

GETTING STARTED**Learning with personal electronic devices****1 Listen and read.**

Hung: I'm preparing for a class discussion on personal electronic devices. Do you think smartphones, laptops and tablets are useful for learning?

Phong: Definitely. They're the modern devices that have changed the way we learn.

Hung: Oh, yeah? I think people use smartphones mostly for communication.

Phong: Sure, but smartphones can also be used to take photos or record students' work, which can be later shared with the class.

Hung: That's true. How about laptops?

Phong: Oh, they're excellent learning tools, too. You can store information, take notes, write essays and do calculations.

Lam: You can also access the Internet, download programmes, and information that can help you understand the material and widen your knowledge.

**This unit includes:****LANGUAGE****Vocabulary**

Words and phrases related to

- Electronic devices that can help us learn
- Using the Internet to learn English

Pronunciation

Stress in three-syllable adjectives and verbs

Grammar

Relative clauses: defining and non-defining clauses with 'who', 'that', 'which' and 'whose'

SKILLS

- Reading for general ideas and specific information about new ways to learn English
- Talking about how electronic devices can help us learn
- Listening to instructions on how to access and use online English language materials
- Writing about the advantages of electronic devices as learning tools

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

New ways to learn in the USA

Phong: Right. My laptop, which is a present from my parents, is very useful. I use it for assignments and projects, and for studying English.

Hung: I see. How about tablets?

Phong: Well, a tablet or a tablet computer is a kind of mobile computer and ...

Lam: ... it can be used to take notes with a digital pen on a touch screen. A tablet is also perfect for people whose work is to draw and write.

Phong: Yes. I agree. A tablet with WiFi has Internet access and is a great tool for looking up information.

Hung: Amazing! No wonder that so many people are using these devices.

2 Read the conversation again and check if the following statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG).

	T	F	NG
1. Smartphones, laptops and tablets are the modern devices that have changed the way we think.			
2. According to Phong, students use smartphones to record their phone calls, which they later share with the class.			
3. Phong says that people also use desktops the way they use laptops.			
4. Programmes and material downloaded from the Internet can help people widen their knowledge.			
5. According to Lam, a tablet is a kind of mobile computer that can be used to take notes with a normal pen on a touch screen.			
6. Phong thinks a tablet with WiFi is a great tool for looking up information.			

3 Find the adjectives which describe the devices used as learning tools and write them down. Discuss each word's meaning with your partner.

4 Read the conversation again and answer the following questions.

1. What personal electronic devices are the speakers talking about?
2. What have these devices changed?
3. How do students use their smartphones for other things besides calls?
4. Why are laptops excellent learning tools?
5. What does Phong do on his laptop?

LANGUAGE

Vocabulary

1 Match each of the phrases on the left with its explanation on the right.

1. take notes of something	a. reach and use something
2. touch screen	b. make use of something to the fullest extent
3. take advantage of something	c. search for and find something in a dictionary or a reference book
4. look something up	d. screen which allows giving instructions by touching
5. access something	e. write something down

2 Read the conversation in GETTING STARTED again. Match pictures A-C with their uses as learning tools 1-6 mentioned below.

1. access the Internet, download programmes and information
2. take notes with a digital pen on a touch screen
3. take photos or record students' work
4. do assignments and projects, and study English
5. store information, take notes, write essays and do calculations
6. look up information



A



B



C



Pronunciation

1 Listen and repeat.

- concentrate similar contribute digital
- introduce excellent recognise Vietnamese
- understand personal interest symbolic

2 Listen again and put a mark (') before the stressed syllable.

Grammar

Relative clauses

1 Read the following sentences from **GETTING STARTED**. Underline 'which', 'that', 'who' and 'whose'. What are these words used for? Decide if the clauses are defining or non-defining relative clauses.

- They're the modern devices that have changed the way we learn.
- Smartphones can also be used to take photos or record students' work, which can be later shared with the class.
- You can also access the Internet, download programmes, and information that can help you understand the material and widen your knowledge.
- My laptop, which is a present from my parents, is very useful.
- A tablet is also perfect for people whose work is to draw and write.

Do you know ...?

- **Relative clauses** give more information about someone or something by **defining** or **identifying** the **nouns** that precede them in the main clause. They usually begin with the relative pronouns *who*, *that*, *which*, *whose*.

