

0'00

Hello everyone it's Hannah here from Virtually Fluent and today we are going to talk a little bit about technology through the ages. I say ages, I'm actually only 27 years old, so we're going to talk about technology over the past 27 years. However, technology has changed radically over these last 27 years, so we're going to talk a little bit about this to learn all that key technology vocabulary in English. If you would like to refresh your memory about this technology vocabulary, access the transcript from today's video or test your listening skills by completing our listening comprehension quiz, you can do all of this in our technology course, I've left the link in the description below but for now let's get started with technology through the ages.

1'00

So, in my opinion, the thing that has changed the most over the past 27 years is the means of listening to music. So when I was a child we used to listen to the radio, the big old stereo, my goodness those were the days. We used to dance around, me and my little sister used to dance around the kitchen table in my grandma's house with the radio, the stereo on full blast. I don't think I even have a radio in the house anymore, but of course you can still listen to the radio in the car. So, that's where the music kind of started for me was back with a stereo or a radio.

1'37

Then came the magical Walkman, the CD player, my goodness. I had a little silver walkman and it was so exciting to press the little eject button and the top would pop up, you could put your CD in, close it and, of course, you had to put in headphones in those days and you could, you know, cheesily dance around the room listening to this music with a CD player. My goodness, those were the days. We used to have so many CDs. It's actually only recently that I finally threw them out because I don't have any means of listening to a CD in my house anymore. Even in computers we don't, in my laptop we don't have the little CD disc, the area where you can put a disc into it to listen.

2'28

So after the CD player came the MP3 player. So it was so much smaller, much easier to carry around, you could carry it on the bus it was a little bit safer, you could pop it in your pocket while you had your headphones in and it was so exciting that you could download all the music that you wanted and create this little playlist. And if you think back now, I mean, it was still old technology but at the time it was so exciting and new.

2'54

So the MP4 players came after. I didn't get one of these but then the magical i generation appeared- the ipods. Now I remember when the iPods had come out, I think it was the nano was the first one that I got and me and my sister, we were so excited to get this brand new iPod. We'd been talking about it all year and it was at Christmas, it was a Christmas present for both of us. So I got the little green one and my sister got the orange one. I think we spent all day just uploading songs and sharing our playlists, my goodness. That was, that was good fun and even if you think about music nowadays compared to that. That was sort of, I would say about 10 years ago, no must be more than that, 15 years ago when we were using these iPod nanos.

3'40

And then the speakers came, so you could actually put your little iPod into a speaker. You had to attach it to the dock and then the music would play, sort of like the old stereos in those days and that was pretty cool at the time. I mean, now everything is wireless, you don't need to physically connect anything, you can just connect through bluetooth or through wi-fi and of course the music will play. I mean, now I don't listen to music that much but if I do I just use a Spotify or YouTube playlist so it's amazing how different listening to music is now compared to 27 years ago or over the past 27 years.

4'21

Now the next thing that's changed a lot is, of course, the phone, mobile, mobile phone, cell phone, cell, whatever you want to call it. This has also changed a lot. So I got my first mobile when I was 11 years old and it's only because I was going off to boarding school that my parents wanted a way to contact me so they bought me, it was a little Vodafone brick, a silver brick. One of those things that you could probably drop on the floor from a high height and it wouldn't break. And I remember it being, it was so exciting to get it with a little pay-as-you-go SIM and the little snake game. Can you remember that? Where you had this little snake that had to chase around to find the little block and then the snake would keep growing and getting longer and that was a really addictive game and that was back in the day.

5'12

I've kind of kept up to date with the technology of phones. Certainly when the iPhone generation came along I've kind of followed that. I did have, I think it was Motorola, it was like a flip phone. Now, at the moment, I had a bit of a nightmare a couple of weeks ago where my phone just completely died so I upgraded and now I'm currently with the latest phone. I'm not really a technology addict and need the latest version of everything but in my case of the phone, I currently do. So, again, phones have changed so much over the past 27 years. And I think if you go back even further before I was born there's an even bigger difference with phones. Think about them needing a cord to be connected and if you think about those pictures of the first mobile phones, these massive big clunky things, that technology has changed so much.

6'06

I can also remember with phones the whole bluetooth thing as well. Can you remember when, well, we used to sit in the car and if someone called your phone back in the days before various driving laws are now in place now, you could connect your little bluetooth headset and press a little button, you'd have to talk through that rather than actually using the phone, you know, all the technology that's in cars nowadays.

