

ELECTRICITY

The Power that transforms the world



Discussion

(Work in pairs or groups)

Do you agree that electricity has transformed the world? If yes, refer to the changes electricity has brought to our lives.

Read the following text to see the writer's attitude towards electricity.

Electric lighting, central heating, refrigerators, washing machines, water heaters, television, elevators, record-players, radios, telephones, computers, trolley-buses, electric trains, traffic lights, X-rays, electrocardiographs... Electricity stands behind all of them!

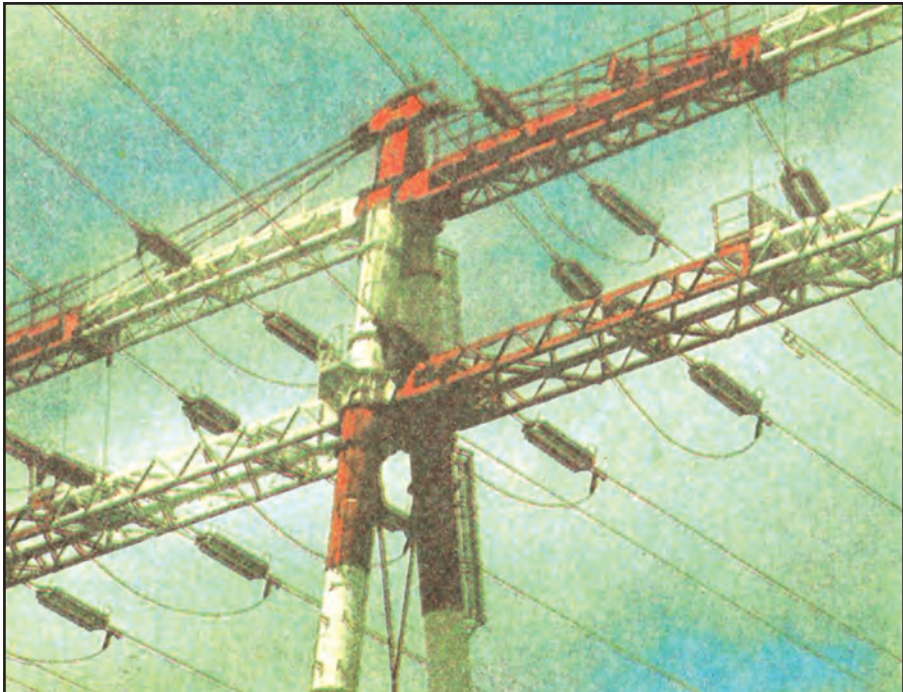
Let's see some examples of how the applications of electricity have affected our lives!

Radio and television have improved communication between different parts of the world. A person in Asia, for instance, can listen to the news from London using a radio set. Television viewers in Greece can see programmes broadcast from the United States of America. Also, traffic lights prevent the continuous traffic chaos in the centre of modern cities by controlling the heavy traffic...

Can you imagine your everyday life without electricity? It provides us with light, heat and sound. It provides factories with energy. It moves cars and trains. It stands behind electronics. Modern life would be unthinkable and... unlivable without electricity.

A power-cut would cause total confusion at home, in industry, transportation, communications, entertainment, health services, or education.

There is no energy more useful than electricity. Electricity can be sent over long distances very quickly. It can easily be converted and controlled. It is silent and clean, with no waste products.



