

## 1) Work in pairs. Answer the questions and justify your decisions.

Would you like to be able to:

- live in a space colony? Why?/Why not?
- have your own clone? Why?/Why not?
- have a designer baby? Why?/Why not?
- be immortal? Why?/Why not?
- travel in time? Why?/Why not?
- read people's mind? Why?/Why not?

## 2) Read the first paragraph of the text below and answer the question.

Which of the sentences is not true according to the text?

- a Carl realises Tara is jealous of other attractive girls.
- b Carl believes Tara is a mind-reader.
- c Carl knows Tara can't read his thoughts.

**H**ave you ever met a mind reader? Apparently, my friend Carl has. He claims his girlfriend, Tara, is relatively good at reading his thoughts. 'Whenever we are walking past a pretty girl in the street,' says Carl, 'Tara gives me one of her angry looks and says she knows exactly what I'm thinking and that I'd better stop!'

Jokes aside, British scientists are working on an advanced computer system that makes 'brain-to-brain' (B2B) communication between two people possible. <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Currently, it is being developed in the laboratories of the University of Southampton.

The first successful experiments involve sending a series of numbers from one mind directly to another. They require two people and two computers with access to the Internet. Two volunteers have electrodes connecting their heads to computers. The electrodes monitor the first person's brain activity. <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ As soon as the code enters the computer, it is read and the message is sent to the second computer over the Internet. The other person picks up the computer message through their electrodes too. It takes about half a minute to send four numbers using the B2B method.

<sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Dr Chris James expects that people will be able to communicate more complex messages via B2B only after they have electrodes implanted directly in the brain. Although



that won't happen overnight, it is quite likely that B2B communication will replace computer keyboards and mobile phones in the future. Dr James is thinking of producing brain-controlled wheelchairs and developing B2B-enhanced computer games.

The news is spreading fast and most scientists are all for further development. Obviously, there are also people who openly share their reservations. 'I totally disapprove of such inventions. Basically, I'm afraid of communicating things I don't want to say. <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ And why should he or she know the things I want to keep secret? I need some distance between myself and someone I'm talking to,' says 19-year-old Sheri.

## 3) EXAM TASK Read the text in 2 again and choose the sentences (A-E) to complete the gaps (1-4). There is one extra sentence.

- A I don't want to know exactly what the person I'm talking to thinks of me either.
- B When he or she thinks of a number, the brain signals are translated into computer code.
- C He has used a well-known technology called 'brain-computer interfacing' (BCI) in his experiments.
- D The system allows two individuals to send simple messages over the Internet using only their brains.
- E At this early stage, however, sending words, images and longer messages is still impossible.

## 4) Work in pairs. Choose two tabloid headlines from the list below and write short news reports. Then get together with another pair. Read each other's reports and decide which one is the best and should go on the tabloid's front page.

**T**EENAGE MIND READER  
LEAVES TEACHERS IN SHOCK

**F**IRST DESIGNER BABY COSTS  
POP STAR A FORTUNE

**NASA LOOKS FOR MOON COLONY VOLUNTEERS**

**Time travel tickets on sale**

**GM FOOD MAKES HUMANS LIVE LONGER**

**WOMAN WHOSE AGEING PROCESS WAS STOPPED**