

## Simplified Speech #059 – Technological change

### Episode description

It seems like technology changes so fast year after year—it's sometimes pretty hard to keep up! In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Jeremy chat about the technological changes they've seen during their lifetimes.

### Fun fact

When we were young, many of us could never have imagined having something like the iPhone in our pockets. Yet, some 12 years after it was first released, Apple Inc. has sold over 2.2 billion of them! That's a lot.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Exponential growth
- To ride the wave
- Tech
- Nerd
- Multitasking
- To disconnect



## Transcript

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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript.

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Andrew: You're listening to the Culips English Podcast. To download the study guide for this episode, which includes the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world examples, and a quiz, visit our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Hello, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And I'm Jeremy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Jeremy, how's it going?

Jeremy: It's going pretty good. Thanks for having me here at your place. It's nice to see you in person.

Andrew: Yeah, Jeremy and I are doing a marathon recording session because he's visiting Korea right now and we're trying to take advantage of his presence here with us. Yeah, we are doing a marathon recording session. This is the third or fourth that we've done in a row?

Jeremy: Marathon usually that means many in a row, continuously, sort of.

Andrew: Right, that's a very good explanation because you can marathon watch a TV show. You can marathon record a podcast.

Jeremy: Yeah.

Andrew: Like we're doing right now.

Jeremy: Or you can run a marathon like he does, sometimes.

Andrew: Sometimes, yeah. And you might be watching this because we are video recording this episode, as well. Hello to all the watchers. Some of our listeners have requested that we record when we record. So we're recording.

Jeremy: We are recording video and audio.



- Andrew: Just visit our website and you'll be able to watch the video and you'll also be able to access the study guide for this episode, which includes a transcript, some detailed vocabulary explanations and examples, and also there are some discussion questions that you could use for speaking practice at a language exchange or you could write a diary entry with these prompts. So there's lots of good stuff in the study guide, and that is also available on our website, Culips.com.
- Jeremy: Check it out.
- Andrew: Check it out.
- Jeremy, what is the topic for this episode?
- Jeremy: Today, in this episode, we are going to talk about technology and how it has developed throughout our lives.
- Andrew: OK. So I am 34 years old. I was born in 1984.
- Jeremy: I am 31 and I was born in 1987.
- Andrew: You're a baby.
- Jeremy: What? You were only 4 when I was born, maybe 3.
- Andrew: Yeah, so we're pretty close in age, and it's amazing how much technology has changed within our lifetime. Sometimes I think about, you know, our grandparents' generation and their minds, they just must be blown because things have changed so much in their lifetime. But that's too big of a focus. We're just gonna focus on our lifetime for today.
- Jeremy: So if you are similar in age with us, then maybe you can relate to this. If you are quite a bit younger than us, you might think we sound old. And if you are older than us, you might think we sound young. But we are going to share our experience.
- Andrew: Yes. So, Jeremy, you mentioned you had a lot to talk about for this episode. What were you thinking of?
- Jeremy: So, this is an important term, an important word to know when talking about technological advancement, technological development: **exponential growth**.
- Andrew: **Exponential growth**. Wow, you're hitting us with a math term.
- Jeremy: Sorry, everyone. It's a good word, it's a good word.
- Andrew: Yes.

- Jeremy: **Exponential growth** means that as the thing grows, it gets faster and faster. So the growth gets faster and faster as it grows.
- Andrew: And you sometimes hear the expression “Moore’s law” to talk about technology growth. And I’m not sure off the top of my head of the exact definition of Moore’s law. Something like the speed of a computer chip will double every year.
- Jeremy: Every year or 2 years.
- Andrew: Something like this. It’s related to **exponential growth** in that things are just getting faster and faster and faster, smaller and smaller and smaller.
- Jeremy: Exactly. Yeah. So if you ever hear anyone or if you are ever talking to anyone about technology, these terms will make you sound very smart, or at least it will make you sound like you know what they’re talking about.
- Andrew: Exactly. They’re good expressions to know.
- Jeremy: Yeah. So, in terms of differences, I think the biggest one is that something like this is possible, right now.
- Andrew: Right.
- Jeremy: We are recording with two high-powered microphones into a laptop with a camera filming us, and then we are uploading it all to some online platform where thousands of people can access it. This is impossible. This would have been impossible to even imagine when we were kids.
- Andrew: Yeah. In fact, when I was about 12 or 13 years old, I took piano lessons, and my piano teacher had a little recording studio in his basement. And I used to help him out, kind of like a part-time job. He would give me a little bit of money, helping him copy the recordings that he made. He recorded onto, it was almost like a VHS cassette, it was called an ADAT tape. I would take that big tape and then copy the files to his computer. And he had a big studio in his basement with lots of gear and equipment. Where we are recording right now, this is not my house, this is my friend’s house, and so I had to take the gear here to record. And I fit all of this equipment, the computer, the microphones, the sound card, the camera, all of this fit into my backpack. So I was able to carry a whole recording studio on my back when I came here. So that really blew my mind.
- Jeremy: That is **exponential growth**, right? And if we imagine the future of technology, even maybe 2 or 3 years from now, we can’t imagine what it’s going to be like. It’s very hard to predict what the next thing will be. So we just have to sort of **ride the wave**, I think.

