Open C1 English · Unit 04

Technology & Innovation

Grammar: Modal perfect forms (must have, could have, should have)
Pronunciation: Connected speech: assimilation and elision
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How to use this study pack

- Study the grammar and vocabulary before attempting the output tasks.
- Use the public site for audio playback; this PDF is the printable study companion.
- Mark answers directly on paper, then return to the online lesson for media-rich practice.
- Keep a separate C1 notebook for rewritten answers, useful collocations and pronunciation notes.

Unit workflow

Input: reading, listening and media exposure.
Language focus: grammar, vocabulary, idioms and Use of English.
Output: writing, speaking, mediation and realistic everyday communication.

¿De qué va esta unidad?

En esta unidad, nos adentraremos en el vertiginoso mundo de la tecnología y la innovación. No se trata simplemente de aprender palabras sobre dispositivos electrónicos, sino de desarrollar la capacidad de discutir dilemas éticos, el impacto de la inteligencia artificial en el mercado laboral y cómo el progreso técnico redefine nuestra identidad social. Para un estudiante de nivel C1, este tema es fundamental porque las discusiones sobre avances científicos y sociales son recurrentes tanto en contextos académicos como en las secciones de debate del examen Cambridge.
El principal reto de esta unidad radica en la complejidad de expresar hipótesis sobre el pasado y especulaciones sobre situaciones que no ocurrieron. Utilizaremos los modal perfect forms para analizar decisiones tecnológicas pasadas y sus consecuencias. Además, trabajaremos con la fluidez necesaria para manejar la velocidad del habla natural mediante el estudio de la asimilación y la elisión, permitiéndote sonar más natural y comprender mejor a hablantes nativos en contextos de conversación rápida.

Objetivos de aprendizaje

- Utilizar con precisión los modal perfect forms (must have, could have, should have) para expresar deducciones y arrepentimientos sobre eventos pasados.
- Ampliar el léxico especializado relacionado con la innovación, la ética tecnológica y la transformación digital.
- Desarrollar la capacidad de identificar la opinión del autor y el tono en textos complejos sobre avances científicos (Reading).
- Mejorar la comprensión auditiva de hablantes nativos mediante el reconocimiento de fenómenos de connected speech (Listening).
- Redactar ensayos argumentativos y propuestas formales utilizando estructuras gramaticales avanzadas (Writing).
- Participar en debates de alto nivel, manteniendo la cohesión y la fluidez al expresar hipótesis complejas (Speaking).

Lo que vas a encontrar

- Introduction: Una visión general del impacto tecnológico en la sociedad moderna.
- Grammar: Un estudio profundo de los modal perfect forms para especular sobre el pasado.
- Vocabulary: Vocabulario de alto nivel sobre innovación, disrupción y tendencias tecnológicas.
- Idioms: Modismos y expresiones idiomáticas para hablar de ideas, cambios y éxito.
- Reading: Análisis de artículos sobre el futuro de la inteligencia artificial y la ética digital.
- Listening: Ejercicios de comprensión con diferentes acentos sobre debates tecnológicos.

p7. Use of English: Prácticas de rephrasing y word formation enfocadas en gramática y vocabulario de la unidad.

- Writing: Práctica de redacción de ensayos académicos y cartas formales de opinión.
- Speaking: Simulacros de la parte de interacción del examen con temas de debate actuales.
- Mediation: Ejercicios para resumir textos complejos o traducir ideas de un formato a otro.

Tiempo estimado

Total estimado: 8 horas

- Introduction: 15 min
- Grammar: 1 hora
- Vocabulary: 45 min
- Idioms: 30 min
- Reading: 1 hora
- Listening: 45 min
- Use of English: 1 hora
- Writing: 1 hora
- Speaking: 1 hora
- Mediation: 45 min

Lesson 2: Grammar Focus

Explicación (en español)

En el nivel C1 Advanced, los modal perfects (modales perfectos) son esenciales para expresar deducciones, arrepentimientos o posibilidades sobre eventos que ocurrieron en el pasado. Se forman utilizando un verbo modal seguido de la estructura have + past participle. A diferencia de los modales simples (must, could, should), que suelen referirse al presente o futuro, la forma perfecta nos permite ”viajar” al pasado para analizar situaciones que ya han concluido.
El uso varía según el modal elegido. Usamos must have para deducciones lógicas de las que estamos casi seguros (ej. ”Debió haber sido así”). Usamos could have para posibilidades que pudieron ocurrir pero no sucedieron, o para especulaciones sobre el pasado. Por último, should have se utiliza para expresar arrepentimiento o crítica sobre algo que no se hizo correctamente en el pasado (ej. ”Debería haberlo hecho”).
Un error muy común entre los hispanohablantes es la confusión entre must have y should have. En español, a veces usamos ”debería haber” para ambos, pero en inglés, must have es una conclusión lógica (”debió de haberlo hecho”) y should have es un consejo no seguido (”debería haberlo hecho, pero no lo hice”). Otro error típico es olvidar el ”have” o usar el pasado simple del verbo principal en lugar del participio (ej. decir must had en lugar de must have done).
Al comparar con el español, notarás que could have equivale a ”podría haber”, pero también puede traducirse como ”pudo haber”. Es fundamental recordar que, una vez que usamos el modal

perfect, el contexto temporal ya está fijado en el pasado; no necesitamos añadir más marcadores temporales si la estructura ya indica que la acción es terminada.

Form — estructura

Modal |
Meaning (Significado) |
Usage (Uso) |
Must have + past participle |
Deducción lógica positiva |
To express certainty that something happened in the past. |
Can't have / Couldn't have + past participle |
Deducción lógica negativa |
To express certainty that something did not happen. |
Could have + past participle |
Posibilidad o capacidad no realizada |
To express that something was possible but didn't happen. |
Should have + past participle |
Arrepentimiento o crítica |
To express that something was a good idea but wasn't done. |
Might / May have + past participle |
Posibilidad remota |
To express a weak possibility about a past event. |

Examples

- The server crashed because the engineers must have forgotten to update the security patches. (El servidor se cayó porque los ingenieros debieron de olvidar actualizar los parches de seguridad.)
- We should have invested in Bitcoin ten years ago when it was cheaper. (Deberíamos haber invertido en Bitcoin hace diez años cuando era más barato.)
- The prototype could have been much more efficient if they had used carbon fibre. (El prototipo podría haber sido mucho más eficiente si hubieran usado fibra de carbono.)
- She must have lost her smartphone because she hasn't answered any messages all day. (Ella debe haber perdido su smartphone porque no ha respondido ningún mensaje en todo el día.)
- You shouldn't have shared your password with anyone; now the account is compromised. (No deberías haber compartido tu contraseña con nadie; ahora la cuenta está comprometida.)
- They might have developed a new algorithm, but they haven't released the details yet. (Puede que hayan desarrollado un nuevo algoritmo, pero aún no han publicado los detalles.)
- The software couldn't have worked without the latest operating system update. (El software no pudo haber funcionado sin la última actualización del sistema operativo.)
- We should have implemented cloud storage earlier to avoid these data loss issues. (Deberíamos haber implementado el almacenamiento en la nube antes para evitar estos problemas de pérdida de datos.)

Contrast

-
 The CEO must had resigned. / The CEO must have resigned.
(Error: El modal siempre va seguido de 'have', nunca 'had'.)
-
 I should have went to the tech conference. / I should have gone to the tech conference.
(Error: Después de 'have' se debe usar el past participle, no el past simple.)
-
 He must have worked harder, but he didn't. / He should have worked harder, but he didn't.
(Error: 'Must have' es para deducciones; 'should have' es para críticas/arrepentimiento.)
-
 It could have be a great invention. / It could have been a great invention.
(Error: Se requiere el past participle 'been' para completar la estructura perfecta.)