Sometimes we **omit** the *wh*-pronoun or *that*.

Example:

I don't use the desktop (which / that) my parents bought me five years ago.

- **Relative clauses** are divided into **two types**: **defining** relative clauses and **non-defining** relative clauses.

Non-defining relative clauses cannot use the pronoun 'that'.

Example:

This is my new tablet, **which** (not 'that') uses the latest digital technology.

2 Match 1-6 with a-f to make meaningful sentences.

A	B
1. I talked to a man	a. that you sent me.
2. We often visit our grandfather in Vinh,	b. whose invention changed the world?
3. Thank you very much for the book	c. who are wealthy and successful.
4. The man turned out to be her son,	d. which is a city in central Viet Nam.
5. He admires people	e. whose smartphone was stolen.
6. Have you heard of John Atanasoff,	f. who had gone missing during the war.

Watch out!

- A **defining relative clause** gives detailed and necessary information without which the sentence is incomplete. It is not placed between commas.

Example:

The man who came to visit us is a computer engineer.

- A **non-defining relative clause** gives extra information without which the sentence is still complete. It is placed between commas.

Example:

That man, who came to visit us, is a computer engineer.



3 Use 'who', 'which', 'that' or 'whose' to complete each of the sentences.

- Personal electronic devices _____ distract students from their class work are banned in most schools.
- The laptop _____ cover is decorated with funny animals belongs to my aunt.
- My tablet, _____ is two years old, still works quite well.
- Students _____ have smartphones can use them to look up words in an electronic dictionary.
- Some scientists think that children _____ parents allow them to use electronic devices early will have more advantages in the future.
- Long, _____ is only two and a half, likes to play games on a tablet.

SKILLS

Reading

Digital English

1 Look at the pictures. What are the students doing? What do you think you are going to read about?



2 Match each of the words or phrases with its meaning.

1. instruction	a. the ability of a device or programme to understand a human voice
2. effective	b. a software programme designed to do a particular job
3. voice recognition	c. detailed information on how to do or use something
4. portable	d. producing a successful result
5. media player	e. easy to carry or to move
6. application / app	f. a device that stores and plays sound and pictures

3 Quickly read the text. Choose the best title for it.

- a. Advanced Electronic Devices
- b. New Ways to Learn English
- c. Software Programmes

In the age of technology, you can take advantage of new applications which are very useful for learning English.

One way is to download free digital lessons and put them in your media player or other similar mobile devices. Then you can listen and study anywhere because these devices are portable.

Many devices offer apps which use voice recognition technology. This technology allows the use of speaking electronic dictionaries. You can see words on the screen and hear them spoken. Other devices may have word lists, exercises, tests and games.

There is also software that can help improve your pronunciation. You can choose to practise with different native English speakers. Some English learning software offers a choice of accents and genders of the speakers. This software can be used with different kinds of media players.

Many electronic mobile devices can work as recorders or cameras. They can be used to record real-life English speech, lessons, songs or English language films from television or the Internet. This is also an excellent way to learn English because these recordings can be used again and again.

New technology opens new ways to learn. Choose a device that suits your learning style. This will make learning English easier, faster, more effective and more enjoyable.

4 Read the text again. Answer the following questions.

- 1. How convenient are digital lessons?
- 2. What can you do with speaking electronic dictionaries?
- 3. How can software help improve your pronunciation?
- 4. How can English learners use mobile devices as recorders or cameras?
- 5. Why do you need to choose a device that suits your learning style?

5 Discuss in pairs / groups.

How can school students use personal electronic devices to learn English?



Speaking

Go digital

1 Look at some arguments in favour of using electronic devices in learning. Match arguments 1-4 with explanations a-d.

1. Electronics or electronic devices make my school life much easier and more enjoyable.
2. Electronics make learning and teaching faster, easier and better.
3. Students can relax during break time by listening to music, texting, chatting or playing games on their smartphones.
4. Electronics make students' backpacks lighter.

- a. Students can replace the weight of papers and textbooks with a tablet that has notes and assignments, and allows access to online textbooks.
- b. Electronic devices help students look up information, take notes, write papers and submit them to teachers. They allow teachers to prepare lessons and grade papers.
- c. Surveys show that ninety per cent of people that listen to music before working on essays or projects have better results.
- d. I dislike homework, but I have fun when I do it on a tablet. My handwriting is horrible, so typing makes it easier for me and my teacher, because I can change anything and my teacher can read what is written.

