

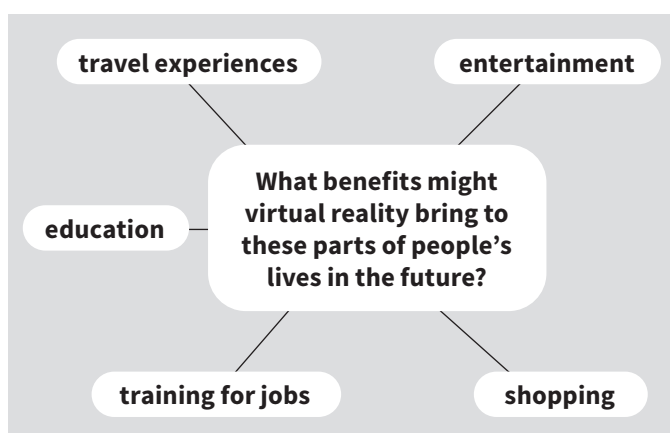
A DISCUSSION

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 What experience do you have of virtual reality?
- 2 What advantages do you think it can bring to people's lives?



2 In pairs, look at the question and the ideas related to it. Which two benefits do you think are the most important? Why?



3 Ali and Tara are discussing some of the benefits of virtual reality. Read part of their conversation. Which two ideas from Exercise 2 do they talk about?

- Ali:** OK, so we need to discuss what kinds of benefits virtual reality might bring to people's lives.
- Tara:** Yes, that's right.
- Ali:** Perhaps we could start with education?
- Tara:** Good idea. So, if you ask me, virtual reality could bring huge benefits to education. For example, imagine a history lesson where you can actually experience being in a town or city in the past, rather than just reading about it in a book.

- Ali:** I hadn't thought of that, but it would be really useful. And another thing is that with virtual reality, students can experience visiting museums or historic sites all around the world, so they can learn a lot more without leaving home.
- Tara:** Exactly!
- Ali:** Perhaps we should talk about training for jobs next. What's your take on this one?
- Tara:** Well, it seems to me that virtual reality will become a lot more important in training, and it could save lives.
- Ali:** That's interesting. In what ways, do you think?
- Tara:** Well, think about dangerous jobs like firefighters. It's much safer to train in a virtual fire, rather than a real one.
- Ali:** I know what you mean, but don't you think it's also important to train in the real world?
- Tara:** Of course! Absolutely! But on the other hand, virtual reality can be really useful for people who have very little experience.

4 Read the conversation again and answer the questions.

- 1 What example does Tara give of how virtual reality could help with education?
- 2 What second example does Ali add?
- 3 Which of Tara's ideas is Ali not sure about?

KEY LANGUAGE FOR A DISCUSSION

Starting the discussion

Perhaps we could start with ...? Perhaps we should talk about ...

Encouraging your partner to speak

What's your take on this one? Would you agree that ...? How do you mean? In what ways, do you think?

Responding to your partner's comments

That's interesting. I hadn't thought of that.

Agreeing with your partner and adding a similar idea

Of course! Absolutely! Exactly! And another thing is ... And it's also true that ...

Questioning your partner and adding a contrasting idea

I know what you mean, but don't you think ...? But you could argue that ... I take your point, but ... On the other hand, ...

5 Read the conversation between Tara and Ali again. Underline the phrases from the *Key Language* box that they use.

6 Choose the correct words in *italics* to complete part of another conversation about virtual reality.

A: ¹*Would* / *Couldn't* you agree that virtual reality can really transform people's experience of entertainment?

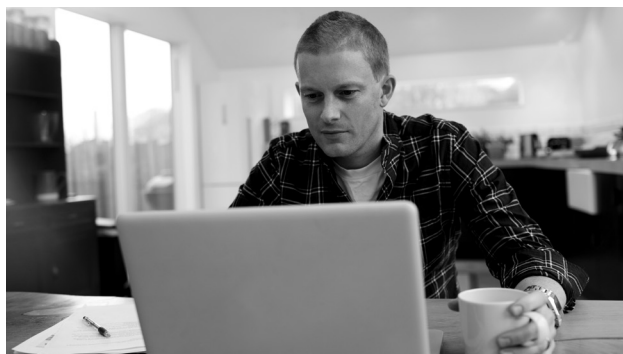
B: ²*Why* / *How* do you mean?

A: Well, think about a music festival. Not everyone can travel to be at the live festival, but soon it will be possible to attend anyway, through a virtual reality experience.

B: I ³*have* / *take* your point. But, on the other ⁴*hand* / *side*, I don't think a virtual experience of a music festival would be as good as actually going to the event.

A: Of course! Nothing can replace the real thing. But you ⁵*would* / *could* argue that the technology will make the experience available to a lot more people, who can't go to the real event.

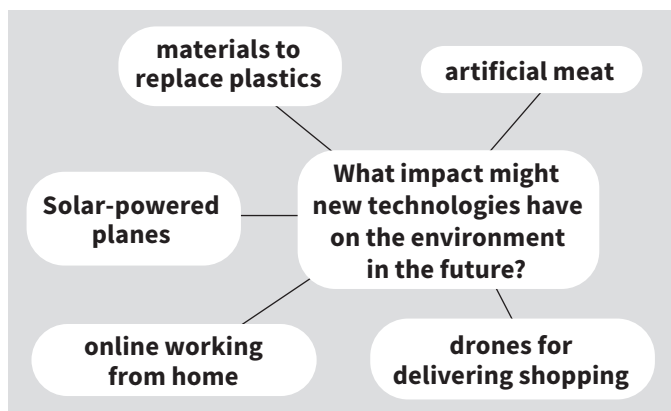
B: That's true.



7 Complete the sentences with one word in each space.

- 1 Shall we talk about shopping next? What's your on this one?
- 2 In what do you think shopping with virtual reality would be better than just using a website?
- 3 That's interesting. I hadn't of that.
- 4 I agree with you. And it's also that shopping online is much faster, and often cheaper.
- 5 I know what you but don't you think the experience of a real-life shop is always better?
- 6 Exactly! And thing is that most people don't want to spend all their lives at home!

8 Look at five ways in which new technologies might benefit the environment in the future. Think about each technology and what you can say about it.



9 Work in pairs. Discuss the question in Exercise 8 and at least three of the ideas.

10 Tell the class some of your ideas and reasons.

ACTIVE LISTENING

Listen while your classmates talk about their ideas. Which ideas were the same as yours? Which do you disagree with?