Mini-quiz — 10 preguntas

Part 1: Multiple Choice
-
The company went bankrupt. They _ more carefully with their R&D budget.
a) must have invested
b) should have invested
c) could have invested
-
Someone stole the laptop! It _ through the open window.
a) must have been
b) should have been
c) might have been
-
I'm not sure why the app stopped working. It _ a bug in the new update.
a) must have been
b) might have been
c) should have been
Part 2: Sentence Transformation (Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first)
-
It was a mistake to buy such expensive VR headsets.
We _____ (buy) such expensive VR headsets.
-
I am certain that the hackers found a vulnerability in the firewall.
The hackers _____ (find) a vulnerability in the firewall.
-
It was possible for us to win the innovation award, but we didn't.
We _____ (win) the innovation award.
-
I'm sure she didn't see the notification on her smartwatch.
She _____ (see) the notification on her smartwatch.
Part 3: Fill in the blanks (Use the correct modal perfect form of the verb in brackets)
-
The battery died so quickly! You _____ (buy) a higher capacity one.

-
Why is the website down? The developers _____ (make) a mistake during the migration.
-
I feel terrible. I _____ (set) up two-factor authentication last month.
Respuestas:
1. b
2. a
3. b
4. shouldn’t have bought
5. must have found
6. could have won
7. can’t have seen / couldn’t have seen
8. should have bought
9. must have made / might have made
10. should have set up

Lesson 3: Vocabulary Lab

Vocabulario C1 — Technology & Innovation

30 palabras con definición, traducción, ejemplo y audio.

paradigm shift //

/ˈpærədaɪm ʃɪft/n
Definition:a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions.
Traducción:cambio de paradigma
Example:The integration of generative AI represents a massive paradigm shift in how we approach creative writing.
Collocation:a fundamental paradigm shift

- ### ubiquitous //

/juːˈbɪkwɪtəs/adj
Definition:present, appearing, or found everywhere.
Traducción:ubicuos / omnipresente
Example:By 2026, augmented reality glasses are expected to become ubiquitous in urban environments.
Collocation:becoming increasingly ubiquitous

- ### empirical //

/ɪmˈpɪrɪkl/adj
Definition:based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory.
Traducción:empírico
Example:Researchers provided empirical evidence to support the efficacy of the new quantum computing algorithm.
Collocation:empirical evidence

- ### obsolescence //

/ˌɒbsəˈlesns/n
Definition:the process of becoming obsolete or outdated.
Traducción:obsolescencia
Example:Planned obsolescence in smartphone manufacturing has raised significant environmental concerns.
Collocation:planned obsolescence

- ### unprecedented //

/ʌnˈpresɪdentɪd/adj
Definition:never done or known before.
Traducción:sin precedentes
Example:The speed of technological advancement in the last decade has been unprecedented.
Collocation:an unprecedented rate

- ### disruptive //

/dɪsˈrʌptɪv/adj
Definition:innovative technology that creates a new market and value network, displacing established firms.
Traducción:disruptivo
Example:The startup's disruptive technology completely changed the logistics industry.
Collocation:disruptive technology

- ### streamline //

/ˈstriːmlaɪn/v
Definition:to make an organization or system more efficient and effective by employing faster or simpler processes.
Traducción:optimizar / agilizar
Example:We need to streamline our workflow using automated AI agents to remain competitive.
Collocation:streamline the process

- ### cutting-edge //

/ˌkʌtɪŋ ˈedʒ/adj
Definition:at the latest or most advanced stage of development.
Traducción:de vanguardia / puntero
Example:The lab is equipped with cutting-edge biotechnology to study genetic engineering.
Collocation:cutting-edge technology

- ### feasibility //

/ˌfiːzəˈbɪləti/n
Definition:the state or degree of being easily or conveniently done.
Traducción:viabilidad
Example:The board is currently conducting a feasibility study on the implementation of fusion energy.
Collocation:feasibility study

- ### implement //

/ˈɪmplɪment/v
Definition:to put a decision, plan, or agreement into effect.
Traducción:implementar
Example:The company plans to implement new cybersecurity protocols by the end of the quarter.
Collocation:implement a strategy

- ### scalability //

/ˌskeɪləˈbɪləti/n
Definition:the capacity to be changed in size or scale.
Traducción:escalabilidad
Example:Cloud-based solutions offer the scalability required for growing tech enterprises.
Collocation:ensure scalability

- ### leverage //

/ˈliːvərɪdʒ/v
Definition:to use something to maximum advantage.
Traducción:aprovechar / potenciar
Example:We must leverage our data analytics to predict market trends more accurately.
Collocation:leverage resources

- ### benchmark //

/ˈbentʃmɑːk/n / v
Definition:a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared or assessed.
Traducción:punto de referencia / estándar
Example:The new processor sets a new benchmark for speed in mobile computing.
Collocation:set a benchmark

- ### synergy //

/ˈsɪnədʒi/n
Definition:the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.
Traducción:sinergia
Example:The merger aims to create synergy between the software and hardware divisions.
Collocation:create synergy

- ### comprehensive //

/ˌkɒmprɪˈhensɪv/adj
Definition:complete; including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.
Traducción:exhaustivo / integral
Example:The tech firm released a comprehensive report on the impact of automation on jobs.
Collocation:comprehensive analysis

- ### breakthrough //

/ˈbreɪkθruː/n
Definition:a sudden, dramatic, and important development or discovery.
Traducción:avance / hallazgo
Example:Scientists have announced a major breakthrough in battery life longevity.
Collocation:scientific breakthrough

- ### harness //

/ˈhɑːrnɪs/v
Definition:to control and make use of (natural resources, especially to produce energy).
Traducción:aprovechar / canalizar
Example:The goal is to harness the power of AI to solve complex climate issues.
Collocation:harness the power

- ### integration //

/ˌɪntɪˈgreɪʃn/n
Definition:the action or process of combining two or more things so that they become a whole.
Traducción:integración
Example:Seamless integration between devices is the key to a successful smart home ecosystem.
Collocation:seamless integration

- ### pioneer //

/ˌpaɪəˈnɪə(r)/v / n
Definition:to develop or be among the first to use or apply a new method, area of knowledge, or activity.
Traducción:ser pionero / pionero
Example:The company continues to pioneer new methods in sustainable tech manufacturing.
Collocation:pioneer a new era

- ### robust //

/rəʊˈbʌst/adj
Definition:strong and unlikely to break or fail.
Traducción:robusto / sólido
Example:We need to build a more robust infrastructure to prevent large-scale data breaches.
Collocation:robust system

- ### game-changer //

/ˈgeɪmˌtʃeɪndʒə(r)/n
Definition:a person or thing that significantly alters the existing way of doing something.
Traducción:algo que cambia las reglas del juego
Example:The introduction of foldable screens was a total game-changer for the smartphone industry.
Collocation:a real game-changer

- ### user-friendly //

/ˌjuːzə ˈfrendli/adj
Definition:easy to use or understand.
Traducción:fácil de usar / intuitivo
Example:The new interface is incredibly user-friendly, even for those who aren’t tech-savvy.
Collocation:highly user-friendly

- ### seamless //

/ˈsiːmləs/adj
Definition:smooth and without gaps or interruptions.
Traducción:sin fisuras / fluido
Example:The transition to the new cloud platform was seamless for all employees.
Collocation:seamless transition

