Diner's Club credit card.
- ___ 7. The author thinks that paying with plastic will soon be antiquated.
- ___ 8. In 1900, people thought cars were dangerous pieces of machinery.

B Build your vocabulary.

1. Read the dictionary entry. How many definitions are there?

rare /adj/ 1 not common 2 slightly cooked – **rarely** /adv/; **rarity** /n/

2. Find the words in the story. Underline the sentence. Determine the part of speech. Use a dictionary to find the definition that fits the reading. Write related words and their part of speech.

Vocabulary	Definition	Related words and part of speech
1. rare (<i>adj</i>)	<i>not common</i>	<i>rarely (adverb)</i> <i>rarity (noun)</i>
2. primary		
3. source		
4. bet		
5. decline		
6. moment		

C Talk with a partner.

- What is your primary source for getting the news?
- What would you like to buy if prices declined?
- Share a very embarrassing moment or a very happy moment in your life.