

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.

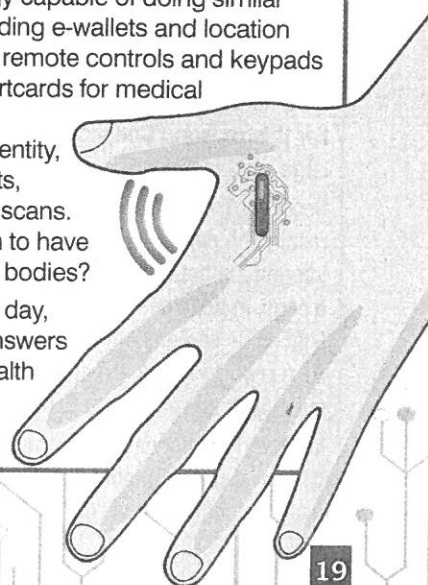
- 10 These tiny electronic devices are injected by needle, usually near the thumb. They use radio frequency identification technology – the same technology as in credit cards, airline luggage tags, and in the chips required for pet dogs and cats. There's a good chance
- 15 that microchips will eventually 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

- 30 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
- 35 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,
- 40 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

- 45 regarding data control, health effects and security. What about you?



WRITING An Opinion Essay

1 Complete each sentence with one of the connectors above each sentence pair.

so | because

- 1 Jeff's tablet didn't work he forgot to charge it.

Jeff forgot to charge his tablet, it didn't work.

therefore | since

- 2 The exam will be done on the computer., you will get your score immediately after you finish.

You will get your score immediately after you finish your exam it will be done on the computer.

for this reason | due to

- 3 There was thick fog., it was dangerous to drive.

It was dangerous to drive thick fog.

as a result of | as a result

- 4 There was a huge snowstorm last night., school has been cancelled.

School has been cancelled the huge snowstorm last night.

2 Choose TWO correct answers in the opinion essay below.

DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS ONLY?

Adults often complain that teens spend too much time at their screens. But soon, that's how many of us will be studying,

¹ **because of / as / due to** the decision by some schools to replace ordinary textbooks with e-books. As I see it, this is a terrible idea.

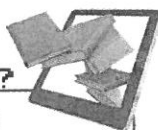
To begin with, not all students have e-readers, tablets or laptops

² **as / so / because** their families can't afford them. And although most have smartphones, the screens are small. ³ **As a result of /**

For this reason / Consequently, they're not suitable for reading large amounts of material.

Secondly, many studies have shown that there are advantages to reading on paper. One advantage is that many people remember information better when they can visualise where it appeared on a page. In addition, although we don't consciously notice it, the lighting on screens often dims and brightens quickly. ⁴ **Therefore / As a result / Since**, experts say, reading on screens is harder on our eyes than reading on paper.

In short, I am opposed to having only e-books ⁵ **since / as / so** it will make learning more difficult for many students and penalise those without suitable reading devices.



TASK Write an Opinion Essay

Write an opinion essay on the following question: Should all school exams be done on computer rather than on paper? Write 100–120 words.

PREPARE FOR THE TASK

3 Brainstorm your essay. Read the statements below. Which support computer-based exams? Which are against?

- 1 One benefit is that students can often get immediate results.
- 2 Studies have shown that students concentrate more when writing by hand.
- 3 Teachers can use graphics to create more interesting exams.
- 4 It's too easy to hit the wrong key when typing.
- 5 Teens are used to working on computers.
- 6 It's easier to read on paper than on a screen.

Add your own ideas to the list. Decide whether you agree or disagree with the question in the task.

DO THE TASK

4 Organise your ideas into paragraphs and write your essay. Use the model in Exercise 2 and the Useful Expressions below to help you. Remember to use connectors of cause and result.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

I agree / disagree ... because ...

This is / is not a good way to ...

In my opinion, / As I see it, ...

Most people would ...

The benefits / advantages of ...

There are advantages to ...

The problem of / with ...

I believe / do not believe ...

I support / do not support ...

First of all, / To begin with, ...

Secondly, ...

To sum up, / In short, / In conclusion, ...

CHECK YOUR WORK

5 Use the checklist below to check your work.

- Organisation
- Word order
- Spelling
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Use of connectors