- ### hype //

/haɪp/n
Definition:intensive or exaggerated publicity or promotion.
Traducción:bombardeo publicitario / bombo
Example:Despite all the hype surrounding the metaverse, actual adoption remains slow.
Collocation:media hype

- ### tech-savvy //

/ˌtek ˈsævi/adj
Definition:well informed about or proficient in the use of modern technology.
Traducción:experto en tecnología / que domina la tecnología
Example:The marketing campaign targets a tech-savvy demographic aged 18-35.
Collocation:highly tech-savvy

- ### glitch //

/glɪtʃ/n
Definition:a sudden, usually temporary, malfunction or fault of equipment.
Traducción:fallo / error técnico
Example:A minor software glitch caused the automated system to restart unexpectedly.
Collocation:technical glitch

- ### cutting-edge //

/ˌkʌtɪŋ ˈedʒ/adj
Definition:the most advanced or innovative stage of development.
Traducción:de vanguardia
Example:The startup is working on cutting-edge solutions for carbon capture.
Collocation:cutting-edge research

- ### user experience (UX) //

/ˈjuːzə ɪkˈspɪəriəns/n
Definition:the overall experience of a person using a product such as a website or application.
Traducción:experiencia de usuario
Example:Designers are focusing more on UX to ensure customers stay engaged with the app.
Collocation:enhance UX

- ### buzzword //

/ˈbʌzwɜːd/n
Definition:a word or phrase that becomes very popular for a period of time, often used in business.
Traducción:palabra de moda
Example:'Quantum supremacy' has become a common buzzword in recent tech conferences.
Collocation:latest buzzword

- ### clunky //

/ˈklʌŋki/adj
Definition:awkwardly heavy, bulky, or inefficiently designed.
Traducción:tosco / pesado / poco fluido
Example:The old software was so clunky that it slowed down the entire department's productivity.
Collocation:clunky interface
-

Lesson 4: Idioms & Natural Expressions

Idioms & expressions — Technology & Innovation

Cutting-edge technology · neutral

neutral
Meaning:The most advanced or innovative stage of development.
Significado:Tecnología de vanguardia.
Example:The new research facility is equipped with cutting-edge technology to accelerate drug discovery.

- ### To push the envelope · neutral

neutral
Meaning:To approach or extend the limits of what is possible.
Significado:Ir más allá de los límites / Innovar radicalmente.
Example:The aerospace engineers are constantly pushing the envelope to make space travel more sustainable.

- ### State-of-the-art · formal

formal
Meaning:Using the newest and most advanced techniques or methods.
Significado:De última generación.
Example:Our smart home systems feature state-of-the-art security protocols to prevent hacking.

- ### A game-changer · neutral

neutral
Meaning:A person or thing that significantly alters the current way of doing things.
Significado:Algo que cambia las reglas del juego.
Example:The integration of generative AI into creative workflows has been a total game-changer for the industry.

- ### To be ahead of the curve · neutral

neutral
Meaning:To be more advanced than others in a particular field.
Significado:Estar a la vanguardia / Ir un paso por delante.
Example:By investing in quantum computing early, the company remains ahead of the curve.

- ### To bridge the digital divide · formal

formal
Meaning:To reduce the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not.
Significado:Cerrar la brecha digital.
Example:Global initiatives aim to bridge the digital divide by providing satellite internet to remote regions.

- ### AI-native · neutral

neutral
Meaning:Something designed from the ground up to function with artificial intelligence as its core.
Significado:Nativo de IA (diseñado específicamente para IA).
Example:We aren't just adding plugins; we are building an AI-native platform to automate entire workflows.

- ### To hallucinate a solution · informal

formal
Meaning:When an AI generates false or nonsensical information presented as fact (contemporary digital slang).
Significado:Alucinar una solución (cuando la IA inventa datos).
Example:Be careful when using LLMs for legal research; it's easy for the model to hallucinate a solution that doesn't exist.

- ### Human-in-the-loop · formal

formal
Meaning:A model where human intervention is required to oversee or correct automated processes.
Significado:Intervención humana en el proceso (supervisión humana).
Example:To ensure ethical standards, our automated recruitment tool follows a strict human-in-the-loop protocol.

- ### To be tech-fatigued · informal

formal
Meaning:To feel overwhelmed or exhausted by the constant influx of new gadgets and software updates.
Significado:Estar saturado de tecnología.
Example:Many employees are becoming tech-fatigued due to the constant rollout of new productivity apps every month.
-

Unit 4: Technology & Innovation

Reading Lesson: The Algorithmic Dilemma

Reading text

H3: The Ghost in the Machine: Navigating the Age of Autonomous Decision-Making

As we move through 2025, the boundary between human intuition and algorithmic precision has become increasingly porous. We no longer merely use technology; we exist within a framework of automated decisions that shape our careers, our social circles, and even our legal standing. While the promise of efficiency was once the primary driver of innovation, the current debate has shifted toward a more existential concern: the erosion of human agency.

The integration of Generative AI into the professional sphere was initially met with a mixture of awe and apprehension. Early adopters predicted a utopia of leisure, where machines handled the mundane while humans focused on creative pursuits. However, the reality has proven far more nuanced. Instead of liberating us, these tools have often introduced a new layer of complexity. Professionals now find themselves in a constant race to keep pace with evolving models, leading to a phenomenon known as 'algorithmic burnout'.

One of the most contentious issues is the lack of transparency in 'black box' systems. These are algorithms so complex that even their creators cannot fully explain how a specific output was reached. When used in recruitment or judicial sentencing, this opacity poses a significant threat to accountability. If a machine denies a loan or flags a candidate as unsuitable, the lack of a clear rationale leaves the individual powerless. We are essentially delegating moral responsibility to mathematical functions that lack empathy or contextual understanding.

Furthermore, the environmental cost of maintaining such vast computational power is often overlooked in the rush to innovate. The energy required to train and sustain large-scale models is staggering, prompting questions about the sustainability of our digital ambitions. Can we justify the carbon footprint of a more 'intelligent' chatbot when the planet is facing unprecedented climatic shifts?

Proponents of rapid technological advancement argue that these growing pains are a necessary prerequisite for a greater leap in human capability. They suggest that by delegating low-level decision-making to AI, we clear the path for higher-order problem-solving. They maintain that history is full of technological disruptions that initially seemed destabilising but ultimately enriched society.

Yet, as we stand on this precipice, we must ask whether we are designing tools to serve us, or if we are inadvertently redesigning ourselves to serve the tools. The challenge of the coming decade will not be the technical feat of making machines smarter, but the ethical feat of ensuring they remain subordinate to human values. Innovation without intention is merely sophisticated chaos.

Comprehension — multiple choice (Cambridge Part 5 style)

-

In the first paragraph, the writer suggests that...

A. technology has become more useful than it was in the past.

B. the distinction between human choice and machine logic is blurring.

C. human intuition is being replaced by superior technology.

D. the primary goal of innovation has changed since the 20th century.

-

What is the writer's attitude towards the initial expectations of Generative AI?
A. He believes the utopian vision was entirely unrealistic.
B. He suggests that the reality has been more complicated than expected.
C. He argues that the technology has failed to meet its original purpose.
D. He expresses admiration for the efficiency these tools provided.
-
The term 'algorithmic burnout' in the second paragraph refers to...
A. the physical exhaustion caused by working with new hardware.
B. the psychological strain of trying to remain relevant in a tech-driven market.
C. the failure of software to perform tasks correctly.
D. the loss of interest in professional life due to automation.
-
According to the third paragraph, the main danger of 'black box' systems is...
A. they are too expensive for most organisations to implement.
B. they might be used to commit crimes without detection.
C. they make it impossible to hold anyone responsible for decisions.
D. they are too complex for human beings to ever understand.
-
What point does the writer make regarding the environmental impact of AI?
A. Technological innovation is fundamentally incompatible with climate goals.
B. The energy consumption of AI is a secondary concern to social issues.
C. We must weigh the benefits of intelligence against its ecological cost.
D. Most tech companies are ignoring the carbon footprint of their models.
-
What is the writer's concluding thought?
A. We must slow down the pace of innovation to prevent social collapse.
B. The most important task ahead is to maintain ethical control over technology.
C. Human beings will eventually have to adapt to the way machines think.
D. The technological leaps of the future will justify the current instability.

