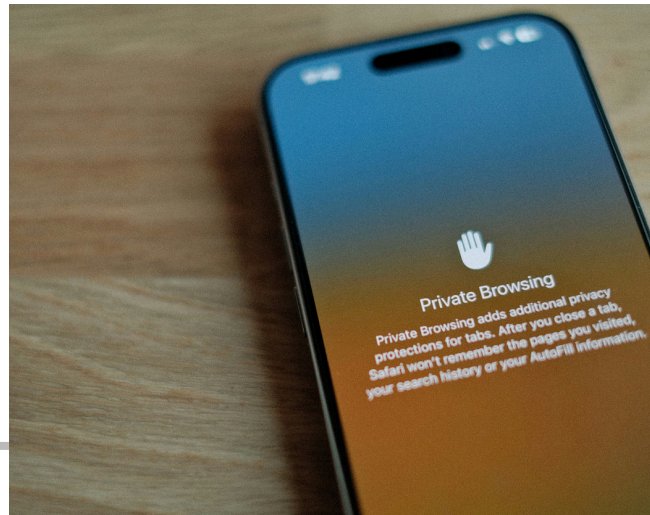


Technology & Privacy: Are We Trading Freedom for Convenience?

Advanced (C1-C2)



WARM UP

Read the quote below and then discuss the questions.

“Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

— Benjamin Franklin

1. Do you agree that people often sacrifice freedom for convenience or safety?
2. What examples of technology making life easier can you think of?
3. How do apps and devices collect and use your personal data?
4. Should governments regulate how companies use technology and data?



READING TEXT

Part 1. Read the following text.

Technology & Privacy: Are We Trading Freedom for Convenience?

Digital technology has transformed daily life. Smartphones, apps, and smart devices make communication, shopping, and travel faster and easier. Supporters argue that such tools improve efficiency, save time, and increase comfort. Many people willingly share personal data in exchange for convenience.

Critics, however, warn that this trade-off undermines privacy and freedom. Data collection fuels targeted advertising, surveillance, and even political manipulation. Once privacy is lost, it is difficult to regain. The convenience of digital life, they argue, may come at the expense of personal autonomy and security.

The central debate is whether society should continue accepting this trade-off, or whether stricter limits are needed to protect privacy in an age of technological convenience.

Part 2. Discuss the questions below based on the text.

1. What benefits of technology does the text highlight?
2. What risks are associated with data collection?
3. Why do critics say privacy is difficult to regain?
4. How might convenience undermine freedom?
5. Does the author suggest rejecting or regulating technology?



DEBATE

Part 1. Match the terms to their meanings.

Data surveillance

Personal autonomy

Targeted advertising

Digital footprint

Informed consent

Technological convenience

Privacy erosion

Security trade-off

1. _____ The ease and comfort provided by digital technology.
2. _____ The right to make decisions about one's own life and information.
3. _____ The loss or gradual reduction of control over private information.
4. _____ Records or traces left behind by someone's online activity.
5. _____ The monitoring of personal data by companies or authorities.
6. _____ Advertisements tailored to individuals based on collected data.
7. _____ Accepting reduced freedom in exchange for safety or convenience.
8. _____ When people knowingly agree to share information or data.

Part 2. Complete the sentences with the correct terms.

1. Most users underestimate the risks of _____ in their daily lives.
2. By clicking "accept," you are giving _____ to the company.
3. Social media leaves behind a permanent _____.
4. Governments increasingly use _____ to monitor citizens.
5. Online shopping and banking offer _____ but also increase risks.
6. Social media platforms make billions from _____.
7. Many argue that _____ is compromised when people prioritise convenience.
8. Airport security is an example of a _____ people accept for safety.

Part 3. Look at the useful expressions. Rewrite the sentences using these expressions to make them sound more formal and persuasive for a debate.

Opening an argument: It is often claimed that... / One perspective is that...

Partly agreeing: I see your point, but... / That may be true, although...

Highlighting risks: The danger is that... / This could easily lead to...

Challenging necessity: Do we really need to...? / Isn't it excessive to...?

Offering solutions: A possible compromise could be... / Perhaps regulation is the answer...

1. Technology always makes life better. ->
2. Privacy doesn't matter if you have nothing to hide. ->
3. People should accept less freedom to be safe. ->
4. Companies can do what they want with data. ->

Part 4. Take part in a structured debate with your teacher/partner. Use the vocabulary and debate expressions from this lesson. Speak fluently, challenge ideas politely, and support your opinions with clear reasons and examples.

Data surveillance

Personal autonomy

Targeted advertising

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Security trade-off

Round 1: Argue that convenience is worth sacrificing some privacy.

Round 2: Argue that protecting privacy is more important than convenience.

Round 3: Free debate — suggest realistic ways to balance privacy and technology.



REFLECTION

Discuss the following questions.

1. How do you personally balance convenience and privacy?
2. Would you delete certain apps if they invaded your privacy?
3. Should privacy be seen as a human right in the digital age?

WRAP-UP TASK (OPTIONAL HOMEWORK)

Write a short editorial (180–220 words):

“Technology & Privacy: Are We Trading Freedom for Convenience?”

- Use at least 4 vocabulary items (e.g., privacy erosion, data surveillance, informed consent, security trade-off).
- Use at least 2 debate expressions.
- Present one counterargument and refute it.

