

# Intermediate GrammarPlus

## Surrounded By Technology

1 Read this article. Which issue would you say the writer is debating?



In society today, there are many technological products. Many of them seem impossible to do without. What would you do if you didn't have an MP3 player, a mobile phone, a computer or a television? I wish somebody gave me a penny for every hour I spend in front of the television or computer. I would be rich!

Watching TV, however, is an anti-social activity which just involves staring at a screen. It can be said that there's nothing communicative about it at all. There are much more productive ways to spend your time. Even with the computer, unless you are chatting or sending emails, you're often on your own.

I have many friends who spend too much time on the Internet, and they seem to go out less and less to socialise with other people.

The MP3 player also cuts you off from the world. When you're listening to music, it's not that you can talk. The phone however, is the ideal means of communication. I would rather give up television, the MP3 player or the computer than the mobile phone. My mother doesn't seem to understand this. If only she wasn't always complaining when she has to help me pay for my phone calls. However, if I go out without my mobile, it complicates my life because I would worry about not being able to contact anybody in an emergency and would feel out of touch. Don't misunderstand me, though. I don't use the mobile phone that much, but I just prefer to have it in my coat pocket and ready to use when I need it.

I admit that I would be unhappy without my phone. I'm not very technologically-minded. I don't need a fancy phone that has many different uses. I just need something that is functional, something that makes it possible to keep in touch with friends whenever and wherever I want. That's why the gadget I could not live without is the mobile phone. I would be completely lost without this piece of technology.

### DISCOVER

#### Grammar 1 (Word Formation)

2 Read these extracts from the article, then cross out the incorrect options in the Deductions box.

- 1 *In society today, there are many technological products.*
- 2 *I'm not very technologically-minded.*
- 3 *Many of them seem impossible to do without.*
- 4 *Don't misunderstand me, though.*

3 Look at the words in the word pool. Find prefixes and suffixes in the text that have been added to these roots, then decide what changes in meaning or word class have been made.

active (adjective)	compute (verb)	play (verb)
communicate (verb)	function (noun)	produce (verb)
complete (adjective)	happy (adjective)	social (adjective)

### DEDUCTIONS

- a In the sentences in extracts 1 and 2 a *prefix / suffix* has been added to the root word *technology*.
- b In extracts 3 and 4 a *prefix / suffix* has been added to the root words *possible* and *understand*.
- c A *prefix / suffix* changes the meaning of the root word.
- d A *prefix / suffix* usually changes the word class, that is changes a verb to a noun, a noun to an adjective etc.

4 Use some of the words you have worked with in activities 2 and 3 to fill in the gaps in these sentences.

- 1 I wish my brother would be more \_\_\_\_\_ . He hardly ever talks to me.
- 2 Will you listen to what I'm saying carefully. I don't want you to \_\_\_\_\_ me.
- 3 I'm \_\_\_\_\_ satisfied with my new camera.
- 4 I don't want to seem \_\_\_\_\_ , but I really don't feel like going out this evening.
- 5 My favourite spare-time \_\_\_\_\_ is windsurfing.
- 6 This \_\_\_\_\_ is not popular with teenagers because it is too expensive.

## DISCOVER

### Grammar 2

(*wish / if only / would rather*)

5 Look at these extracts from the article, then cross out the incorrect options in the Deductions box.

- 1 *I wish somebody gave me a penny for every hour I spend in front of the television or computer. I would be rich!*
- 2 *I would rather give up television, the MP3 player or the computer than the mobile phone.*
- 3 *If only she wasn't always complaining when she has to help me pay for my phone calls.*

## DEDUCTIONS

- a The construction(s) with *wish / if only / would rather* express(es) a desire for something in the present or future.
- b The construction(s) with *wish / if only / would rather* express(es) a preference.
- c The construction(s) with *wish / if only / would rather is / are* followed by an infinitive, whereas the construction(s) with *wish / if only / would rather is / are* followed by subject + verb (Past Simple or Past Continuous).

6 Look at these sentences and fill in each gap with an appropriate verb in the correct form.



- 1 If only \_\_\_\_\_ so hard! I'd love to go out now, but it's much too wet.
- 2 I'd rather \_\_\_\_\_ this evening. I want to watch a film on TV.
- 3 I wish \_\_\_\_\_ in the mountains. I could ski all the time in the winter.
- 4 I'd rather \_\_\_\_\_ how to speak Spanish than French. Then I could speak to Manuel in his own language.

## COMMUNICATE

### Pair Work

7 Decide who is going to be A and who is going to be B, then do the following.

- Student A, think and make a note of three things you would like to happen or to be different with respect to a present situation, as in example A
- Student B, think and make a note of three situations in which you have to make a choice and express your preference, as in example B
- tell each other about your desires and preferences and react to what your partner says, then exchange roles

*I wish / if only my family lived near the sea.*

*I'd rather live in the country than in the mountains.*