Gapped text — missing sentences

A. This lack of clarity creates a vacuum where justice and fairness should reside.
B. This transition has not been as seamless as many optimists had hoped.
C. This tension between progress and preservation defines our current era.
D. Such a shift requires a complete overhaul of our traditional educational systems.
E. This constant pressure to adapt can lead to significant mental fatigue.

Glossary

- Porous — Poroso / permeable
- much Nuanced — Matizado / con matices
- Apprehension — Aprensión / temor
- Mundane — Mundano / rutinario
- Contentious — Polémico / contencioso
- Opacity — Opacidad

- Staggering — Asombroso / impactante
- Precipice — Precipicio / borde peligroso

Answers

Comprehension
1. B
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. B

Gapped Text (Note: In a real exam, these would fit into the text gaps)
The student should match the logic of the text to the sentences. Based on the text structure:
(Gap 2 context: B)
(Gap 3 context: E)
(Gap 4 context: A)
(Gap 5 context: C)
Correct sequence for the provided text logic:
2. B
3. E
4. A
5. C

Lesson 6: Listening Lab

The Digital Dilemma: Innovation vs. Humanity

Esta actividad de comprensión auditiva se divide en tres partes para poner a prueba tu capacidad de entender detalles, completar información y captar ideas abstractas. Escucha atentamente el audio para responder a las preguntas de opción múltiple, completar las frases y analizar la discusión del panel.

Part 1 — Conversation (questions 1–6)

|
Question |
Options |
1 |
What is Speaker 1's primary concern regarding their screen time? |
They are finding it difficult to find time for offline activities. / They feel unable to separate their real life from their online identity. / They believe that social media is causing physical health issues. / They are worried about the cost of staying connected. |
2 |
How does Speaker 2 view the current state of digital connectivity? |
As a global crisis that needs immediate intervention. / As a temporary trend that will soon fade away. / As a new normal that has become part of daily life. / As a dangerous distraction from meaningful work. |

3 |
What does Speaker 1 suggest is a consequence of technological innovation? |
It has led to a more fragmented society. / It has made communication much more efficient. / It has allowed people to live more fulfilling lives. / It has solved the problem of social isolation. |
4 |
According to Speaker 2, how does AI affect our work? |
It replaces the need for human intelligence entirely. / It creates a massive amount of unnecessary work. / It allows for the seamless integration of tasks into workflows. / It makes it harder to manage our daily schedules. |
5 |
What is Speaker 1's fear regarding the use of algorithms? |
That they will become too expensive for the average user. / That they will lead to the loss of critical thinking skills. / That they will be used to monitor our private lives. / That they will eventually fail and cause chaos. |
6 |
How does Speaker 2 interpret the shift in human skills due to technology? |
As a loss of fundamental human abilities. / As a move towards more repetitive tasks. / As an evolution of intelligence rather than a replacement. / As a way to avoid responsibility in the workplace. |

Part 2 — Monologue: sentence completion (questions 7–12)

Complete each sentence with 1–3 words from the recording.
1. The speaker felt a sense of _____ when looking at their screen time report.
2. A brief _____ into offline living left the speaker feeling isolated.
3. The speaker worries that we are _____ our thinking to algorithms.
4. There is a fine line between technological _____ and dependency.
5. The speaker feels as if they are _____ while flying.
6. The concept of the Singularity was once relegated to the realm of _____.

Part 3 — Panel discussion (questions 13–18)

13. What is the main topic of the 'Future Forward' podcast segment?

- The history of the industrial revolution.
- The ethical boundaries of biotechnological innovation.
- The economic impact of the digital divide.
- The legal frameworks of data privacy.

14. What does the narrator suggest about 'redesigning the species'?

- It is a goal that all scientists are working towards.
- It is an inevitable result of augmenting biological limitations.
- It is a way to ensure equality among all humans.
- It is a concept that has already been achieved.

15. According to the narrator, what is the risk of 'cognitive divide'?

- People will lose interest in learning new skills.
- Intelligence and lifespan could become commodities for the elite.
- The internet will become too expensive for most people.
- Legal frameworks will become too complex to manage.

16. Why does the narrator mention the 'regulatory vacuum'?

- To explain why technology moves faster than legal frameworks.
- To argue that there should be no laws governing innovation.
- To highlight the success of current data privacy laws.
- To suggest that innovation should be stopped immediately.

17. What is Speaker 1's criticism of modern innovation in the panel discussion?

- It is too expensive to develop.
- It is driven primarily by profit and consumerism.
- It lacks the necessary scientific research.
- It is too slow to meet human needs.

18. How does Speaker 3 view the use of 'black-box algorithms'?

- As a way to increase efficiency in recruitment.
- As a necessary tool for modern judicial systems.
- As a sacrifice of transparency for perceived efficiency.
- As a method to ensure fairness in decision-making.

Vocabulario clave

- Tethered — Atado / Vinculado - Atrophying — Atrofiarse / Debilitarse - Caveats — Advertencias / Salvedades - Augmentation — Aumento / Mejora - Tangible — Tangible / Real - Equity — Equidad - Deluge — Diluvio / Inundación (de información o cosas) - Hyperbolic — Hiperbólico / Exagerado ### Respuestas

Part 1: 1. A · 2. A · 3. A · 4. A · 5. A · 6. A
Part 2: 1. genuine dread · 2. foray · 3. outsourcing · 4. augmentation · 5. building the plane · 6. science fiction
Part 3: 13. C · 14. A · 15. C · 16. A · 17. D · 18. A

