

Speaking practice 12: TECHNOLOGY

Read the following dialogue out loud.

- Alice: I think everybody in our country should be trained to use computers.
 Benjamin: Well, in a way virtually all of us are already using them.
 Alice: What do you mean? Surely not everyone is computer literate?
 Benjamin: Not exactly computer literate but we still use computers. For example, whenever we program our washing machines, we are using computer circuitry.
 Alice: But I'm talking about PCs.
 Benjamin: That's the technology which is popular at present, but who knows what we'll be using in five or ten years' time.
 Alice: Do you think things will improve? And if so, how?
 Benjamin: Well, the screens are getting bigger. We now have flat screens - the big screen in your living-room which could cover a whole wall.
 Alice: Anything more innovative you have in mind?
 Benjamin: 3D television is already here, but then, of course, you'll have the option of voice control.
 Alice: What does that mean?
 Benjamin: You'll be able to talk to the computer, to recite a shopping list, for example. What you say will appear as text on the wall. Then your computer will search the local supermarket for the items on your list and you'll be given information about availability, prices and things like that. Then you can place your order and have the goods delivered to your home.
 Alice: Surely, that kind of technology won't be very user-friendly.
 Benjamin: Oh, but it will. Shopping by computer doesn't need to be any harder than operating your coffee maker, for instance.
 Alice: Well, I won't hold my breath. It seems rather sci-fi to me.
 Benjamin: Well, you just wait and see. But don't blink – you might miss something!

circuitry [sə:kɪtri]	mikropiiristö
flat screen	tasainen näyttöruutu, taulu-TV
availability [əveɪlə'bɪlɪti]	saatavuus
blink	räpäyttää silmiään

Act out the following dialogues.**A**

Justin has bought a new computer and Mark, his computer geek of a friend, comes by.

Justin: Tervehtii Markia ja kysyy voiko tämä auttaa.

Mark: Vastaa, että tietysti voi. Kysyy, mitä on tekeillä.

Justin: Toteaa juuri ostaneensa uuden tietokoneen ja kohdanneensa ongelmia sen asentamisessa.

Mark: Toteaa olevansa nörtti. Mutta auttaa mielellään.

Justin: Kiittää kovasti ja toteaa ettei olisi selviytynyt tästä yksin.

Mark: Toteaa Julesin ostaneen melko tehokkaan järjestelmän. Kysyy kuinka suuri kovalevy on.

Justin: Ei ole aivan varma, mutta muistelee sen olevan 750 gigaa. Ehdottaa surffaamista verkossa.

Mark: Käskee odottaa hetken... ensin pitää käynnistää selain.

Justin: Ihmettelee, mikä se on.

Mark: Toteaa sen olevan ohjelma, joka mahdollistaa netissä surffailun.

Justin: Toteaa itsellään olevan vielä paljon oppimista.

Mark: Myöntelee...

B**New Home Theatre system**

Dan: Kertoo ostaneensa uuden kotiteatterijärjestelmän. Olettaa Denisen tulevan kateelliseksi.

Denise: Haluaa testata laitteiston. Pyytää laittamaan jotain päälle.

Dan: Kysyy kelpaisiko elokuva. Jokin tieteiselokuva, jossa on upeat erityistehosteet.

Denise: Kehuu näkemänsä mahtavaksi. Kuva on todella tarkka.

Dan: Kysyy Denisen mielipidettä äänentoistosta.

Denise: Kysyy, voisiko ääntä laittaa kovemmalle.

Dan: Tekee sen ja säätää hieman balanssia.

Denise: Toteaa äänen olevan nyt parempi ja bassonkin erottuvan selkeämmin.

Dan: Kertoo, että voi kytkeä kuulokkeet laitteeseen myöhemmin illalla.

Denise: Toteaa, että CD:t voi soittaa DVD-laitteella.

Dan: Vahvistaa sen – kertoo kaikkien pelikonsoliensa toimivan laitteen kanssa.

Denise: Taitaa lähteä ostamaan itselleen uutta kotiteatterijärjestelmää oikopäätä.

Speaking practice: TECHNOLOGY**KEY****Suggested key A**

Justin: Hi Jack. Could you give me a hand?

Mark: Sure. What's up?

Justin: I've just bought a new computer and I'm having some problems hooking everything up.

Mark: ... and I'm a nerd. Yeah, I know. I'd be happy to help.
Have you installed the software yet?

Justin: Thanks a bunch! I couldn't have managed on my own.

Mark: You've bought a pretty efficient system. How big is the hard drive?

Justin: I'm not sure but I think it's 750 gigabyte. Let's surf the internet!

Mark: Just a moment... first we need to launch the browser.

Justin: The browser?

Mark: It's the program that allows you to surf the internet.

Justin: Oh... I've got a lot to learn.

Mark: Yes, you do.

Suggested key B

Dan: I've bought a new home theatre system. You're going to be green with envy.

Denise: Let's test it. Put something on!

Dan: How about a movie? A sci-fi film with terrific special effects?

Denise: That's marvellous. The picture is so sharp!

Dan: How do you like the sound?

Denise: Can you turn up the volume a bit.

Dan: There you go, and I'll just adjust the balance a bit.

Denise: Ah, that's better. The bass is much more distinct now.

Dan: And later in the evening I'll just plug my headphones in.

Denise: And you can put your CDs onto the DVD player.

Dan: Sure – and all my game consoles work with it.

Denise: I think I'll go shopping for a new home theatre system straight away.