



THE ATTRACTION OF 'SLOW TECH'



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1FQ4-51L5-330



1

Warm up

Look at the pictures and discuss the following questions.



picture A



picture B



picture C

1. Do you use any of the objects in the pictures?
2. Why do you think people still use old-fashioned devices, even though they are not very practical?
3. What are some of the disadvantages of modern technology?



2 Focus on vocabulary

Add vowels to create words that match the definitions.

Group 1:

1. b _ nn _ d (v) - prohibited or not allowed
2. g _ t-t _ g _ th _ r (n) - a gathering or meeting of people
3. r _ sh (n) - a feeling of excitement
4. cl _ ck (n) - the sound made by pressing a button or snapping something into place
5. w _ nd (v) - turn or twist something, often to make it function
6. d _ v _ l _ p (v) - process film or photographs to make them visible
7. r _ pl _ c _ t _ (v) - reproduce or recreate something

Group 2:

1. v _ nyl (n) - a type of material used to make records for playing music
2. n _ st _ lg _ _ (n) - a sentimental longing or affection for the past
3. cr _ ckl _ ng (n) - short, sharp sound, often characterised by a series of rapid, popping noises
4. str _ _ m _ ng (n) - a method of sending or receiving data, especially video or sound, over a computer network
5. _ th _ c _ l (adj.) - relating to principles of right and wrong behaviour
6. st _ nd | th _ | t _ st | _ f | t _ m _ (idiom) - remain valuable or relevant over a long period

3 Listening for comprehension



You will hear four people talk about why they enjoy using older technology. Listen to the audio and answer the following questions.

Which speaker...

speaker 1
speaker 3

speaker 1
speaker 3

speaker 2
speaker 4

speaker 2
speaker 4

1. ...compares their hobby to a ritual? _____
2. ...highlights the cost of their hobby? _____
3. ...keeps a modern device for certain situations? _____
4. ...feels a connection to previous times? _____
5. ...says there is a misunderstanding about their decision? _____
6. ...started a trend among people they know? _____
7. ...feels that their decision has affected their wellbeing? _____
8. ...believes there are too many options today? _____



4

Analogue vs digital

Use the words in capitals to form new words that fill the gaps.

Analogue versus digital**Understanding the differences**

- A. Analogue technology is like using a traditional radio with a dial. It operates smoothly, changing its signal _____¹ (**CONTINUE**), similar to how you adjust the volume. When you tune in to a station, you're picking up a frequency, and the sound you hear _____² (**MATCH**) the strength of that signal at that moment.
- B. On the other hand, digital technology is the same as using a computer. It breaks everything into tiny pieces called bits, which are either 0s or 1s, similar to a language with only two letters. These bits _____³ (**SIGN**) information, such as numbers or sounds, and they're processed very quickly. Unlike analogue, which flows smoothly, digital technology jumps from one piece of information to the next, making it more precise and _____⁴ (**DEPEND**), like flicking a light switch on and off.
- C. Analogue technology is often praised for its natural and smooth _____⁵ (**REPRESENT**) of data, particularly in audio and visual signals. However, digital technology's accuracy and reliability make it superior in terms of storage, _____⁶ (**PRECISE**), and transmission of data.

Source: *softwaretestinghelp.com*

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Focus on vocabulary

You are going to read an article about the appeal of 'slow tech'. Add the following words to the gaps in the definitions.

Group 1:

electronic excitement experimentation images interest longer rate

- written-off (adj.)** - deemed no _____ useful or valuable
- revival (n)** - a renewed _____ or resurgence
- synthesisers (n)** - _____ musical instruments that generate audio signals
- exponentially (adv.)** - at an increasingly rapid _____
- get a buzz out of (phrase)** - derive _____ or pleasure from something
- trial and error (phrase)** - a process of _____ to achieve a desired result
- grainy (adj.)** - having a texture resembling grains, often used to describe low-resolution _____

**Group 2:****imitate****negative****new****slow****style****surpassing**

1. **painterly (adj.)** - resembling the _____ or techniques of a painter
2. **innovators (n)** - individuals or entities that introduce _____ ideas or methods
3. **laggards (n)** - individuals or entities that are _____ to adopt new ideas or technology
4. **audacity (n)** - boldness or daring, often in a _____ sense
5. **transcendent (adj.)** - _____ ordinary limits, exceptional or extraordinary
6. **mimic (v)** - _____ or copy closely

6**Reading comprehension**

Part A: Scan the article about the analogue technology revival and write what the numbers below relate to.

1. 900

2. 13

3. 40

Part B: Read the following sentences and decide which gaps (1-5) they should go in. There is one sentence that you do not need to use.

A) Work, effort, meaning – these ideas are all linked for users and consumers of analogue technology.

B) But the new "anti-tech" revival can also be seen as a form of status.

C) This means there are now more analogue options available than at any time since the 1970s.

D) This move saved the brand from demise.