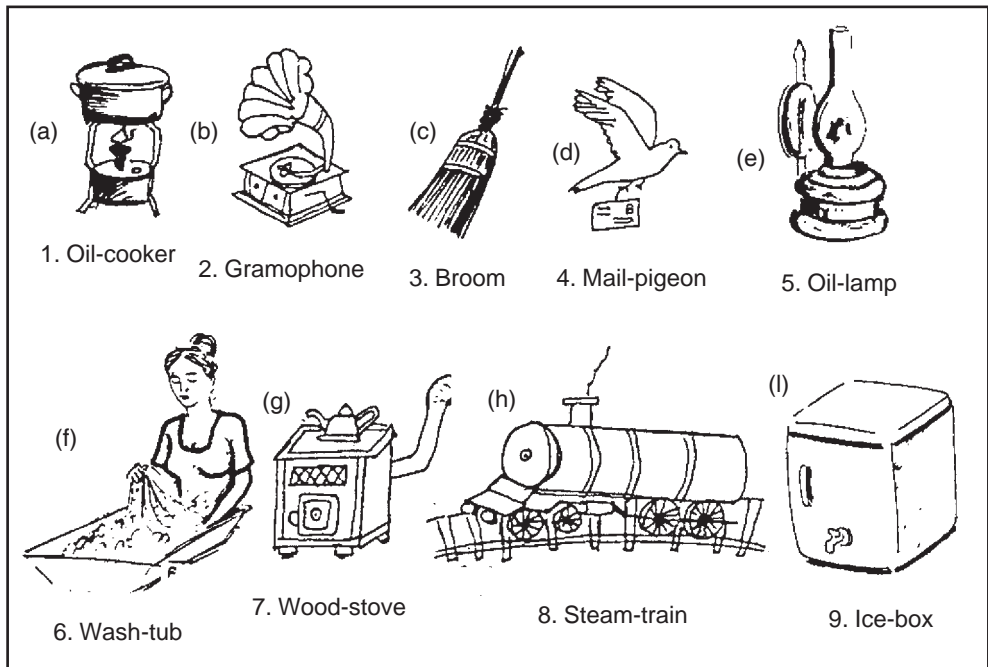
EXERCISES

1. Tick appropriately as in the example.

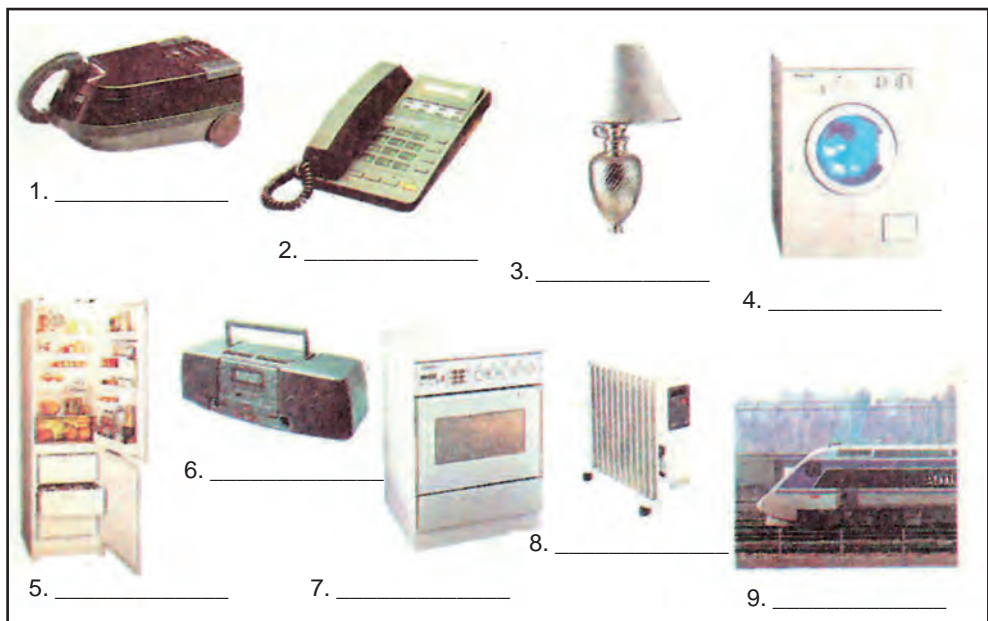
APPLICATIONS OF ELECTRICITY	FIELDS OF APPLICATION						
	INDUSTRY	COMMUNICATIONS	ENTERTAINMENT	HOME SERVICES	HEALTH SERVICES	EDUCATION	TRANSPORTATION
<i>traffic lights</i>							✓
<i>X-rays</i>							
<i>hair-driers</i>							
<i>computers</i>							
<i>toasters</i>							
<i>motors</i>							
<i>cassette recorders</i>							
<i>generators</i>							
<i>electrocardiographs</i>							
<i>telephones</i>							
<i>door bells</i>							
<i>electric toys</i>							
<i>trolley buses</i>							
<i>water heaters</i>							
<i>teleprinters</i>							
<i>electroencephalographs</i>							
<i>overhead projectors</i>							
<i>video</i>							
<i>sterilizers</i>							
S							
R							
E							
T							
O							

2.A. Name the items illustrated in the pictures in column B.