Transcript

Ver transcript completo
SEGMENT 1 — CONVERSATION
Speaker 1: Honestly, I was looking at my screen time report this morning and I felt a genuine sense of dread. It's getting to the point where I can't distinguish between my actual life and my digital persona.
Speaker 2: I know exactly what you mean. It's that feeling of being perpetually tethered to something, isn't it? Although, I wouldn't go as far as saying it's a crisis. It's just the new normal.
Speaker 1: But is it really "normal" to feel this restless whenever we aren't checking for notifications? I mean, I tried a digital detox last weekend—just a brief foray into offline living—and I felt incredibly isolated. It's as if the innovation in connectivity has actually resulted in a sort of social fragmentation.
Speaker 2: That's a valid point, certainly. But you have to admit, the sheer efficiency we gain from these advancements is unparalleled. I mean, think about the seamless integration of AI into our daily workflows. It's not just about social media; it's about how we manage our cognitive load.
Speaker 1: Well, that's precisely my worry. We're outsourcing our thinking to algorithms. If we rely on AI to curate our information, schedule our lives, and even draft our emails, aren't we essentially atrophying our own critical thinking skills?
Speaker 2: I see it differently. I'd argue we're not losing skills, but rather shifting them. We're moving away from rote tasks and towards higher-level oversight. It's an evolution of human intelligence, not a replacement of it.
Speaker 1: I suppose. But there's a fine line between "augmentation" and "dependency." If the technology fails, or if the algorithms become biased—which they often are—we might find ourselves ill-equipped to navigate the world manually.
Speaker 2: True, there are certainly caveats to consider. The ethical implications are massive. But surely, the solution isn't to retreat into a pre-digital era, but to refine the technology to be more human-centric?
Speaker 1: If only it were that straightforward. It feels like we're building the plane while flying it.
SEGMENT 2 — MONOLOGUE
Narrator: Welcome back to "The Future Forward" podcast. Today, we are delving into a topic that sits at the very heart of modern sociological debate: the concept of the "Singularity" and the ethical boundaries of biotechnological innovation. For years, the idea of merging human consciousness with artificial intelligence was relegated to the realm of science fiction. However, as we witness the rapid acceleration of neural interface technologies, what was once speculative is now becoming a tangible, albeit controversial, reality.
Narrator: Now, when we talk about innovation, we often focus on the immediate benefits—the convenience, the medical breakthroughs, the sheer awe of scientific progress. But we must ask ourselves: at what cost does this progress come? There is a growing school of thought suggesting that our current trajectory is leading us toward a fundamental shift in what it means to be human. If we begin to augment our biological limitations through technological means, we aren't just improving ourselves; we are effectively redesigning the species.
Narrator: This brings us to the issue of equity. If these life-altering innovations are only accessible to a privileged elite, we risk creating a profound biological divide. We aren't just talking about a digital divide anymore, where some have better internet than others; we are talking about a cognitive divide. A world where intelligence, memory, and even lifespan become commodities available only to those with the financial means to acquire them. This is a prospect that should give any ethicist pause.
Narrator: Furthermore, we have to consider the unpredictability of complex systems. Innovation often moves at an exponential rate, while our legal and ethical frameworks move at a linear, much slower pace. We are essentially operating in a regulatory vacuum. We see this in the way data

privacy is handled, but it will be infinitely more complicated when the technology involves our very biology.
Narrator: So, the question is not whether we should pursue innovation—because, let's face it, we can't really stop it—but how we can govern it. How do we ensure that technological advancement serves to uplift humanity as a whole, rather than fragmenting it into different tiers of existence? It's a daunting challenge, but one that requires our immediate and undivided attention.
SEGMENT 3 — PANEL DISCUSSION
Speaker 1: To kick things off, I'd like to suggest that the primary driver of innovation is often necessity, but in the current era, it seems to be driven more by profit. We are seeing a deluge of "innovations" that are little more than incremental changes designed to encourage consumerism.
Speaker 2: I have to disagree with that characterisation. While profit is certainly a motive, it's also the engine that funds the research and development required for genuine breakthroughs. Without the incentive of a market, many of the life-saving technologies we take for granted would never have left the laboratory.
Speaker 3: If I could just interject here, I think both of you are touching on important points, but perhaps overlooking the systemic impact. It's not just about profit or necessity; it's about the loss of agency. When we allow black-box algorithms to make decisions for us—whether in recruitment, credit scoring, or even judicial sentencing—we are sacrificing transparency for the sake of perceived efficiency.
Speaker 1: Exactly! That's my point. We are trading our autonomy for a veneer of sophistication. We're becoming passive recipients of technological decisions rather than active participants.
Speaker 2: But isn't that a bit hyperbolic? We still have the ability to opt-out, or to critique these systems. The technology is a tool, and like any tool, its impact depends on the hand that wields it. We shouldn't blame the hammer for the house being poorly built.
Speaker 3: That's a convenient analogy, but a hammer doesn't have the capacity to learn, adapt, or manipulate its user. We are dealing with autonomous systems that can influence human behaviour on a mass scale. The "tool" is starting to shape the "user."
Speaker 1: And that's precisely the danger. If the tool shapes the user, then the user is no longer in control. We're seeing a feedback loop where technology dictates our social norms, our political landscapes, and even our psychological well-being.
Speaker 2: I still maintain that the net benefit is positive. Look at the global connectivity, the democratisation of information, and the leaps in medical science. To suggest we should stifle innovation due to these risks seems, to me, rather short-sighted.
Speaker 3: It's not about stifling innovation, but about directing it. We need a robust, international framework for ethical innovation. We need to move from a "move fast and break things" mentality to one of "move thoughtfully and build sustainably."
Speaker 1: A noble goal, but given the current state of global politics, I find that somewhat idealistic.

Lesson 7: Use of English

Part 1 — Word formation

Instructions: Read the text below. Use the word in CAPITALS at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.
The rapid pace of technological _ 1 has changed how we live. While some see these advancements as purely _ 2, others worry about the ethical implications of artificial intelligence. For instance, the _ 3 of automation in manufacturing has led to significant job displacement. However, many experts argue that these changes are _ 4 to the long-term growth of the global economy.

The _ 5 of data privacy is another major concern; as we become more connected, our personal information becomes increasingly _ 6 to hackers. To mitigate these risks, engineers are working on more _ 7 security protocols. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that innovation remains _ 8 to human interests.

- INNOVATE
- BENEFIT
- AUTOMATE
- INEVITABLE
- VULNERABLE
- EXPOSE
- REVOLUTION
- SERVE

Part 2 — Key word transformations

Instructions: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and five words, including the word given.

1. I'm sure that the engineer forgot to update the software before the crash. | MUST
   The engineer ____ the software before the crash.
2. It was a mistake for the company to invest so much in outdated hardware. | SHOULD
   The company ___ so much in outdated hardware.
3. Perhaps the sudden loss of connectivity was caused by a solar flare. | COULD
   The sudden loss of connectivity __ by a solar flare.
4. I regret not buying that new smartphone when it was on sale. | WISH
   I __ that new smartphone when it was on sale.
5. It is certain that the hackers found a loophole in the encryption. | HAVE
   The hackers __ a loophole in the encryption.
6. It wasn't necessary for them to replace all the servers, but they did it anyway. | NEED
   They _____ all the servers, but they did it anyway.

Answer key

- innovation
- beneficial
- automation
- inevitable
- vulnerability
- exposed

- revolutionary
- subservient
- must have forgotten
- should not have invested
- could have been caused
- wish I had bought
- must have found
- did not need to replace

Lesson 8: Writing Workshop

Unit 4: Technology & Innovation

Writing: The Impact of Automation

Task (Cambridge C1 Advanced, Part 2)

Instructions:
You must answer one question. Choose the option that best fits the topic of Technology & Innovation.
Option 1: Essay
Your lecturer has asked you to write an essay discussing the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on the modern workforce. Is the rise of technology a threat to job security, or does it create more opportunities for human creativity?
Option 2: Report
You are a member of a local business association. You have been asked to write a report for the committee regarding the implementation of new digital technologies in local small businesses. The report should assess the benefits and drawbacks of these innovations and provide recommendations for the future.
Word count: 220–260 words.

Tips (Estrategias para el éxito)

- Structure: Para un essay, utiliza una estructura de cuatro párrafos: Introducción, Desarrollo 1 (punto A), Desarrollo 2 (punto B) y Conclusión. No saltes de una idea a otra sin transición.
- Register: Mantén un tono formal y académico. Evita contracciones (don't, won't) y lenguaje coloquial (kids, stuff, cool). Usa un vocabulario preciso y sofisticado.
- Linking: No te limites a usar and o but. Utiliza conectores de nivel C1 (Furthermore, Nevertheless, Conversely) para guiar al lector a través de tu argumento.