E) There are numerous options available for people who have turned their back on the norm.

F) This has led some artists to reclaim the ground lost to new technology.



The analogue revival

Rediscovering the beauty of old technology

- I. From records to film cameras, all kinds of apparently written-off technologies have been making a comeback. The vinyl revival is creating a rise in the number of independent shops, with UK high streets now having a third more than a decade ago, and vinyl records account for around 40% of record sales in the US. Such has been the interest in analogue synthesisers that famous old brands including Korg and Moog have relaunched lower-priced models aimed at beginners, while also reviving older classics for professionals. _____¹ This has been happening with all sorts of artistic activities.
- II. Deceleration is beneficial for individual wellbeing, the environment, and businesses alike. And it is expected that interest in such experiences will rise exponentially in the coming years. Recognising our need to occasionally slow down can also be the basis for winning consumer strategies. During its peak in the 1970s, Polaroid experienced significant success, selling up to 13 million cameras annually and generating \$2 billion in yearly sales. However, by 2001, it had been declared bankrupt. Austrian businessman Florian Kaps, through his organisation Impossible Project, stepped in to rescue them. They purchased the company's last factory in the Netherlands just days before its scheduled closure. _____² Simultaneously, there has been a resurgence of interest in traditional activities across various domains, including board games, letter writing, and reading physical books.
- III. In fashion, commercial photographers using film are earning more than those who use digital, largely because they are able to stand out in a market filled with technically great work. Luxury brands such as Gucci are particularly keen on using film photography as this gives their material a different look. _____³ While work is often seen as a means to an end, from earning a living to exercising, "analoguers" get a buzz out of the processes of setting the equipment up, getting things right, trial and error, and learning new skills. This is reflected in the 900% increase in film camera sales in the past eight years.
- IV. While making music, film, or visual arts, "happy accidents" caused by analogue technology can lead to creative inspiration. The grainy nature of film or the special sound of vinyl are key parts of the cultural significance of art and music. Many of Mick Rock's legendary music photographs, such as the cover of Lou Reed's album Transformer, are technically limited because he was shooting in low light and pushing the film to its limits, but as a result, they have a painterly feel that has improved their appeal and power.
- V. Consumers who use new technology have traditionally been seen as the innovators while the slowest to adopt are the laggards, often because of an inability to afford the latest innovation. _____⁴ This is especially true given the costs associated with use, repair, and the physical space necessary for storage.
- VI. There is, however, another reason for the growing popularity of this old and sometimes difficult technology – it just feels more human. _____⁵ Nick Cave, when sent the lyrics of a song made by Open AI's chatbot ChatGPT "in the style of Nick Cave", wrote back in January 2023: "ChatGPT has no inner being, it has been nowhere, it has endured nothing, it has not had the audacity to reach beyond its limitations, and it doesn't have the capacity for a shared transcendent experience. This is what we humans can offer that AI can only mimic."

Sources: BBC, The Conversation





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Talking point

Discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think the term "happy accidents" means in the context of analogue technology?
2. Considering the financial and practical challenges associated with older technology, why do you think there is still a growing interest in them?
3. Do you think art needs to be created by a human in order to have value?

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Optional extensions / homework

Task A: On each card is a word or phrase from today's lesson and its definition. In pairs, take turns to take a card from the pile and read out the definition from the card. If the other person correctly says the word or phrase it corresponds to, they earn a point and the card goes to their pile. If they answer incorrectly, the other person keeps the card.

Task B: Write an essay agreeing or disagreeing with one of these statements. You should write at least 250 words and check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

- The preference for analogue technology highlights a growing frustration with the digital world.
- Most people who use old technology are just following a fashion trend.
- The appeal of slow living lies in its ability to create deeper connections and experiences.



Transcripts

3. Listening for comprehension

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: My obsession with letter writing goes back to when I was staying at a yoga retreat. Mobile phones were banned, so if me and the other guests wanted to meet up with each other, we'd leave little notes. I really enjoyed not being tied to my mobile, so decided to keep it up when I got home. It can be a bit difficult to arrange last-minute plans, and I do still have a phone for emergencies, but in general, if I want to share some news or arrange a get-together, I'll do it by letter. The funny thing is, lots of my friends have decided to start doing the same thing. It's such a rush to receive a handwritten letter in the post, and I've also found it easier to express how I feel. Maybe it's this digitalised world we live in, but I think communicating in this way just feels a lot more meaningful.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: There's something really special about taking photos with an old camera. It's not just about snapping a quick picture; there's a lot more to it than that. The click it makes, the way you wind the film - it's a sensory experience that digital cameras can't give you. When I'm out taking photos, I feel like I'm connected to the past, to the history of photography. Sure, digital cameras are easier and give you instant results, but there's something nice about the surprise of using film. Every photo is different, a mix of light and dark that is hard to predict. Of course, film can be expensive, and it takes time to develop, but when you get a really great shot, it's definitely worth it.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: You can't replicate the unique sound of vinyl records. As someone who loves music, I think they have a depth and warmth that digital music especially can't match. There's a feeling of nostalgia when you put a record on the player, gently lower the needle, and hear the crackling sound as the music begins. It's like a little ceremony, a way of treating the records with the respect they deserve. Streaming music is easier, but I sometimes feel as if there's too much choice. It's too easy to just change to a different song instead of listening to an entire album. Plus, collecting records is fun; it's exciting searching through boxes of records and finding new ones to enjoy.