2 Work in pairs. Read the arguments and explanations in 1 again. Decide on the two most effective ways of using electronic devices. Explain why.

Useful expressions:

1. The two most effective ways of using electronics are _____ because _____.
2. We think / believe _____ is an effective way of using _____ because _____.
3. In my opinion, _____.

3 Work in pairs. Discuss how useful electronic devices are in learning, using the arguments in 1.

Example:

Student A: I think electronics make school life easier and more enjoyable.

Student B: Exactly. Students who hate homework can have fun doing it on tablets.

Student A: And when they type on tablets they can change or add more things any time they want.

4 Work in groups. Answer the following questions. Note down your partners' answers and report them to the class.

1. What electronic devices do you have?
2. How often do you bring them to school?
3. How useful are they for your learning?



GO DIGITAL?

Listening

Triple 'E' at your fingertips

1 Look at the pictures and read the caption below these pictures. What are the students doing? What do you think you are going to listen about?



Digital English at school and at home

3 Listen again and complete the following sentences by writing no more than three words.

- I'll show you how to learn English (1) _____ just with your fingertips.
- The secret is so simple: use electronic devices to (2) _____ advantage of online English language materials.
- There are pictures, games and explanations, which are useful for (3) _____ and grammar.
- To improve your listening, speaking and pronunciation, practise online with (4) _____.
- Technology has made learning English easy and efficient and increased your (5) _____.

4 Work in groups. Ask and answer the question. What do you think of studying English with modern technology? Explain your opinion.

2 Listen to a teacher giving instructions on how to use online English language materials. Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
1. The speaker thinks the students never get tired of things like books, blackboards, cassettes and CD players.		
2. Triple 'E' means 'Easy Effective English'.		
3. You just type some key words and click on the search engine button to see hundreds of websites.		
4. Very few sites offer exciting lessons, activities and quizzes for English learners of all ages and levels.		
5. There are sites where you record your own voice and listen to yourself.		



Writing

Using electronic devices in learning

- 1** Look at the pictures of people using electronic devices. Think about one advantage and one disadvantage of using these devices in the classroom. Write them down and exchange your ideas with your partner.



- 2** Read the following sentences about some advantages and disadvantages of using electronic devices in learning. Write A if it is an advantage or D if it is a disadvantage. Do you have a different opinion? Tell your partner.

1. ____ Electronic devices distract students from their studies: students may play games, text, chat and cheat (type the questions and search for answers on the Internet).
2. ____ They help students communicate with each other or relax by listening to music and playing games when they are bored and tired of studying.
3. ____ Students have access to inappropriate information, videos and pictures, spend many hours reading and watching, and forget about their projects or assignments.
4. ____ Students study better by using helpful learning apps on smartphones, laptops, tablets and other media players (dictionary, spelling, translation, pronunciation and other apps).
5. ____ Students might take embarrassing pictures of others, share them on the Internet or use them to demand money or force people to do things for them.
6. ____ Electronic devices can be used for research and study, and for storing information and textbooks. This can save time and make students' backpacks lighter.

- 3** Read the following text about the disadvantages of using electronic devices in class. Underline the words / phrases the writer uses to link the ideas in **2** together.

I do not support the use of personal electronic devices in learning because I see a lot of their disadvantages.

First of all, electronic devices distract students from their studies. Many students may play games, text, chat and cheat on their smartphones or tablets. They can go on the Internet, type questions and search for answers.

Second, when students use the Internet, they have access to inappropriate information, videos and pictures. They may spend many hours reading and watching, forgetting about their projects or assignments.

Last but not least, students might take embarrassing pictures of others, share them on the web or use them to demand money or force people to do things for them.

In conclusion, personal electronic devices may bring more harm than good to students.

I suggest that teachers ban or limit their use in the classroom.

- 4** Read the sentences in **2** again. Use them to write a short text about the advantages of using electronic devices in learning.



COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

Communication

Electronic devices in class – to use or not to use?

1 Read the following comments on personal electronic devices. Which sounds most reasonable? Why? Tell your partner.

- Personal electronic devices can be very distracting, to you and to others. You may not be able to concentrate on your studies. If your smartphone rings in class, it will be very annoying and disruptive.
- Electronics are bad for your eyes, and radiation from electronics could harm your body and cause permanent damage.
- Not all students are able to buy personal electronics. They may feel sad and bad about themselves. This might affect their performance at school.