6'30

Now, I obviously cannot do a video about technology through the ages without talking about computers. I mean this has also changed so much, I remember the first family computer we had in our house, it was one of those big white computers, it was about this thick going back. I mean, now everything is like flat screen, my goodness. And it was so slow. It used to take ages just to do the basic things - turning on and turning off. I mean, you had buttons for everything, it was so manual, things have changed so much now.

7'02

Now, I remember with computers when we had some kind of homework task at school, we had to research something online and then we had to create a document. It wasn't very often, we used to use the library mostly. And we had to save our documents onto a floppy disk. Can you remember those little square disks? And you could write your name and the date on it and you had to put it into the computer and save it manually onto there and hand the floppy disk physically to your teacher.

7'34

I think we kind of upgraded to the USB stick so the or pen drive or thumb drive it's also called that was slightly later but now everything's just on the cloud, it all kind of saves magically somewhere on the cloud. So think about how much that has evolved in just the past 27 years.

7'53

Now I didn't advance to the laptop stage until I was about 14 or 15 years old. It was at school where I got my first laptop, which was so exciting. You could actually carry some technology into your classroom to take notes or to complete homework in your room as opposed to going to the computer room, which was so much easier. And then you've got all the extra things like printing and scanning. I mean, in the olden days (I say "olden days"), you had to manually connect a printer or a scanner to the computer. You needed a cable that was connected and it used to be so slow. My goodness, I remember standing for what felt like hours when one document was slowly printing out one line every single time.

8'36

And, of course, the fax machines. I don't think many people use fax machines nowadays. You can find kind of specialized shops for them but certainly in the business world, sending through faxes, that was always the way to do things.

8'52

Now taking photos and videos is also very different. I have so many very cute photos from when I was a baby, when I was a toddler. My mum took so many pictures but you actually took them with the camera and needed to go to a shop and then get them developed and they would be printed and then you would take them home and you've got, I think, she used to get about four or five copies of everything. So even that has changed radically in the past 27 years. I did have a little camera at one point, so first with a little clicky kind of polaroid cameras, they were quite fun. You still need to get those developed.

9'34

And then came the digital age, so I had a digital camera and that was quite exciting, all the new tools, that you could zoom in and zoom out and you could delete pictures on the camera so they wouldn't get developed, it wouldn't take up the memory but you did have to save them on a little memory card, a little SD or HD card and then you have to put that or had to put that into the computer to see the photos digitally. So even that is different. Now everything's on my phone, I don't even own a camera now. I mean the quality of taking pictures on your iPhone is so good you don't need an extra camera.

10'10

And it's the same for videos in the past and we have so many videos of my childhood. My parents used to take the tiny little tapes and get them converted onto the VHS. I have so many of these videos but I can't actually watch any of them because we don't own any of the technology at the moment. We need to get them converted into a modern way of watching these. And, again, now people just record videos on their camera. They don't need the big old video or camera recorders now.

10'45

So I was cleaning out my bedside table the other day and I came across my old Nintendo gameboy, which I was pretty addicted to when I was a kid. And I just think it looked so old, I mean, even all the buttons. Obviously there are modern day gameboys now but when I was younger, me and my sister, we used to play with these all the time, used to kind of compete against each other or race against each other connecting via bluetooth. It's amazing how so much really has changed.

11'13

And I rely on technology so much. I mean, my company is an online teaching company, you don't need separate webcams and separate speakers and all these little bits. Everything is just concise in one means of technology. Even my watch, I don't have a traditional wrist watch anymore, it's an iWatch. Even with books, we use ebooks instead of paperback books. So much has changed even in my past 27 years of life and, of course, we have this new future of technology that's coming up with robots, with artificial intelligence and think about even things like virtual reality and augmented reality. I mean, this is something that could never even have been thought about in the past when I was growing up. So technology has changed a lot in the 27 years that I've been alive, I'm pretty sure it's gonna change even more and probably even quicker over the next 27 years of my life.

12'10

So it's such a massive topic to talk about with technology. Hopefully you've learned lots of vocabulary today for all those gadgets and means of technology in English but if you would like to practise them, learn even more or complete our listening comprehension quiz on what I've said today, you can head over to our technology course. I've left the link in the description below. Go ahead and give today's video a like and don't forget to subscribe to my YouTube channel to see lots more videos with English grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, conversation videos and so much more about the British culture and life in the UK. This is Hannah from Virtually Fluent, bringing English to life.