**The Ever-Evolving World of Computer Technologies**

Today, it’s hard to imagine life without computers. From the moment we wake up to the time we go to sleep, computers and related technologies are interwoven into the fabric of our daily routines. These technologies are constantly evolving, bringing new possibilities and challenges.

At its core, a computer is a machine that processes information. But modern computers are far more than just calculators. They are incredibly versatile tools that can perform a vast array of tasks, limited only by the software they run and the imagination of their users.

The internet, a global network connecting billions of devices, has revolutionized communication and access to information. Through the internet, we can connect with friends and family across continents, research nearly any topic imaginable, and engage in online communities that share our interests.

Smartphones, portable computers that fit in our pockets, have further extended the reach of technology. These devices allow us to stay connected on the go, access information instantly, and perform tasks that were once confined to a desktop computer.

Beyond personal use, computers are indispensable in almost every industry. Businesses rely on computers for managing finances, tracking inventory, marketing their products, and communicating with customers. Scientists use computers to analyze data, simulate complex systems, and make groundbreaking discoveries. Doctors use computers to diagnose illnesses, perform surgery, and develop new treatments.

The field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly advancing, promising to further transform our world. AI-powered systems can now perform tasks that once required human intelligence, such as recognizing faces, translating languages, and even driving cars. However, the rise of AI also raises important ethical considerations about job displacement and the potential misuse of these technologies.

Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) are creating immersive experiences that blur the line between the physical and digital worlds. VR headsets transport users to entirely new environments, while AR apps overlay digital information onto the real world. These technologies have potential applications in fields such as gaming, education, and training.

As computer technologies continue to advance, it is crucial that we develop the skills and knowledge to use them effectively and responsibly. This includes understanding the potential benefits and risks, protecting our privacy and security online, and using technology to create a more equitable and sustainable future.

**Vocabulary List (for reference):**

* **Evolve (v):** Развиваться
* **Interwoven (adj):** Вплетенный, тесно связанный
* **Fabric (n):** Структура, ткань
* **Routine (n):** Повседневность, рутина
* **Core (n):** Ядро, суть
* **Process (v):** Обрабатывать
* **Versatile (adj):** Универсальный
* **Array (n):** Множество
* **Software (n):** Программное обеспечение
* **Imagination (n):** Воображение
* **Revolutionize (v):** Произвести революцию
* **Continent (n):** Континент
* **Engage (v):** Вовлекаться, участвовать
* **Portable (adj):** Портативный, переносной
* **Indispensable (adj):** Необходимый, незаменимый
* **Finances (n):** Финансы
* **Track (v):** Отслеживать
* **Inventory (n):** Инвентарь, складские запасы
* **Marketing (n):** Маркетинг
* **Groundbreaking (adj):** Революционный, новаторский
* **Diagnose (v):** Диагностировать
* **Illness (n):** Болезнь
* **Advance (v):** Продвигаться, развиваться
* **Promise (v):** Обещать
* **Misuse (n):** Злоупотребление, неправильное использование
* **Ethical (adj):** Этический
* **Immersive (adj):** Создающий эффект присутствия, захватывающий
* **Blur (v):** Размывать, стирать
* **Overlay (v):** Накладывать
* **Equitable (adj):** Справедливый, равноправный
* **Sustainable (adj):** Устойчивый, экологичный

**Lexico-Grammatical Exercises:**

**A. Matching (Basic Vocabulary):**

Match the word to its simple definition:

1. Computer a) You use this to talk and take pictures.
2. Internet b) A machine that helps you work and play games.
3. Smartphone c) A network connecting computers around the world.

**B. True or False (Simple Comprehension):**

Read the sentences and write TRUE or FALSE.

1. Computers are not important today. (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. You can use the internet to talk to friends. (\_\_\_\_\_)
3. Smartphones are big computers. (\_\_\_\_\_)

**C. Fill-in-the-Blanks (Common Words):**

Choose a word from the box to complete the sentences.

* **Computers**
* **Information**
* **Jobs**
* **Safe**
* **Use**
1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ help us find information.
2. We can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ computers at work.
3. It’s important to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ online.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are in our homes and schools.
5. Many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ require computer skills.

***Scientific and Technological Progress***

It's difficult to overestimate the role of science and technology in our life. They accelerate the development of civilization and help us in our co-operation with nature. Scientists investigate the laws of the universe, discover the secrets of nature, and apply their knowledge in practice improving the life of people.

Let's compare our life nowadays with the life of people at the 'beginning of the 20th century. It has changed beyond recognition. Our ancestors hadn't the slightest idea of the trivial things created by the scientific progress that we use in our every day life. I mean refrigerators, TV sets, computers, microwave ovens, radio telephones, what not. They would seem miracle to them that made our life easy, comfortable and pleasant. On the other hand, the great inventions of the beginning of the 20th century, I mean radio, aeroplanes, combustion and jet engines have become usual things and we can't imagine our life without them.

A century is a long period for scientific and technological progress, as it's rather rapid. Millions of investigations, the endless number of outstanding discoveries have been made. Our century has had several names that were connected with a certain era in science and technology. At first it was called the atomic age due to the discovery of the splitting of the atom. Then it became the age of the conquest of space when for the first time in the history of mankind a man overcame the gravity and entered the Universe. And now we live in the information era when the computer network embraces the globe and connects not only the countries and space stations but a lot of people all over the world. All these things prove the power and the greatest progressive role of science in our life.

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.

**Words and word combinations:**

to accelerate-ускорить

to investigate-исследовать

a universe-вселенная

to apply-обращаться

to improve-улучшать

an ancestor-предок

a combustion-сгорание

a miracle-чудо

rapid-быстрый

splitting-сильная

a conquest-покорение

a mankind-человечество

to overcome-преодолеть

a gravity-серьезность

to reverse-переставлять

to arouse-вызывать

a concern-интерес

a treat-развлечение

a courage-смелость

to disclose-обнаруживать

**Give the English equivalents for:**

Ускорять развитие цивилизации, исследовать законы вселенной, изменяться до неузнавания, казаться чудом, век завоевании космоса, впервые в истории человечества, выходить во вселенную, пробуждать большое количество проблем, причина интереса, иметь храбрость и терпение, обнаружить секреты.

**Answer the questions:**

1. What accelerates the development of civilization and helps us in our cooperation with nature?

2. How did our life change from the beginning of the 20th century?

3. What names has our century?

4. What outstanding discoveries in our century do you know?

5. What problems has the rapid scientific progress?