- Andrew: Yes, and something that I'm always excited about when it comes to **tech** is what will be the next big thing. Some people think it's VR [virtual reality], or augmented reality. But it could be something that we're not even expecting.
- Jeremy: Yeah, like I remember when, I think when I was in high school, that was when Facebook came out, or a little after I got out of high school, Facebook came out. The first iPhone came out 2006, 2007 and now everyone has Facebook and an iPhone or a smartphone. And then it was this new thing that only **nerds** waited in line for, at least with the iPhone.
- Andrew: There's been a lot of discussion online these days about Facebook and Twitter and YouTube and how they're managing their platform. And revolving around this discussion is the fact that they're still young companies and they haven't really found their footing yet. They're still trying to learn how to be good companies. And every time I hear this I have to remind myself, oh yeah, these still are new companies. It seems like we've had them all our lives but, like you mentioned, they were created in 2007, 2008. It's not that long ago.
- Jeremy: So, something I think about a lot is, as a result of technology getting faster and faster, we have to make more decisions each day. So should I send a text or not? Should I call or not? Should I email or not? And so in one day the number of decisions we have to make is much higher than say, 20 years ago, right?
- Andrew: Right.
- Jeremy: Because there isn't a decision device in your pocket, right? So I think, as a result, time feels like it's going slower, almost. There's more individual events in a day than there were 100 years ago, right?
- Andrew: Sure, yeah.
- Jeremy: 50 years ago.
- Andrew: It's definitely a more complicated time in that regard. We're consuming much more information, like you mentioned, we're making more decisions, and it's harder to let your mind rest.
- Jeremy: Yeah.
- Andrew: Constantly **multitasking**, constantly working on many different things at the same time.
- Jeremy: So we hope that you find some time to get away from technology a little bit. Maybe go for a hike or a jog like Andrew does. Find a way **to disconnect** and hopefully relax a little.

Andrew: After you listen to Culips, of course.

Jeremy: Of course, of course. After that.

Andrew: Priorities, right?

Thank you for listening everyone. One more time, we'd like to remind you to visit our website, Culips.com. You can sign up and become a Culips member there if you are so inclined. We are also all over social media, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, you name it, we're there. Just search for the Culips English Podcast and you can connect with us there.

I think we'll leave it at that for now, Jeremy. And, everyone, we'll be back soon with another episode. So we'll talk to you then. Bye.

Jeremy: Bye, everyone.

## Detailed Explanations

### Exponential growth Idiom

In this episode, Jeremy says that technology is experiencing **exponential growth**. It is a math term with a complicated definition, but most people use **exponential growth** to mean that the more something grows, the faster and faster it grows. You can also use **exponential growth** when talking about something that develops very quickly, even if you don't know exactly how fast.

Here are a couple more examples with **exponential growth**:

Rich:	How is your new business going?
Erika:	Extremely well.
Rich:	Really? That's nice to hear.
Erika:	In fact, we're experiencing <b>exponential growth</b> this year. We expect to make a lot of investments for upcoming years.

Lily:	Mom, was it very expensive to call other cities when you were my age?
Helena:	Oh dear! It was so expensive. My parents would never let us call long distance.
Lily:	Wow. Now with video conferencing, all you need is an internet connection. After that, it's free.
Helena:	I know. I wonder what will happen in the future.
Lily:	I can't imagine! Technology has gone through such an <b>exponential growth</b> . We might soon be talking to other planets for free!

## To ride the wave

### Idiom

In this episode, Jeremy talks about how unpredictable future technology will be and says that we will have **to ride the wave**. Just like surfing a real wave on a surfboard, you have to go where the wave is taking you. **To ride the wave** is to go along with wherever a situation takes you, for better or for worse. A similar expression is to go with the flow.

Here are a couple more examples with **to ride the wave**:

Yoko:	How were the sales at the store this week?
Rita:	Pretty good. We've had an increase in sales for the fourth week in a row.
Yoko:	That is good. Do you think we should hire more people?
Rita:	Um ... I think we should <b>ride the wave</b> for a while and see where it goes. If we hire more people too soon, we might lose money if sales go down.

Winston:	What do you think of the new prime minister?
Yann:	I think he's all right. He looks pretty good now because he's <b>riding a wave</b> of economic growth, but we'll see how things go when the economy slows down.
Winston:	Yes, but maybe the economy won't slow down.
Yann:	I certainly won't complain about that if it happens!



## Tech

Noun

**Tech** is the short version of the word technology. **Tech** usually refers to some specific form of technology, as opposed to the idea of technology in general.

