Easy Access English

Humane Technology

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

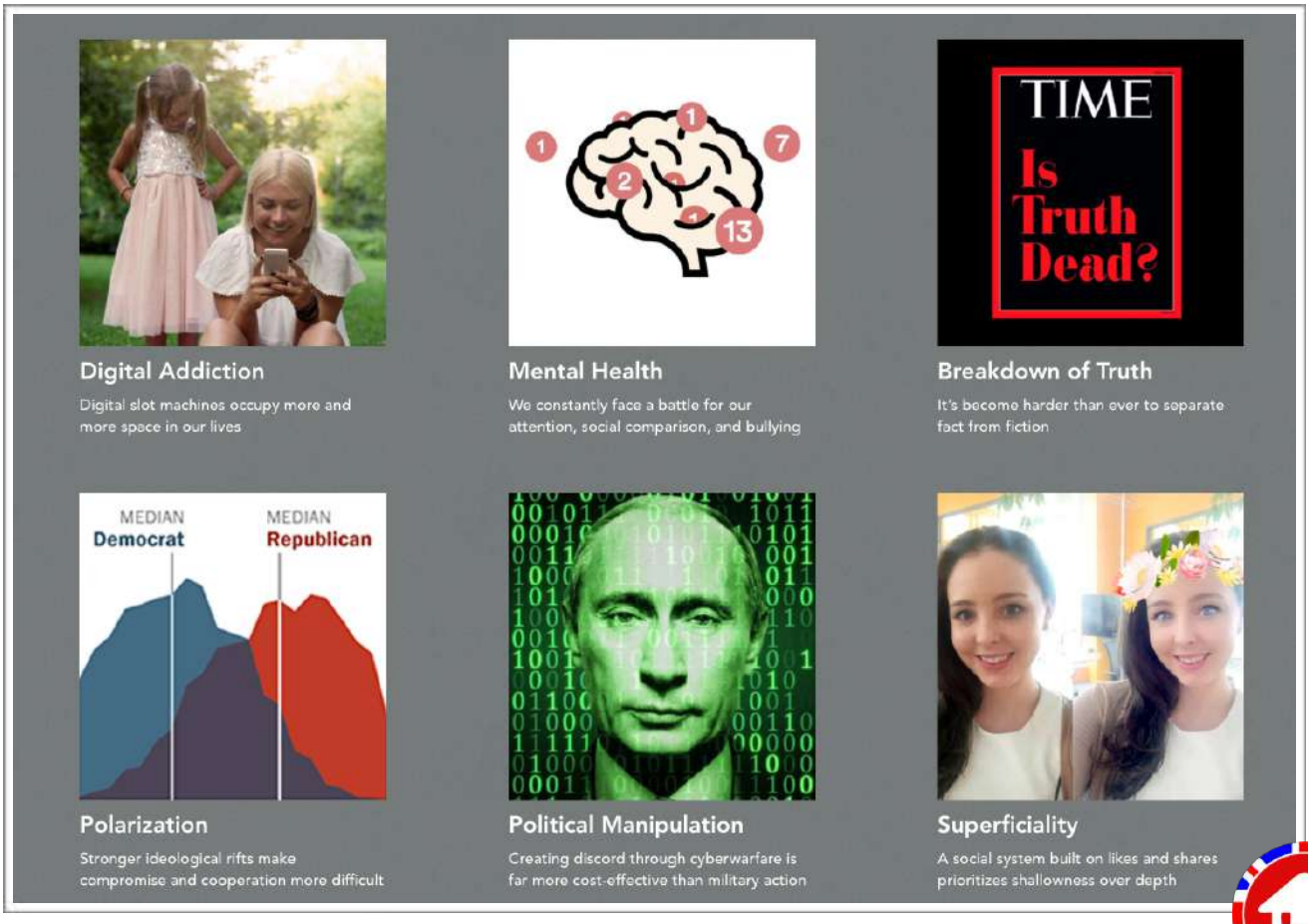
Comprehension, Discussion, Opinions and Improve your vocabulary with prefixes and suffixes.

Activity One; Ask and answer

1. Do you know anyone with a digital addiction?
2. Do you agree that social media makes society more superficial?
3. Do you think that it's hard to separate fact from fiction and can you give any examples?

Activity Two; Visit the page below, on the Center for Humane Technology website, read the text and answer the questions.

https://humanetech.com/problem/



Questions: **Please prepare** your answers before the lesson.

1. What is the attention economy?
2. How can cyber warfare be used to destabilize democracies?
3. What do you think the authors mean when they say technology has overwhelmed human vulnerabilities?
4. What suggestions are made for a way forward?
5. What is humane technology?

Activity Three; Prefixes over and out

A prefixal use of over, preposition, adverb, or adjective, occurring in various senses in compounds and especially employed, with the sense of “over the limit,” “to excess,” “too much,” “too,” to form verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and nouns,mostly self-explanatory. A hyphen, which is commonly absent from old or well-established formations, is sometimes used in new coinages.

