

◇ Chapter 11
The Impact of Technology

Enrichment Activities

EVALUATING TECHNOLOGY

Technology has changed every aspect of our lives — from how we cook our food, to the ways we communicate with others, to what we do for fun. Change is happening all around us, and it's not about to stop.

Directions: Name one technological change that was recently developed in each area of life listed below. Then name at least one advantage and one disadvantage of each technological change.

Area of Life	New Technology	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Medicine			
2. Workplace			
3. Household Conveniences			
4. Entertainment			
5. Communication/ Information			
6. Transportation			
7. Foods			
8. Safety and Security			

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THE PROS AND CONS OF TELECOMMUTING

More and more people are working at home. Instead of going to an office to work, telecommuters use computers, fax machines, modems, e-mail, the Internet, and the telephone to send items such as correspondence, spreadsheets, graphic designs, and written documents to their clients, coworkers, and managers. There are over 5 million telecommuters in the United States, and this number is expected to grow to 33 million by the year 2010.

Telecommuting has many advantages and perhaps some disadvantages. Home offices also pose some brand new challenges.

Directions: Read the list of items below. For each item, explain any advantages or disadvantages of working at an office versus working at home, both for the worker and for his or her family.

	Job — advantage or disadvantage?	Telecommuting — advantage or disadvantage?
Parking		
Child care		
Office rental		
Home office space		
Equipment		
Interruptions		
Balancing work and family		
Working overtime		
List any other advantages or disadvantages you can think of.		

Focus In

What kinds of businesses do you think might lend themselves best to home offices? Why?

Talk to at least two people who have offices at home. What do they see as the biggest challenges of having a home office?