Here are a couple more examples with **tech**:

Danica:	Did you see the video I posted online yesterday?
Jin:	I did. It looked amazing!
Danica:	Thanks. I'm glad you say that, because we just bought a whole bunch of expensive equipment.
Jin:	Sweet. What new <b>tech</b> did you buy?
Danica:	Everything! New video cameras, new microphones, new laptop for editing. I look forward to filming more stuff.

Puong:	How do you like your new job?
Nathan:	It's not as fun as I thought it would be.
Puong:	How come?
Nathan:	I thought it was an advanced computer firm, but every day I have to work with really old <b>tech</b> . I'm kind of bored.

## Nerd

Noun

In this episode, Jeremy mentions how it was only **nerds** who waited in line to buy the first iPhones that came out. A **nerd** is someone who is a kind of expert in something and has a singular interest in it. For example, if you are a computer **nerd**, you are very interested in computers and have great knowledge of computers.

**Nerd** used to be an insult. If a person was very focused on one thing only, other people thought they didn't have people skills and were boring. Nowadays, people mostly use the word **nerd** without trying to insult someone. In fact, people often refer to themselves as **nerds**.

Here are a couple more examples with **nerd**:

Vicky:	Hey, what are you doing tonight? Want to come to the library with me?
Paolo:	The library? On a Friday night?
Vicky:	Sure! There's a special evening for Games of Thrones <b>nerds</b> like me. Do you like the show?
Paolo:	I've never seen it.
Vicky:	Oh. Then you can't come!

Leika:	Do you play chess anymore? I haven't seen you online at all lately.
George:	I know. I used to be a big chess <b>nerd</b> , but I've found other interests.
Leika:	Like what?
George:	Video games! Oh boy, I'm a huge video game <b>nerd</b> now.

## Multitasking

Noun

**Multitasking** is when you do several things at the same time. Have you ever been on the phone with someone while researching on the internet ... And listening to music? That's **multitasking**.

Here are a couple more examples with **multitasking**:

Kathy: I called you an hour ago. How come you didn't pick up?

Padma: Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't hear your call.

Kathy: Were you very busy?

Padma: Kind of. Just my normal **multitasking**. I was preparing supper and taking care of the baby at the same time. I guess I didn't hear the phone because I was also listening to one of my favourite shows on TV.

Kathy: Wow, how can you do all that at the same time?

Interviewer: If we hire you for this job, I hope you know that it's a highly stressful position.

Candidate: That's all right. My current job is much the same.

Interviewer: Every day, we will be asking you to do several things all at once.

Candidate: **Multitasking** is one of my strongest skills. I love the challenge.

## To disconnect

### Verb

In this episode, Jeremy says we should find a way **to disconnect**. In this sense, he means that we should spend time away from technology. We should cut our connection with our smartphones, our televisions, and our computers.

Here are a couple more examples with **to disconnect**:

Tia:	You looked stressed.
Finn:	I am stressed.
Tia:	Is it your job?
Finn:	Yeah. My phone keeps on buzzing. I get alerts every 10 minutes or so.
Tia:	You really need <b>to disconnect</b> .
Finn:	I don't know how!
Tia:	I try going on a 1-hour hike every day. And I leave my phone at home. That's the key.
Finn:	I don't know if I can do that. I guess I could try.

Michael:	How is your son doing this semester at school?
Jennifer:	His teachers tell me that he seems distracted.
Michael:	I hear that a lot from teachers these days. I think it's because of all the electronic distractions in their lives.
Jennifer:	You might be right. I'll make sure he <b>disconnects</b> for a few hours every day. That might make a difference.

## Quiz

**1. Which of the following is a good example of to disconnect?**

- a) to unplug your refrigerator
- b) to take a walk
- c) to put the television on mute
- d) to not check your emails

**2. What does exponential growth mean?**

- a) to grow faster and faster
- b) to exposes the truth
- c) to grow like a tree
- d) to travel to outer space

**3. What kind of technology do Andrew and Jeremy NOT mention in this episode?**

- a) recording equipment
- b) virtual reality
- c) Skype
- d) the iPhone

**4. True or false? The term nerd is always an insult.**

- a) true
- b) false

**5. Which of the following is the best definition for multitasking?**

- a) doing several tasks
- b) doing many things at the same time
- c) doing multiple math problems
- d) having a lot of thoughts at the same time

## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. How much has technology changed your life?
2. How do you disconnect when you need to?
3. How important do you think it is to disconnect from all the distractions we have in life?
4. Everyone has specific interests of some kind. Would you consider yourself a nerd of something? Of what?
5. Have you ever tried virtual reality technology? What did you think? And if you haven't, why not?
6. When did you get your first smartphone? (If you have one, of course!)

## Quiz Answers

1.d    2.a    3.c    4.b    5.b

### Episode credits

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