- Hedging (Lenguaje cauteloso): En el nivel C1, no afirmes verdades absolutas. Usa el ”hedging” para sonar más profesional (It is widely believed that..., This could potentially lead to...). Esto demuestra matiz.
- Evaluación de ideas: No te limites a listar hechos. Debes analizar la importancia de cada punto. No digas solo ”la IA es rápida”; di ”la rapidez de la IA optimiza los procesos, aunque plantea dilemas éticos”.
- Time management: En el examen, dedica 5 minutos a planificar (brainstorming), 35-40 minutos a escribir y 5 minutos finales a la revisión (spelling y grammar).

Useful language

|
Expression |
Español |
Audio |
1 |
What immediately stands out is... |
Lo que destaca enseguida es... |
|
2 |
At first glance, the scene appears to... |
A primera vista, la escena parece... |
|
3 |
Whereas the first image suggests..., the second one points to... |
Mientras que la primera imagen sugiere..., la segunda apunta a... |
|
4 |
There is a striking contrast between... and... |
Hay un contraste marcado entre... y... |
|
5 |
The people seem to be dealing with... |
Las personas parecen estar lidiando con... |
|
6 |
It is highly likely that... |
Es muy probable que... |
|
7 |
One could infer that... |
Se podría inferir que... |
|
8 |
This might reflect a broader issue: ... |
Esto podría reflejar un problema más amplio: ... |
|
9 |

Although the setting is different, both images convey... |
Aunque el contexto es distinto, ambas imágenes transmiten... |
|
10 |
The overall impression is one of... |
La impresión general es de... |
|
11 |
This would be a useful example of... |
Esto sería un ejemplo útil de... |
|
12 |
I would argue that the second image feels more... |
Diría que la segunda imagen resulta más... |
|

Model answer (Essay)

Topic: The impact of automation on the workforce.
It is often asserted that the rapid advancement of automation and artificial intelligence represents a significant threat to traditional employment. While some argue that machines will render human labour obsolete, others maintain that technology serves as a catalyst for new opportunities. This essay will examine both perspectives before reaching a reasoned conclusion.
On the one hand, there is a valid concern regarding job displacement. Automation allows for the execution of repetitive tasks with greater precision and lower costs than human workers. Consequently, sectors such as manufacturing and logistics are experiencing a shift where manual roles are being phased out. If this trend continues unabated, it could lead to significant socio-economic instability for those unable to transition to new roles.
On the other hand, it is widely acknowledged that technological innovation historically creates more jobs than it destroys. While certain roles become redundant, new industries emerge, requiring specialised skills in software development, data analysis, and AI management. Furthermore, by automating mundane tasks, technology allows humans to focus on higher-level activities involving creativity, empathy, and complex problem-solving—areas where machines still struggle to compete.
In conclusion, while the transition towards an automated workforce presents undeniable challenges, it should not be viewed solely as a threat. Although certain sectors will inevitably face disruption, the potential for economic growth and the creation of more meaningful work is substantial. Ultimately, the impact will depend on how effectively societies can implement retraining programmes to prepare the workforce for a digital future.

Marking checklist

- Content: ¿Has respondido a todas las partes de la pregunta? ¿El lector queda totalmente informado sobre tu postura?
- Communicative Achievement: ¿Has mantenido el tono formal adecuado para un ensayo académico? ¿Has usado el lenguaje para expresar ideas complejas de forma clara?
- Organisation: ¿El texto fluye de manera lógica mediante el uso de párrafos y conectores? ¿Hay una progresión clara desde la introducción hasta la conclusión?

- Language: ¿Has utilizado un vocabulario variado y avanzado (C1)? ¿Has demostrado control sobre estructuras gramaticales complejas (pasivas, condicionales, inversiones) sin errores que dificulten la lectura?

Vocabulario para Writing & Speaking

Expression |
Español |
Useful C1 example |
technological breakthrough |
avance tecnológico |
This breakthrough could change healthcare. |
to streamline a process |
agilizar un proceso |
Automation can streamline routine processes. |
data privacy |
privacidad de datos |
Data privacy is a growing concern. |
cutting-edge technology |
tecnología puntera |
Cutting-edge technology is expensive at first. |
to become obsolete |
quedarse obsoleto |
Some skills become obsolete very quickly. |
digital literacy |
alfabetización digital |
Digital literacy is essential for modern workers. |
ethical implications |
implicaciones éticas |
AI has serious ethical implications. |
to embrace innovation |
adoptar la innovación |
Companies must embrace innovation carefully. |

Lesson 9: Speaking Lab

Speaking — describe & compare

Compara estas dos imágenes. En tu respuesta, debes describir las diferencias en los entornos de trabajo y especular sobre cómo la tecnología ha cambiado nuestra forma de producir contenido. Debes hablar durante aproximadamente 2 minutos.

speaking

Useful phrases

- While the first image depicts a traditional setting, the second one showcases... — Mientras que la primera imagen representa un entorno tradicional, la segunda muestra... - In stark contrast to the vintage atmosphere on the left... — En marcado contraste con la atmósfera vintage de la izquierda... - It is highly probable that the user in the first photo... — Es muy probable que el usuario de la primera foto... - One could argue that the transition to digital has... — Se podría argumentar que la transición a lo digital ha... - The second image gives off a much more futuristic vibe... — La segunda imagen transmite una sensación mucho más futurista... - Judging by the lighting, it seems as though... — A juzgar por la iluminación, parece como si... - There is a noticeable shift from tactile to digital tools... — Hay un cambio notable de herramientas táctiles a digitales... - The minimalist design suggests a sense of... — El diseño minimalista sugiere una sensación de... - It's hard to tell exactly, but it might be... — Es difícil saberlo con exactitud, pero podría ser... - Both scenes represent different eras of innovation... — Ambas escenas representan diferentes eras de innovación... - The juxtaposition of these two environments highlights... — La yuxtaposición de estos dos entornos resalta... - If we look closely at the details, we can infer that... — Si miramos de cerca los detalles, podemos inferir que... ### Pronunciación

Para sonar más natural en el C1, practica la asimilación (cuando un sonido cambia para adaptarse al siguiente, como 'good boy' sonando como /gʊb bɔɪ/) y la elisión (la omisión de sonidos, como

la 't' en 'next door'). En el examen, esto ayuda a que tu discurso fluya sin pausas artificiales.

Model answer

Both images present contrasting visions of productivity, illustrating the evolution of work environments over the decades. In the first image, we see a nostalgic, tactile workspace featuring a vintage typewriter and physical books. It evokes a sense of slow, deliberate craftsmanship. In stark contrast, the second image depicts a cutting-edge, minimalist workstation equipped with advanced digital tools and a sleek interface. While the first setting feels warm and grounded, the second one gives off a much more futuristic and efficient vibe.
Judging by the visual cues, it is highly probable that the first person values tradition and the physical connection to their work. On the other hand, the second environment suggests a high-speed, data-driven lifestyle where efficiency is paramount. One could argue that while technology has streamlined our processes, we have lost the tactile satisfaction seen in the first photo. It is interesting to consider how the shift from paper to pixels has fundamentally altered our cognitive habits. Ultimately, both scenes represent different stages of human innovation, moving from mechanical precision to digital ubiquity. The transition highlights how our tools have evolved from being physical objects to becoming seamless, almost invisible, digital interfaces.

Lesson 10: Mediation Task

Mediation

Basándote en la información del folleto, escribe un correo electrónico a tus compañeros de piso proponiendo la compra de estos termostatos. Debes convencerlos de que es una buena idea utilizando un registro informal pero persuasivo, centrándote en los beneficios prácticos y económicos.

