

English level 4

Unit 4 – Innovation

Lesson 1 – Getting Ideas

Lesson aims

- Understanding and doing brainstorming of ideas
- Understanding a talk on innovation
- Understanding the argument of a persuasive essay
- Categorizing ideas

Lead in

1. Look at these arguments about innovation. Are some in favor or against innovation?

	ARGUMENT	IN FAVOR OF	AGAINST
1	Job Displacement & Inequality: Jobs are eliminated by automation and AI		
2	Better Quality of Life: Innovation leads to better quality of life (healthcare, transportation, etc...)		
3	Economic Growth: New technologies create industries and jobs		
4	Ethical and Social Risks: Surveillance, genetic technology, privacy, etc...		
5	Solutions for Global Challenges: Innovation can help with environmental problems		
6	Environmental Impact: More pollution and waste		

2. Tell a partner which argument is the strongest for you and why.
3. Brainstorm one more argument in favor of innovation with your partner.

Listening



One Minute English Video #1532 How will robots change society?

1. Listen to this short talk answering the question: How will robots change society? Which of these answers does the speaker give?
 - a) They started changing society long ago.
 - b) They already have changed society.
 - c) Soon they will massively start changing society.
2. Listen again. Mark the areas of human activity that robots are involved in or may become involved in according to the speaker.

**industry agriculture teaching AI acting taking care of children
hard jobs war**

3. Work with a partner, do you agree with the speaker? Do you think robots will get involved in the areas of human activity not mentioned by the speaker?
4. Listen to the speaker a third time, write down things he mentions that you think are good developments and bad developments. Then, compare with a partner.

GOOD DEVELOPMENTS	BAD DEVELOPMENTS

Reading

Work with a partner. You each will read a different text about innovation. One will read text A, and will read text B.

ESSAY TEXT A

Innovation is a very important part of human progress. It helps us find strong solutions to some of the biggest problems in the world. In areas like medicine, technology, innovation and global challenges, innovation brings new ideas that make life better, help people live longer, and make everyday life easier. It is obvious that medical inventions like vaccines, robots for surgery, and gene editing have helped lower death rates and improve how patients recover. These new ideas not only save lives but also help people live healthier and more active lives. Without innovation, society would stop moving forward and be stuck with old ways that don't work well.

As well as in the area of health, innovation also stimulates economies and creates new chances for people. It brings new industries, new jobs, and new ways to make money. This helps countries keep up with changes in the world. For example, digital technology has changed the way we communicate, learn, and do business. Now, information is easier to find, and companies can work more efficiently. These changes help more people use tools that were once only for the rich or powerful. Therefore, innovation helps reduce the gap between different social groups and gives more people a chance to succeed.

Furthermore, innovation also helps solve urgent problems that the whole world faces, like climate change, hunger, and the lack of natural resources. New ideas such as clean energy, better farming methods, and ways to reduce waste all help build a safer and better future. These examples show that innovation is not just about making life easier—it is also very important for human survival. It gives us the tools we need to deal with fast changes in the world and keep growing.

In the end, innovation is good for everyone because it makes life better, helps economies grow, and solves important world problems. When societies support new ideas and invest in science and research, they can face problems better and find new chances for success. Innovation is not just something extra—it is something we need to move forward, be fair, and survive in the long term.

ESSAY TEXT B

Innovation is probably good for humanity because it helps people do things better. For example, we have smartphones now, which let people talk to each other and use the internet. In the past, people didn't have phones, so communication was harder. Now people can find answers to questions online and play games, which makes life more fun. This shows that innovation is helpful in daily life.

Also, new inventions are interesting. When something new comes out, people get excited and want to try it. Like when electric cars became popular, many people liked the idea and started buying them. Electric cars have a different sound, and it is

interesting to hear this different sound. This shows that innovation gets people's attention and gives them new things to enjoy. Even though not everyone can afford these things, it's still good that they exist. Maybe the people that don't have the money to participate in innovation can dream about it.

