

Scientific and Technological Progress

We are living in the modern world, full of different interesting and useful things that technological progress has given us for usage. Science has given us possibility to fly into space and step on the moon, to start studying different parts of our galaxy and even farther. For example, what wonderful pictures of our galaxy and planets and stars surrounding Earth Hubble telescope has showed to us. Now we can develop further and maybe ever step on the other planets and even populate it.

Technology has considerably made our life easier due to different discoveries. For example, nowadays we can travel with extremely high speed in different directions: many countries have high-speed trains which help us to feel comfortable all the way.

Although not even years have passed as we couldn't even dream about time when it would be enough just to tap on a screen and get connected with the other person on the different end of the world. Nowadays we can't do without such gadgets as mobile phones, PCs, digital tape recorders, air conditioners, fax machines and so on. Many people feel ill at ease without their laptop computers or GPS navigation systems.

In my opinion, technology facilitates our lives and saves our time. Computers help us do the most difficult sums and investigate complicated data. People do business, communicate and do the shopping via the Internet. It is much easier to do housework nowadays, thanks to electric equipment such as microwave ovens, washing machines and so on.

However, many people say that technology makes us lazier and weaker. For example, such technological developments as the Internet have made communication much easier, but they can cause the loss of social interaction. A lot of people prefer communicating through a keyboard than face to face. That is why people don't meet as often as they did in the past. A lot of people are fond of watching TV and playing computer games. They spend hours in front of the screen. They have no time to read books or to communicate with their friends. They move less, speak less and they even think less. Of course, such way of life does much harm to their health.

Mobile phones have changed people's lives. They give us an opportunity to stay in touch and to be reachable everywhere. It is very comfortable, especially for the busy modern lifestyle. So, the mobile phone has become a vital part of our daily lives and it is difficult to imagine how people lived without mobile phones in the past.

In my opinion, the mobile phone is a very useful device. Thanks to it, I can access people I need to speak to and I can never miss anything important. If I need some help, I just call my friends and they rush to rescue me. If I have a meeting and I'm late, I can send an SMS with my excuses. It is very fast and convenient. What is more, with the help of my mobile phone I can access the Internet, send and receive photos and video, play games, listen to music and what not.

However, mobile phones have some disadvantages. Firstly, they deprive people of privacy and it is almost impossible to relax with your mobile phone on. Secondly, many people are worried about the harmful influence of mobile phones on their health. Mobile phones use electromagnetic radiation. Scientists say that there is no significant health effect from mobile phone radiation. But still it is better not to use your mobile phone too often.

In the 90s and early 21st century artificial intelligence achieved its greatest success. Today clever machines are taught to think and make decisions. But is it safe that artificial intelligence is invading the world?

To my mind, computers and robots are very helpful. There are more and more jobs which humans leave to robots such as exploring another planet, defusing bombs or just doing boring household chores like cleaning. Computers can perform a lot of functions: they can control cars and planes, give us the news or compose music. Many factory jobs are performed by industrial robots nowadays. It has led to cheaper production of various goods, including automobiles and electronics. Artificial intelligence has successfully been used in a wide range of fields including medical diagnosis, stock trading, robot control, law, scientific discovery and toys. However, there are some reasons to worry about robots. Firstly, the use of robots in industry leads to unemployment as many jobs are performed by machines. Secondly, industrial robots can be dangerous and cause harm to human workers. Besides, many people fear that highly intelligent robots may take over and destroy the human race. There are a lot of books and films about people losing control over clever machines that begin to kill their creators. But I believe that it is early to worry because robots are still clumsy and not very intelligent.

Scientists have always dreamed of reproducing exact copies of animals and even human beings. They have already succeeded in this field and created Dolly, the first cloned sheep, and many other animals. But the question of cloning, especially human one, still remains controversial.

Personally, I think that cloning plants and animals is rather interesting and exciting. Cloned animals may be strong and healthy and they may produce more wool, meat or milk. Besides, cloning will help us preserve species that are on the brink of extinction. Moreover, cloning gives people new medical possibilities. Owing to it, scientists can create organs for transplantation and save people who need a new heart, liver or kidneys.

However, quite a lot of people are against cloning. They say that people must not interfere in the process of creating a new life because it is the duty of nature. What is more, scientists don't know for sure how clones will behave and what diseases they may transmit. As for human cloning, it seems to be dangerous and morally unacceptable. So to my mind, cloning must be used only when it is necessary to save lives and to solve important problems.

But every medal has its reverse. And the rapid scientific progress has aroused a number of problems that are a matter of our great concern. These are ecological problems, the safety of nuclear power stations, the nuclear war threat, and the responsibility of a scientist. But still we are grateful to the outstanding men of the past and the present who have courage and patience to disclose the secrets of the Universe.

To conclude, I think that science must develop in order to improve our lives. But people should be more careful when they use new technologies and investigate new phenomena.