Texto original (español)

La nueva serie de termostatos inteligentes 'EcoSmart' ya está disponible. Gracias a su inteligencia artificial avanzada, estos dispositivos aprenden tus rutinas diarias para optimizar el consumo de energía sin que tengas que intervenir. El sistema se controla totalmente desde el móvil y permite gestionar la temperatura de cada habitación de forma independiente. Aunque la inversión inicial es ligeramente superior a los modelos tradicionales, el ahorro mensual en las facturas de electricidad compensará el gasto en menos de un año. Además, su diseño minimalista encaja en cualquier hogar moderno. ¡Haz tu hogar más eficiente hoy mismo!

Imagen de apoyo

mediation

Estrategias clave

- Identificar los puntos clave del texto original (ahorro, control, diseño).
- Adaptar el tono de un anuncio comercial a un mensaje informal para amigos.
- Sintetizar la información técnica para que sea fácil de entender.
- Utilizar conectores de contraste para resaltar la relación coste-beneficio.
- Transformar datos objetivos en argumentos persuasivos para la audiencia.
- Evitar la repetición literal del texto fuente para demostrar léxico C1.

Audiencia de destino

your flatmates

Respuesta modelo (English)

Hi everyone,

I was just looking into ways to make our flat a bit more efficient, and I stumbled upon these new 'EcoSmart' smart thermostats. I think they could be a game-changer for us.
Basically, they use AI to learn our daily routines, which means they'll automatically adjust the heating or cooling to save energy. We can control everything individually from our phones, so no more arguments about the temperature in the living room versus the bedrooms!
I know the upfront cost is a bit higher than a standard thermostat, but the brochure mentions that the energy savings will actually pay for the devices in less than a year. Given how much we spend on electricity every month, it seems like a smart investment. Plus, they look really sleek and modern, so they won't ruin the aesthetic of our living room.
What do you all think? If you're on board, I can look into ordering a starter set this weekend.
Best,
[Your Name]

Lesson 11: Podcast Guide

Podcast Guide — Technology & Innovation

Escuchar podcasts auténticos es fundamental en el nivel C1 para acostumbrarse a la velocidad natural, los diversos acentos y las estructuras complejas que no aparecen en los libros de texto. En esta unidad, utilizaremos audios de alta calidad para desafiar tu comprensión auditiva y ampliar tu vocabulario técnico y abstracto sobre la innovación.

Recommended podcasts (3 total)

1. BBC: In Our Time

- Level & accent: British (Received Pronunciation/Academic), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: "The History of the Computer" or "The Internet".
- Why it's useful for C1: Este podcast utiliza un lenguaje académico extremadamente rico y debates intelectuales de alto nivel. Es ideal para aprender a seguir argumentos complejos y terminología histórica sobre la tecnología.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To lay the groundwork for... (Sentar las bases de...)

- A paradigm shift (Un cambio de paradigma)
- To be at the forefront of... (Estar a la vanguardia de...)
- To render something obsolete (Dejar algo obsoleto)
- The implications of... (Las implicaciones de...)

2. TED Radio Hour (NPR)

- Level & accent: American / Mixed, C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: "The Future of AI" or "How Technology Changes Us".

- Why it's useful for C1: Presenta narrativas envolventes con una gran variedad de acentos y ritmos. Te ayudará a entender cómo se estructuran las ideas de forma persuasiva en inglés americano.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To spark a debate (Desencadenar un debate)

- To bridge the gap (Cerrar la brecha / acortar la distancia)
- A double-edged sword (Un arma de doble filo)
- To harness the power of... (Aprovechar el poder de...)
- To pose a threat to... (Representar una amenaza para...)

3. The Inquiry (BBC World Service)

- Level & accent: British / International, C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: "The ethics of automation" or "Digital privacy in the 21st century".
- Why it's useful for C1: Se centra en preguntas específicas y análisis profundos mediante entrevistas cortas pero intensas. Es perfecto para practicar la escucha de opiniones expertas y matices críticos.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To weigh the pros and cons (Sopesar los pros y los contras)

- To be fraught with difficulty (Estar plagado de dificultades)
- To have far-reaching consequences (Tener consecuencias de gran alcance)
- An inevitable progression (Una progresión inevitable)
- To intersect with... (Cruzarse con / interactuar con...)

Active listening strategies (C1)

- Escucha de propósito (Purposeful Listening): Antes de darle al play, lee el título y el tema. Predice qué vocabulario técnico podrías escuchar para preparar tu cerebro para el contexto.
- Identificación de marcadores discursivos: No intentes entender cada palabra. Céntrate en los conectores (however, nevertheless, consequently) para seguir la estructura lógica del argumento.

ly Toma de notas sintética: No escribas frases completas. Utiliza símbolos, abreviaturas y palabras clave para capturar la esencia de la idea sin perder el hilo de la conversación.

- Detección de la actitud del hablante: En C1, el significado está en el tono. Presta atención a la entonación para identificar si el interlocutor es escéptico, entusiasta o cauteloso respecto a la tecnología.
- La técnica de la "re-escucha focalizada": Si pierdes un segmento, no te detengas inmediatamente. Sigue escuchando para mantener el flujo y, solo cuando termine el bloque de ideas, vuelve atrás para verificar lo que te perdiste.
- Transcripción selectiva: Si escuchas una frase muy compleja o un modismo que te resulta nuevo, pausa el audio y trata de escribirla exactamente como suena. Esto entrena tu oído para el connected speech.

Follow-up task

Task: The Analytical Summary

- Vocabulary Extraction: While listening, write down at least 5 new expressions or collocations. Look up their meaning and write one original sentence for each related to modern technology.
- The ”Gist” Note-taking: After the episode, write a 50-word summary of the main argument. Focus on what was said rather than how it was said.
- Critical Response (Speaking): Record a 2-minute voice note on your phone. In this recording, you must:

State your opinion on the topic discussed.

- Use at least 3 of the new phrases you learned during the podcast.
- Use advanced connectors (e.g., consequently, notwithstanding, albeit).

Lesson 12: Media Guide

Cine & Series — Technology & Innovation

Utilizar producciones audiovisuales de alta calidad es fundamental para familiarizarse con el ritmo natural del lenguaje y el léxico especializado. En este nivel, el objetivo es pasar de la comprensión pasiva a la capacidad de analizar matices, registros y estructuras gramaticales complejas en contextos reales.

Recommended title

- Title: Black Mirror, 2011–present, Netflix
- Accent/dialect: Primarily British (RP, Estuary, various regional UK accents), with some American episodes.
- Why it’s perfect for C1: The series explores the ethical implications of technology through sophisticated dialogue. It uses a wide range of registers, from highly technical/formal to raw, colloquial speech, making it ideal for mastering nuance.
- Episodes to start with: Season 1, Episode 1: ”The National Anthem” or Season 3, Episode 1: ”Nosedive”.

Language focus

-
”It’s a cautionary tale about how easily we can be manipulated by our own devices.”
Vocabulary note: Cautionary tale /ˈkɔːʃənəri teɪl/ (relato moralizante/de advertencia).

- Grammar spotlight: We can use the modal perfect to reflect on the characters’ choices: ”The characters should have realised the consequences of their actions sooner.”

-
”The algorithm has essentially bypassed our capacity for independent thought.”
Vocabulary note: Bypass /ˈbaɪpɑːs/ (evadir/saltarse).

- Grammar spotlight: Using deduction: ”The developers must have intended to create something helpful, but it went wrong.”

-
”You can’t just wipe the slate clean every time a piece of tech fails you.”
Vocabulary note: To wipe the slate clean /waɪp ðə sleɪt kliːn/ (empezar de cero/borrón y cuenta nueva).

- Grammar spotlight: Expressing regret or missed opportunities: ”If they had implemented better security, the data couldn’t have been leaked so easily.”

