

READING A Blog Entry

1 Read the blog and choose the correct answer.

- 1 Why did Kevin write about microchipping?
 - a to encourage young people to get microchips
 - b Because he thinks the UK should follow Sweden's example.
 - c Because he has some concerns about it.
 - d in order to warn people against it
- 2 Kevin mentions social media sites because ...
 - a microchips will eventually connect to them
 - b they involve similar privacy issues to microchips
 - c of the clear rules and laws regarding the data they collect
 - d some of those companies will own the information collected from microchips
- 3 Kevin points out that implanted microchips ...
 - a are more convenient for some tasks than other technologies
 - b will never need upgrading
 - c can be equipped with facial-recognition technology
 - d perform the same tasks as other technologies we use today

2 Write T (true) or F (false) next to each sentence. Find evidence in the text to justify your answers.

- 1 So far, implanted microchips are used in a very limited way.
- 2 Radio frequency identification technology is a brand-new development in microchips.
- 3 Microchips will keep track of where people are.
- 4 Kevin believes that microchips damage people's nerves.

3 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 a general development in the way people are behaving (lines 1-9)
- 2 I'm thinking or worrying about (lines 1-9)
- 3 connect (lines 10-17)
- 4 fixed a problem (lines 17-23)
- 5 consider (lines 22-32)



Kevin's Blog: Want to get chipped?

The idea of implanting microchips in our body always seemed cool to me. But now that it's becoming a reality, I'm not so sure. I recently read that more than 4,000 people in Sweden are "chipped", primarily for ID and digital access to buildings. But this is just the start.

Even though it sounds exciting, I don't think the UK should join in this trend before having a serious public debate about it. So in this post, I'd like to share the issues that have been on my mind.

- 10 These tiny electronic devices are injected by needle, usually near the thumb. They use radio frequency identification technology – the same technology as in credit cards, airline luggage tags, and in the chips required for pet dogs and cats. There's a good chance
- 15 that microchips will eventually replace credit cards, link to our medical and bank records and monitor our location. As a society, we must decide who will own the data, who can access it and how much control individuals will have over it. We still haven't really
- 20 resolved these issues regarding social media sites. Will we do better when it comes to microchips? In addition, we need to know how easy they are to hack and whether they can be infected with viruses.

More importantly, doctors still don't know about all the potential health risks. Can the chips cause an allergic reaction or nerve damage, as some opponents claim? Also, because they contain metal, the chips may interfere with some medical diagnostic tools such as MRI machines. Another thing to take into account is the need to upgrade as more sophisticated chips come along. So far, removing them requires a small incision – and how often will people want to do that?

We already use technology capable of doing similar tasks to these chips, including e-wallets and location tracking on smartphones, remote controls and keypads that open doors, and smartcards for medical information. We also have technologies to confirm identity, including digital fingerprints, facial recognition and eye scans. So, is there really a reason to have a foreign object inside our bodies?

I may get a microchip one day, but not before there are answers regarding data control, health effects and security. What about you?