2 Work in pairs. Exchange your opinions on using electronic devices in class. Refer to the comments in **1** if necessary.

Example:

Student A: What do you think could be the disadvantage of electronic devices?

Student B: Some people think that electronics are bad for your eyes, and radiation from them could harm your body.

Student A: Oh, really? I can't believe that. I think they are harmless to users.

3 Work in groups. Do you have a different opinion? Tell your group members.



Culture

1 Read the text about how electronic devices are used among children in the United States and answer the questions that follow.

US children learning with electronic devices

Like children elsewhere, children in the United States have greatly benefited from modern technology. School students in all grades know how to use electronic devices to look up and store information, do assignments and projects, do calculations and play games.

According to a new survey, about 2 out of 5 children in the USA have used a tablet, a smartphone or a similar mobile device before they could speak in full sentences.

For very young children, the devices may help promote listening and speaking ability. The devices may also help improve older children's critical thinking, reading, writing, and maths skills.

However, children's use of electronic devices has two sides. These devices can be great learning tools, but the wrong use may also cause very bad effects.



1. What do school children in the United States use electronic devices for?
2. How many US children have used mobile devices before they could speak in full sentences?
3. How may the devices help very young children?
4. How may they help older children?
5. What are the two sides of the children's use of electronic devices?

2 Work in groups. Talk about how children in your local area / your country use mobile / electronic devices.

LOOKING BACK

Pronunciation

1 Listen and repeat.

Three-syllable adjectives	Three-syllable verbs
adjective, electric	graduate, develop
effective, wonderful	continue, consider
convenient, similar	dedicate, recommend

2 Listen again and put a mark (') before the stressed syllable.

Vocabulary

1 Complete the text with the appropriate words from the box.

- a. devices b. dictionary c. technology
d. electronic e. learn f. advantage

Electronic dictionaries are now common in English classes. They can be very easily downloaded into your personal (1) _____ device that you carry with you everywhere. This new technology is wonderful, but it can affect your learning. People may think a dictionary is the best way to (2) _____ new words. In fact, learning new vocabulary by translating slows down your learning process. A (3) _____ should only be used when all other ways of finding out the meaning have failed. There are other ways of understanding new vocabulary, such as looking at the parts of the word or using context to guess its meaning. Modern (4) _____ has entered your life and you should try to take (5) _____ of it. Electronic dictionaries in mobile (6) _____ are a great learning tool, but you need to think how to use them effectively.

2 In pairs, ask and answer the following questions.

1. How can we use electronic dictionaries?
2. Why is learning new vocabulary with a dictionary not the best way?
3. What should we do now that modern technology has entered our lives?

Grammar

1 Use 'which', 'that', 'who' or 'whose' to fill in each gap.

1. The house _____ my father built is big.
2. Mr Xuan Truong, _____ was my first teacher, received an award for teaching excellence.
3. That media player, _____ I often use to practise English, has some great apps.
4. That's Peter, _____ father has just come back from the Philippines.
5. The woman _____ you have just spoken to is my favourite English teacher.
6. People _____ work involves using a computer for most of the day may suffer from headaches.

2 Combine each pair of sentences into one. Use comma(s) if necessary.

1. Shakespeare was a famous playwright. His birthplace was Stratford-upon-Avon.
2. His grandmother had a great influence on his life. She was a hard-working woman.
3. Tom has hundreds of books. They are all in foreign languages.
4. Lan is interested in physics. I don't like it.
5. I will always remember the teacher. He taught me how to read and write.
6. The girl looked very upset. Her electronic dictionary broke down.



PROJECT

1 Your class is going to hold a discussion on the topic *Personal electronic devices in class – to use or not to use*. To prepare for your group's presentation, discuss the following:

1. Reasons for the use / ban of electronic devices in class;
2. List of possible rules of limiting the use of the electronic devices (if your group selects using the devices).

2 Present your group's ideas to the class.



NOW YOU CAN

- ▶ Use words / phrases related to electronic devices that can help us learn
- ▶ Pronounce correctly three-syllable adjectives and verbs
- ▶ Understand and use defining and non-defining relative clauses
- ▶ Talk about how electronic devices can help us learn
- ▶ Write about the advantages of electronic devices as learning tools