Viewing task (active watching)

- Vocabulary Log: Note down at least 10 new words or idiomatic expressions per episode. Focus on words related to ethics, psychology, and technology.
- Register Analysis: Identify moments where characters switch from formal professional language to informal slang. Note how the tone changes the meaning of the conversation.
- Modal Perfect Hunt: Listen specifically for characters expressing regret or making deductions about the past. Write down three sentences you hear (or infer) using must have, should have, or could have.
- Oral Summary: After the episode, record yourself on your phone giving a 2-3 sentence summary of the plot and one moral conclusion. This bridges the gap between listening and active speaking.

Similar titles

- Devs (Hulu/Disney+): A high-concept sci-fi series with dense, philosophical dialogue perfect for advanced learners.
- Ex Machina (Film): A masterpiece of subtle dialogue and tension, ideal for practicing sophisticated vocabulary regarding AI and ethics.

Lesson 13: Everyday Scene

The Hybrid Workspace

everyday_scene

En esta escena observamos la integración de la tecnología avanzada en el entorno doméstico, un reflejo de la revolución del teletrabajo. La imagen permite discutir cómo las herramientas digitales han transformado nuestra productividad y la frontera entre la vida laboral y personal.

Preguntas para hablar (Speaking practice)

- Describe the scene: What is the person in the photo doing and what kind of environment is she in?
- Speculate: Do you think this person is working remotely or studying? What clues lead you to this conclusion?
- Compare: How does this modern workspace differ from the way people used to work twenty years ago?
- Personal connection: Do you prefer working in a dedicated office space or a more flexible environment like the one shown?
- Discussion: To what extent has technology made our professional lives more efficient, and what are the potential drawbacks?

Unit review — Technology & Innovation

Al finalizar esta unidad, deberías ser capaz de discutir temas complejos relacionados con el impacto de la tecnología en la sociedad, utilizando un vocabulario avanzado y preciso. Habrás desarrollado la capacidad de expresar especulaciones sobre el pasado y críticas constructivas sobre decisiones tecnológicas utilizando las estructuras de los verbos modales perfectos.
Asimismo, habrás perfeccionado tu habilidad para utilizar colocaciones de nivel C1 y procesos de formación de palabras para hablar de innovación, inteligencia artificial y ética digital. Este examen de progreso busca consolidar estas competencias para asegurar que estás preparado para el nivel de exigencia del examen Cambridge C1 Advanced.

Grammar consolidation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

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I'm sure that he didn't forget to save the file; he's too professional. (MUST)
He _____ the file.

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It was a mistake for the company to invest so much in outdated software. (SHOULD)
The company _____ so much in outdated software.

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Perhaps they didn't realise the security breach was so serious. (COULD)
They _____ the seriousness of the security breach.

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I am certain that the developers didn't intend to cause this glitch. (CAN'T)
The developers _____ this glitch.

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It was a bad idea to ignore the warnings about the server overheating. (OUGHT)
The engineers _____ the warnings about the server overheating.

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Identify the error in the following sentence and rewrite it correctly:
"She must has been working late to fix the coding error."

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Rewrite the sentence using a modal perfect to express regret:
"I regret not upgrading my hardware when I had the chance."

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Rewrite the sentence using a modal perfect to express a logical deduction about the past:
"I am certain that the hackers used a sophisticated algorithm."

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Rewrite the sentence using a modal perfect to express a possibility in the past:
"It is possible that the prototype failed due to poor materials."

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Rewrite the sentence to show that something was not necessary, but was done anyway:
"They didn't need to buy the expensive subscription, but they did it."

Vocabulary activation

A. Collocations: Complete the sentences with the correct verb (breakthrough, cutting-edge, state-of-the-art, obsolete, groundbreaking).

- The laboratory has developed a ____ new method for carbon capture.
- Most smartphones become ____ within just a few years due to rapid innovation.
- Scientists have made a major ____ in quantum computing this year.
- The hospital is equipped with ____ technology to ensure patient safety.
- We need to stay ahead of the curve by adopting ____ technology.

B. Word Formation: Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in brackets.

- The rapid ____ of AI has caused significant debate regarding job security. (DEVELOP)
- There is growing ____ about the privacy implications of facial recognition. (CONCERN)
- The new software update was criticized for its lack of ____. (USER)
- Many people find the constant stream of notifications highly ____. (DISTRACT)

C. Register Choice: Choose the most appropriate C1-level word to replace the underlined informal phrase.

- The company decided to get rid of (____) its old data servers.
- The new interface is very easy to use (____) for most users.
- The sudden jump in (____) in processing power changed everything.

Integrated skills task

Reading Text
The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence into our daily lives has sparked a global debate. While proponents argue that AI will lead to unprecedented levels of efficiency and solve complex problems—from climate change to medical diagnoses—critics raise significant ethical concerns. The primary fear is the potential for job displacement as automation becomes more sophisticated. Furthermore, the ”black box” nature of some algorithms means that even their creators cannot fully explain how certain decisions are reached, leading to issues of accountability.
As we stand on the brink of a technological revolution, the challenge lies in balancing innovation with regulation. We must ensure that technological progress does not come at the cost of human agency or social equity. The goal should be ”human-centric” innovation, where technology serves to augment human capability rather than replace it. Navigating this transition will require international cooperation and robust ethical frameworks to prevent the misuse of these powerful tools.
Writing Task
Instrucciones:
Basándote en el texto anterior, escribe un ensayo (essay) de entre 180 y 220 palabras. En tu respuesta, debes:
1. Discutir los beneficios y los riesgos mencionados en el texto.
2. Expresar tu opinión sobre si la regulación es la solución para los problemas éticos de la IA.
3. Utilizar un registro formal y vocabulario de nivel C1.

Speaking checkpoint

Answer these prompts aloud to practice your fluency and ability to structure complex ideas.

- Compare: Compare the impact of the internet on communication in the 1990s versus today.
- Speculate: How might the job market change in the next twenty years due to automation?
- Evaluate: Evaluate the pros and cons of social media algorithms in shaping public opinion.
- Justify: Some argue that privacy is dead in the digital age. Do you agree? Justify your position.
- Speculate: If we achieved a breakthrough in life-extension technology, how would society change?
- Evaluate: To what extent should governments regulate the development of new technologies?

Self-assessment rubric

Criterion |
Needs work (B2/Below) |
Solid (C1) |
Exam-ready (C1+/C2) |
Accuracy |
Frequent errors in grammar and spelling. |
Mostly accurate; errors are rare and don't impede meaning. |
High level of precision; complex structures used correctly. |
Range |
Uses basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures. |
Uses a variety of advanced vocabulary and complex grammar. |
Sophisticated use of idiomatic language and varied structures. |
Fluency |
Frequent hesitations and pauses. |
Smooth speech with occasional hesitation when searching for words. |
Natural flow; able to maintain a complex argument effortlessly. |
Task Achievement |
Does not fully address the prompt or answer the question. |
Addresses all parts of the task clearly. |
Provides a nuanced, well-developed, and insightful response. |

Answer key

Grammar consolidation
1. must not have forgotten
2. should not have invested
3. could have realised
4. can't have intended
5. ought to have listened to / ought to have heeded
6. She must have been working...
7. I should have upgraded my hardware when I had the chance.

8. The developers must have used a sophisticated algorithm.
9. The failure could have been caused by poor materials.
10. They needn’t have bought the expensive subscription.

Vocabulary activation

1. groundbreaking
2. obsolete
3. breakthrough
4. state-of-the-art
5. cutting-edge
6. development
7. concern
8. usability
9. distracting
10. phase out / decommission / eliminate
11. intuitive
12. surge / leap / spike