Common words with the prefix ‘over’: Here are some very common words with ‘over’. Can you think of any more? **Write a sentence with some of the words below.**

Overburdened	Overflow	Overpaid	Overstate
Overconfident	Overindulge	Overreact	Overturn
Overdo	Overjoyed	Override	Overwork

A prefixal use of out, adv., occurring in various senses in compounds and serving also to form many transitive verbs denoting a going beyond, surpassing, or outdoing in the particular action indicated.

Common words with the prefix ‘out’: Here are some very common words with ‘out’. Can you think of any more? **Write a sentence with some of the words below.**

Outnumber	Outspoken	Outsider	Outreach
Outshine	Outrageous	Outdated	Outlast
Outdoors	Outlandish	Outgoing	Outline

Now **fill the gaps** in the text with the over and out words:

Today, people who use social media **……** those who don’t. Due to an obsession with ‘likes’ and with browsing people’s updates, many aim to **……** their friends, to impress their network with their achievements. Young people **……** in screen time and don’t spend enough time **……** any more. Extremists with **……** and often **……** opinions share unsuitable content on line. The advertisers and big internet companies are **……** of course! **……** executives keep the machine running while society **……** with hatred and divisive messages fuel extremist behavior. What will it take to **……** the system? We can’t **……** the algorithms powering GAFA. Politicians try to **……** plans for sanctions or make laws to reduce the damage. The technology is here to stay however.



Activity Four; Reading comprehension

THE TIMES

Human spirit being 'overwhelmed by tech giants'

Tom Knowles, West Coast Technology Reporter

Thursday April 25 2019, 12.01am BST, The Times

Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are "downgrading" humanity by encouraging obsessive and vain behaviour that needs to be radically changed, a leading expert on internet addiction has said.

Tristan Harris, a former Google engineer and co-founder of the Center for Humane Technology, warned that technology had begun to "overwhelm" human instincts and emotions, reducing attention spans and damaging human relationships, community and democracy. "This is really serious. We are not fooling around,"

"Technology is holding the pen of history right now."

He said that tech giants such as Facebook had created an obsession with gaining likes and followers among its billions of users, while self-will was being eroded by features such as autoplay on YouTube and Netflix that continuously play videos unless users make them stop.

The products and services, Mr Harris has argued, have also amplified feelings of outrage, polarisation and vanity, caused smartphone addiction and a sense of information overload. They have contributed to a rise in mental health problems, especially among teenage girls. "This is overwhelming who we are and our identities," Mr Harris said. "While we have been upgrading machines, we have been downgrading our humanity."

Mr Harris launched the Center for Humane Technology to warn that the digital revolution was fuelling addictive behaviour and making people distracted and depressed.

QUESTIONS:

1. How is social media downgrading humanity according to the text?
2. What warning does Tristan Harris give?
3. What damage has social network done?
4. Why did Harris found the Center for Humane Technology?

Activity Five; Don't over think it just … Express your opinion…

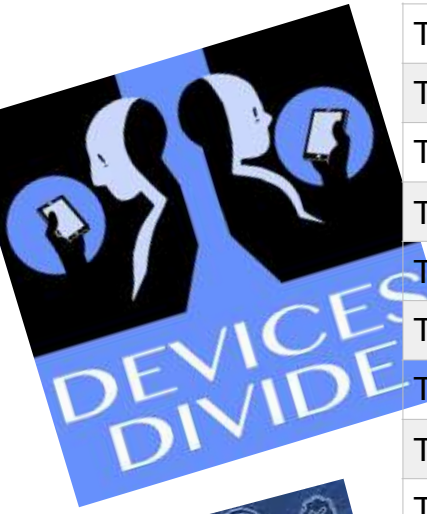
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

1. Facebook, YouTube Instagram and What's App are like weapons and they threaten democracy in the whole world.
2. The big technology companies should pay individuals for the use of their personal data each and every time they benefit from using it in any way.



Activity Six; Read the text paying attention to your intonation and stress.

Activity Seven: Match the over and out phrasal verbs with the correct definition.





To find out	to examine details
To turn out	to get control of something
To back out of	to stop the car at the side of the road
To phase out	to examine carefully
To roll out	Spend time socially in a relaxed way
To hang out	Not keep an agreement / arrangement
To head out	to stay somewhere briefly during a journey
To take over	to discover something
To pull over	Go out, leave a place
to hand over	Remove gradually
To stop over	to recover from something
to go over	Introduce a new product or program
to get over	to surrender / give to someone else
to look over	the end result (can be good or bad)



Activity Eight: **Are we human or are we dancers?**

Listen to the Killers' song lyrics and answer the questions.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIZdjT1472Y

1. What do you think the song is about?
2. Why do you think someone would get nervous when they see 'an open door' or an opportunity?
3. What does the songwriter mean by 'cut the cord'
4. What would a 'dancer' refer to?
5. What do you think this means? - 'Send my condolences to good'