Narrator: Speaker 4



Speaker 4: A lot of people assume that my decision to learn how to make my own clothes was an ethical decision, that I was turning my back on consumer culture. The reality is, I wanted to wear clothes that I really liked and the high street shops just didn't meet my needs. The quality is poor, the style is boring, and they often break. Now, I'm able to wear exactly what I want, and I know that my clothes will stand the test of time. I'm also saving a small fortune. Of course, it's not as convenient, and for some everyday basics I do go to a shop, but this slower, more thoughtful way of living really suits me, and I've found that it's affected other areas of my life. I definitely feel a lot calmer.



Key

1. Warm up

5 mins.

Guide students as they discuss the questions, correcting any mistakes.

2. Focus on vocabulary

5 mins.

Inform students that they should first try to complete the exercise independently, checking the pronunciation of any challenging words. Additionally, encourage them to provide examples of how to use the vocabulary.

Group 1:

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. banned | 2. get-together | 3. rush | 4. click |
| 5. wind | 6. develop | 7. replicate | |

Group 2:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1. vinyl | 2. nostalgia | 3. crackling |
| 4. streaming | 5. ethical | 6. stand the test of time |

3. Listening for comprehension

5 mins.

Students should highlight keywords in the questions before they start. For obvious reasons, the answers will not be in the same order as the questions.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. speaker 3 | 2. speaker 2 | 3. speaker 1 | 4. speaker 2 |
| 5. speaker 4 | 6. speaker 1 | 7. speaker 4 | 8. speaker 3 |

4. Analogue vs digital

5 mins.

Students should pay attention to the surrounding words to determine the appropriate form of the word in bold. For instance, if there's an article or a possessive pronoun before the gap, the next word is probably a noun.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. continuously | 2. matches | 3. signify |
| 4. dependable | 5. representation | 6. precision |

Source:

<https://www.softwaretestinghelp.com/analog-vs-digital-signal/>

5. Focus on vocabulary

5 mins.

Explain to students that they should attempt the exercise unaided at first, checking the pronunciation of difficult words and asking them to give examples.

**Group 1:**

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------|
| 1. longer | 2. interest | 3. electronic | 4. rate |
| 5. excitement | 6. experimentation | 7. images | |

Group 2:

- | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. style | 2. new | 3. slow | 4. negative | 5. surpassing | 6. imitate |
|----------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|------------|

6. Reading comprehension**Part A:**

5 mins.

Students should not read the article in detail, but should instead quickly search for the information below.

1. the percentage increase in film camera sales over the last eight years
2. the quantity of cameras, in millions, sold by Polaroid annually in the 1970s
3. the percentage of album sales records account for

Part B:

10 mins.

Look for transitional phrases that indicate relationships between sentences, context clues, and logical flow.

1. **C**) This means there are now more analogue options available than at any time since the 1970s.
2. **D**) This move saved the brand from demise.
3. **A**) Work, effort, meaning – these ideas are all linked for users and consumers of analogue technology.
4. **B**) But the new "anti-tech" revival can also be seen as a form of status.
5. **F**) This has led some artists to reclaim the ground lost to new technology.

Sources:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240426-why-we-continue-to-embrace-analogue-tech>

<https://theconversation.com/hard-work-and-happy-accidents-why-do-so-many-of-us-prefer-difficult-analogue-technology-227472>

7. Talking point

5 mins.

Monitor the students' conversations and encourage them to expand on their ideas.

'happy accidents' - good things as a result of something not done on purpose

8. Optional extensions / homework**Task A:**

10 mins.

Go through the instructions. The game can also be played in teams. To make it more difficult, ask students to spell the word.



Revival A renewed interest or resurgence	Written-off Deemed no longer useful or valuable	Trial and error A process of experimentation to achieve a desired result
Laggards Individuals or entities that are slow to adopt new ideas or technologies	Exponentially At an increasingly rapid rate	Audacity Boldness or daring, often in a negative sense
Get - together A gathering or meeting of people	Transcendent Surpassing ordinary limits, exceptional or extraordinary	Rush A feeling of excitement
Nostalgia A sentimental longing or affection for the past	Vinyl A type of material used to make records for playing music	Streaming A method of sending or receiving data over a computer network

Task B:

45 mins.+

Encourage students to use the vocabulary they have learnt in today's lesson. Brainstorm some ideas in the class if there is time.