Another reason innovation might be good is that it can make jobs easier. Machines and robots can do hard work, so people don't get as tired. This can help workers be less stressed, although sometimes it also means people lose jobs. Still, it's nice when work is easier to do. In the cases where people lose their jobs because of AI or robots, they can have more free time and enjoy life more.

In conclusion, innovation is probably good because it gives us cool things and helps with work. Even if it's not always perfect, it usually makes things a bit better.

Innovation is a great way for everyone to show their creative talents. That's why innovation seems beneficial to people overall.

1. Tell your partner what is the main argument (thesis) of your essay. You can find this main argument in the first paragraph. Who has the stronger argument?
2. Briefly note the arguments here:

TEXT A
1
2
3

TEXT B
1
2
3

3. Compare the quality of the arguments in the two texts. How are they different from each other? Which text has better arguments?

4. *What are the topic sentences of the conclusion (the last paragraph). How is the tone different considering the two topic sentences?*

Brainstorming:

This is a group discussion to produce ideas or solve problems.

We do this to rapidly generate many ideas.

Final Lesson Task

You will work in a small group. Your teacher will assign you one of the important inventions below. Work together to brainstorm as many arguments as you can in favor of this invention. Consider how this invention

has improved our lives or how it may still potentially improve our lives. Note your brainstormed ideas in the brainstorming box. You will present your ideas to the class.

BRAINSTORMING BOX:

After everyone has presented their ideas about their invention, the class will vote which invention is the most beneficial to us.

INVENTION 1

The Printing Press (c. 1440 – Johannes Gutenberg)

- **Innovation:** Movable type printing press.
- **Impact:** Revolutionized the spread of information. Books (especially the Bible) could be mass-produced for the first time, drastically lowering the cost of written knowledge.

INVENTION 2

The Steam Engine (1712 – Thomas Newcomen; Improved by James Watt in the 1760s)

- **Innovation:** Mechanized power generation using steam.
- **Impact:** Provided the power needed for factories, locomotives, and ships.

INVENTION 3

Vaccination (1796 – Edward Jenner)

- **Innovation:** Use of cowpox to inoculate against smallpox.
- **Impact:** First successful vaccine and the beginning of modern immunology.

INVENTION 4

The Internet (1960s–1990s; ARPANET to World Wide Web)

- **Innovation:** Global network of interconnected computers, with the web invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.
- **Impact:** Enabled instant communication, information sharing, and digital commerce.

INVENTION 5

Electricity & The Light Bulb (1879 – Thomas Edison and others)

- **Innovation:** Practical electric lighting and widespread electrical systems.
- **Impact:** Replaced gas and oil lamps, extended productive hours beyond daylight, and allowed for safer, more efficient homes and workplaces.

Exit Ticket

Can you do these things?

	I can understand and do brainstorming
	I can understand a talk about innovations
	I can understand the argument of a persuasive essay
	I can categorize ideas

My Top 5 Words from this lesson:

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Homework: Self-study

[90 minutes per week]

Listening Practice: AI and robots

<https://ello.org/video/1501/1532-Amar-Robots.htm>

LISTENING SCRIPT:

Hi. I'm Elias, I'm in the United States, and my question is, how will robots change society?

I got a thing for you, it already has. Robots have changed society. Many of our industries are already filled with robots, from agriculture to manufacturing, to even online. A bot is just an artificial intelligence or a bit of code that's able to do something, and a lot of things online and a lot of things in many different industries already do that.

Robots will continue to change and become better over time, and many people are worried that it'll take a lot more jobs away. I am somewhat afraid that my job will be taken away. I'm a voice actor, I say things, and artificial intelligence is already getting pretty good to be able to copy human voices. It'll be able to do other jobs like picking stuff up and putting stuff down, and that's just a lot of jobs and people are afraid that they'll lose their jobs because of that. Hopefully though robots will make life better for everyone, make things easier, and we won't have to do all the hard work,

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all the hard work that people are in danger of, like cutting down trees, like moving dangerous objects, like unfortunately war. That may also involve robots as well.