Help till they relax?

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This report is about the ways technologies influence our lives. Our main goal is to decide whether they help or relax; and whether ‘help’ means ‘useful’, and ‘relax’ means ‘useful too’ or maybe ‘harmful’?

The key points of my report are:

- Technological progress and the world;

- Technology at home;

- Information technologies and teens;

- Modern technology and leisure time.

Man has always been inventing new things to make life easier. And we can’t imagine it without the automobile, the electricity, the telephone, the computer, the Internet and so on. All of them are a product of modern technologies. When we consider how the world has changed since our great-grandparents’ time, it’s important to take into account technological progress. We very often hear about new inventions. What seemed weird not long ago nowadays becomes natural. Let’s see some examples.

All the products we buy these days have barcodes on them. They help shops keep track of their stock and mean that we spend much less time at the checkout. Besides, if your mobile phone has a special scanner it can read the information you need to know about the products and things. And what is more there are virtual shops with photos of products and their barcodes. You can order products taking a photo of a barcode. They will be later delivered to your place.

We can also mention here artificial leaves converting carbon dioxide and sunlight into fuel, swimming towns, 3-d printers printing organs of human body and others.

At our homes we use technology to help us. We play computer games, use our mobile phones, the Internet, a microwave oven, an answering machine, a dishwasher, a blender and, of course, an iron. Last month we went on an excursion to the local history museum in Bolotnoe. My group mates and I saw awesome irons, which were used by our great-grandparents. They are so huge and heavy and burning coal was necessary to keep them hot! And what about special appliances for washing linen! How tired must have been our ancestors after using them! These days we can do housework much quicker and with less effort.

All things mentioned above are on the positive side of technological progress.

It seems we have the technical world under control. But we mustn’t let it run our lives. It can happen when technologies become too relaxing. Nowadays teens are increasingly using their mobiles and computers for communicating. They use a new form of their language, which affects their writing abilities. Special research shows that teens who regularly use text messaging make more mistakes in writing. Technology makes teens lazy. Many teenagers rely on technology to do all their work and some of them can’t even do simple maths!

Moreover, information technologies can be even harmful for young persons who spend hours and hours with their telephones or tablet PCs because it’s time consuming. Teens stop reading paper books, drawing, playing music, hanging out with friend, doing sports. One girl says she got even sillier when she used her computer non-stop with no definite purpose.

One more ‘relaxing’ effect of technology is on ‘minus’ side. We mean its influence on our leisure time. People say modern technology turns us into ‘couch potatoes’ as we don’t have to go to theatres, cinemas, museums, shops if we can watch films or performances on TV or a computer, or visit a museum or shop online.

To sum it up we must say that technologies are part of our life and that would be rather difficult to do without them. We must only make sure they help us but don’t influence our personalities! Then ‘relaxing’ effects of technologies may become positive! We shouldn’t neglect joys of real life and we shouldn’t lose our skills either. Of course that doesn’t mean we must use heavy irons run by burning coals but we must be prepared to the idea that some day there will be no computers or Internet. And we must be able to write reports, letters, do shopping, play games and so on without them.

Литература

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