

Starting up

- What actions have you taken to fight Covid-19?
- What special measures has your place of work or institution used to slow or stop the disease?
- Have you used any technological solutions, for example apps that record people's movements?

Vocabulary 1 – technology and Covid-19

Match each **bold** word with the correct definition.

- 1 **Wearable** technology such as smart watches and smart glasses allows users to keep their hands free while checking their location, viewing messages or connect to the internet.
 - 2 Companies are creating **novel** ways to work while dealing with Covid-19.
 - 3 Where possible, people are trying to avoid working in close **proximity** to other people.
 - 4 Companies have introduced a lot of new rules to **safeguard** employees and keep people healthy.
 - 5 The **outbreak** of Covid-19 began in December 2019.
 - 6 Companies and governments can use **tracking technology** to follow people's movements and know how far away they are from other people.
-
- a nearness in distance
 - b made to be attached to a person's body
 - c to protect from harm or damage
 - d equipment that allows people to know your exact location
 - e new
 - f the sudden beginning of an illness

Reading 1

True or false, according to the article?

- 1 Technology is being used to stop the spread of Covid-19 in sports.
- 2 The technology shows how close people are to other people.
- 3 Its main purpose is to identify people who are ill.
- 4 Some people are against using the technology.
- 5 The technology has not yet been used in actual workplaces.

Basketball tech used to fight Covid-19 on factory floor

Wearable chips designed to track the speed and movement of elite sports stars are being ¹**deployed** to the factory floor, as the world's largest corporations look at novel ways to restart operations in the age of coronavirus.

With sports leagues ²**suspended** across the globe, the devices, which usually measure the performances of NBA and NFL players in real time, are being handed out to workers in Germany, Switzerland and the US.

Used by teams including basketball's New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls, and football's Paris St Germain, the sensors designed by Munich-based start-up Kinexon, which are smaller than a matchbox, measure the proximity of manufacturing staff to ensure physical distancing remains in place.

If two devices come into proximity, they ³**emit** warning signals and record how long close contact lasted.

Private sector companies across the world are racing to develop apps and other tracking tools that can monitor the movement of individual workers around offices, warehouses and factory floors. They hope to build tools that will enable businesses to get back to work quickly, while safeguarding against outbreaks within workplaces.

However, tracking employee movements has raised concerns about data privacy, while critics have questioned the accuracy of technology that fails to ⁴**account for** other factors, such as protective equipment.

Kinexon's product, called SafeZone, is already being used by one of the biggest car parts makers, as well as multinational logistics companies and food suppliers. Employees can wear the sensors on their wrists or attach them to their ID cards.

The company claims that SafeZone, which uses ultra-wideband tracking technology, is 10 times more accurate than **tracing** tools based on bluetooth or wireless internet connections.



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Reading 2

Choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 According to the article, who has recently begun wearing chips to track speed and movement?
 - a) hospital staff
 - b) factory workers
 - c) top athletes
- 2 What does the technology do?
 - a) makes a noise when people are too close
 - b) checks temperature and heart rate
 - c) allows access to certain areas
- 3 What's the main reason for using the technology?
 - a) to provide data for medical research
 - b) to check on workers at home
 - c) to allow people to return to work
- 4 What does the technology not record when it gives a warning?
 - a) the use of face masks or other protection
 - b) the exact location of the workers
 - c) the time they are near each other
- 5 Why is ultra-wideband tracking technology better than other similar technologies?
 - a) it protects users' privacy better
 - b) it shows a more exact location
 - c) it's much cheaper

Vocabulary 2 – vocabulary in context

Choose the correct meaning of the bold words in the article.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 a) used on | b) produced on |
| 2 a) re-started | b) stopped |
| 3 a) record | b) produce |
| 4 a) consider | b) create |
| 5 a) finding and following | b) communication |

Grammar 1 – zero and first conditionals

Complete the sentences with the present simple or *will / won't* future form of the verbs in brackets.

- A What do the tracking devices do?
- B If two devices come into proximity, they ¹..... (emit) warning signals.
- A Do you plan to use them?
- B If my manager agrees, we ²..... (order) one for every factory worker.
- A What if people don't want to use them?
- B If people refuse to wear them, we ³..... (not allow) them to come to work. It's too dangerous.
- A What about data privacy?
- B I agree that it's a concern, but it's our company's policy – and the law – that when people come to work for us, we ⁴..... (give) them a safe working environment. If we don't protect take reasonable actions to protect workers from Covid-19, they ⁵..... (not be able) to return to work.

Grammar 2 – first and second conditionals

Choose the correct option.

- 1 If we enforce strict rules to keep people two metres apart, it *will / would* keep workers safe.
- 2 I'll help you write an email to explain the situation if *you'll / you* want me to.
- 3 *We'd / We'll* need to make a lot of changes if we want to create a safe workplace.
- 4 If they had the option, workers *might not / don't* choose the wearable chip.
- 5 If he were able to, *he'd / he'll* work from home.
- 6 We definitely won't pass the inspection if we *wouldn't / can't* make changes.
- 7 If you hear an alarm, *you must / you'd have* to take immediate action.
- 8 Please let me know if you *don't / won't* receive an email from Karl about the order.

Group work

Work together to answer these questions.

- 1 We've been discussing short-term solutions to Covid-19. What long-term solutions will be necessary?
- 2 Do you think the world will 'go back to normal', or will some change be permanent?
- 3 Clearly the pandemic has had and will continue to have a very negative affect on people everywhere. What good things have happened during the pandemic?

Further discussion

Some people claim that tracking technology makes workplaces safer. Others say the technology isn't accurate, doesn't account for protective equipment or other factors, and goes against workers' rights to privacy.

- Which side do you agree with?
- If you were a factory manager, would you choose to use the technology? Why or why not?
- If you were a factory worker, would you accept it? Why or why not?

ANSWER KEY**Starting up**

Students' own answers.

Vocabulary 1

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1 b | 4 c |
| 2 d | 5 f |
| 3 a | 6 d |

Reading 1

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1 F | 4 T |
| 2 T | 5 F |
| 3 F | |

Reading 2

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1 b | 4 a |
| 2 a | 5 b |
| 3 c | |

Vocabulary 2

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1 a | 4 a |
| 2 b | 5 a |
| 3 b | |

Grammar 1

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 emit | 4 give |
| 2 will order | 5 won't be able |
| 3 won't allow | |

Grammar

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1 will | 5 he'd |
| 2 you | 6 can't |
| 3 We'll | 7 must |
| 4 might not | 8 don't |

Group work (possible answers)

- 1 A vaccine (medicine to stop the disease) will be very useful. People may need to change some meal-time habits such as sharing food to stop the spread of disease. More people may work from home on a long-term basis.
- 2 Students' own answers.
- 3 People have worked together to fight the disease. People have creatively found ways to work online. Volunteers have helped other people. Air pollution has reduced.

Further discussion

Students' own answers.

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