

In many ways, computer technology makes our lives better. One exciting thing it can do is create places that look and seem real. This is virtual reality (VR).

Let's learn

With VR, you can take a class trip to a museum in another country, go on a journey inside the human body or travel back in time. Maybe you will meet a dinosaur!



Let's play

At home or a VR gaming centre, you can have an adventure on your own or in a team. For example, you can search for lost treasure, fight aliens or visit a haunted house. You can also do something more relaxing, like explore a new city.



Let's move

It is a hot summer's day. Wouldn't it be great to ski down a snowy mountain? You can! At a VR sports centre, you can use special equipment to go rock climbing, ride in a horse race and more. At home, you can use VR to play tennis, golf, dance ... the list goes on!



Let's get out of this world



Do you want even more excitement? At some theme parks, you can ride a VR roller coaster. You can dive deep into the ocean — look out for sharks, jellyfish and sea monsters! Or you can travel into space, whooshing past the stars.

VR allows you to do and see things that you might never do or see in real life. It is like a film ... but you are in it!

Which sentences are true? Tick (✓).

- 1 Some theme parks have VR rides.
- 2 VR games are for teams only.
- 3 You can use VR underwater.
- 4 VR can be exciting or relaxing.
- 5 Teachers can use VR in history lessons.



What are some possible dangers of VR for children?

**Mmm,
tasty!**

How do we know what food and drinks taste like? Our taste buds tell us! They are small but important.

Babies have about 10,000 taste buds but over time we lose some of them. Adults have between 2,000 and 4,000. Maybe that's why adults and children like to eat different things!



Most of our taste buds are on our tongues, but not all. Some are in the throat, for example.

What can we taste?

sweetness	sourness	saltiness	bitterness	umami
				



*Ramen is a bowl of **umami!***

'Umami' means 'deliciousness' in Japanese. It is the savoury flavour we enjoy in different types of food like meat, mushrooms and cheese.

You might be wondering: 'Isn't spiciness a flavour?' Well, the answer is 'No'. It is a feeling!



Why do we have a sense of taste?

It keeps us alive!

Food can make us sick when it isn't fresh. When we eat something rotten, our sense of taste says, 'Yuck!' and we spit it out. The same might happen when we eat something very bitter. This is a sign that it could be poisonous.



Did you know?

Animals can taste things, but not in exactly the same way as us.

All mammals have taste buds but cats, for example, can't taste sweetness. Dogs have special taste buds for water (we don't). Birds have far fewer taste buds than mammals. Poor chickens only have about 30!



Octopuses taste with their suckers.



Butterflies taste with their feet.



Is taste or nutrition more important when you choose your food? Why?

Are these sentences true (✓) or false (X)? Circle.

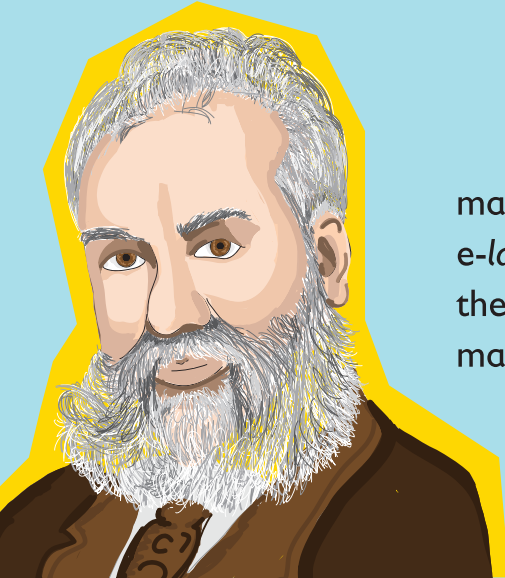
- 1 Umami is only found in Japanese food. ✓ / X
- 2 Some kinds of bitter food are safe to eat. ✓ / X
- 3 Adults have more taste buds than children. ✓ / X
- 4 Not all mammals have taste buds. ✓ / X
- 5 Birds don't have a strong sense of taste. ✓ / X

Staying in touch



Around the world, billions of people use smartphones to make calls, send messages, play games, browse the Web, send e-lai see and more. Our friends or family members could be in the next room or the other side of the world ... it doesn't matter. We can communicate instantly.

It wasn't always like this. First, someone had to invent the telephone! A few people tried, but it was Alexander Graham Bell who succeeded.



Key moments in the history of the telephone

1876

Bell made the first, very short-distance telephone call to his assistant in another room.



Bell's first telephone looked something like this

1892



Bell making his first long-distance call

This time, Bell made a call from the city of New York to Chicago. That's 1,200 kilometres. Wires connected the telephones in both places.

1904

The company Western Electric made the first candlestick telephone.

Can you see how this phone got its name?



HINT: This is a candlestick.



1921



The United Kingdom's first red telephone boxes appeared. They allowed people to make calls on the streets.

Why are they red? So that they are easy to spot!

1937

Western Electric released the 302, the first 'modern' telephone. To call someone, you dialled their number.



Phones looked like this for about 40 years.

A cordless phone handset

1980s

Cordless phones arrived. Calls were wireless for the first time, but you could only walk around your home.



1983

The first mobile phone went on sale. It weighed about 1 kilogram, had a talk time of 30 minutes and took 10 hours to recharge.



2007

Apple's iPhone went on sale in the United States. It wasn't the first smartphone, but it 'put the Internet in everyone's pocket'.



Could you fit this in your pocket?

Most of us don't go anywhere without a phone these days, and that probably won't change. But what will phones look like in 100 years?

Answer the questions. Give short answers.

- 1 When did Alexander Graham Bell make the first call? _____
- 2 Which city did Bell call in 1892? _____
- 3 What was the 302? _____
- 4 When did smartphones first become popular? Tick (✓).
 - A. in the 1900s
 - B. in the 2000s
 - C. in the 2010s



Why is it a problem when people are too dependent on their smartphones?