Column A



Column B



B. Match the items in column A with their modern equivalent in column B.

C. Comment on the items of both columns as in the examples.

1. *Some years ago, people used oil cookers to cook their food. Nowadays they use electric cookers, instead.*
2. *Long ago there weren't any electric cookers. People used oil cookers to cook their food.*

3. Replace the underlined words in the following sentences with words from your text.

1. All electrical devices need power to work.
2. A lamp changes electrical energy into light.
3. Electricity supplies Industry with the necessary power.
4. Lifts are used in multistorey buildings.
5. Many of the people who watch TV prefer serials.
6. The telephone has facilitated communication between people.

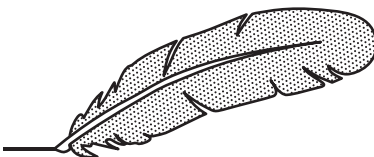
4. Describe the way each of the following devices has affected our lives. Begin with "It is possible for..."

- e.g.** 1. Vacuum cleaner: housewife / remove dirt / carpets, rugs / easily, quickly. It is possible for a housewife to remove dirt from carpets and rugs easily and quickly using a vacuum cleaner.
2. Refrigerators: people / hot countries / preserve food / long.
 3. Telephone: someone in Greece / communicate immediately / friends in U.S.A.
 4. Video: people / see a film / whenever they wish.
 5. Microwave oven: people / cook meal / few minutes.

5. Now change the previous sentences using the expressions "without...", it would be difficult / impossible..."

- e.g.** 1. Without a vacuum cleaner, it would be difficult for a housewife to remove dirt from carpets and rugs.

Writing Activity **(Letter of complaint)**



6. You are the owner of the famous restaurant "Hermes". Last month there were many unexpected and long power-cuts, which caused great damage to your business (foodstuff was spoilt / though restaurant remained closed for long hours, staff was paid / expensive advertising campaign for your restaurant on TV was not watched as expected).

As a result, you decided to write a letter to the Electric Power Corporation to complain about the inconvenience and damage and ask them: a) to inform you

in advance about similar events in the future and b) not pay the bill of the next month as the smallest contribution of the Corporation to the damage of your business.

Address your letter to:

The Electric Power Corporation

The Customers' department

23 Aharnon st.

Athens 250 21

The guidelines below will help you write your letter.

GUIDELINES

POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN WRITING A FORMAL LETTER

- **Be polite:** Avoid imperatives when asking for something. Use expressions like: "I would be grateful if...", "Could you please...", "I would like to know...", "Let me know if / that / when...", instead.
- When **you don't know** the name of the receiver (addressee):
 - **Start** your letter with: "Dear Sir / Sirs / Madam / Madams" and
 - **End** it with: "Yours faithfully / truly*" or "Faithfully / Truly* / Very truly* yours".
- When **you know** the name of the receiver:
 - **Start** your letter with: "Dear Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms** (his/her name)"
 - **End** it with: "Yours sincerely" or "Sincerely yours".
- **Common phrases to close** the letter are: "I look / am looking forward to meeting / hearing from you soon", "Please let us hear from you as soon as possible", "I would particularly like to know about...".
- **At the end** of the letter:
 - **Put** your signature.
 - **Write** your name in full, below your signature.
 - **Add:** Mr, Mrs, Miss after your name in parenthesis to help the receiver know - how you would like to be addressed.
 - **State** your occupation / post in the firm below your name.

* More common in American English.

** Use Ms if you don't know whether the woman is married or single.

SENDER'S ADDRESS _____

RECEIVER'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

Dear...

leave one-line space
(State reason for writing)

§ 1 → *As owner of the "Hermes" restaurant I am writing this letter to _____*

§ 2 → *To be more specific, the refrigerators did not work...*

(Describe damage)

§ 3 → *Despite the fact that the restaurant remained closed for _____*

§ 4 → *Furthermore, due to the power-cut, the expensive advertising campaign... _____*

(State claims)

§ 5 → *For all the inconvenience and loss of money mentioned above, I would like _____*

(Ending)

I am looking _____

Yours _____

Signature

Name in full

Occupation

Grammar Review

1. 2nd Conditional

Electricity has offered a lot of facilities to our everyday life by providing us with modern electrical appliances which save us hard work, time and money. However, have you ever thought what would happen if some of these appliances did not exist?

Look at the example

If there was no television, **people would go** to the cinema more often.

Now think of the previous conditional sentence and tick appropriately.

1. The sentence expresses:

- a) real situation.
- b) an event that is likely to happen in the future.
- c) an imaginary situation in the present.
- d) an event that is not likely to happen.

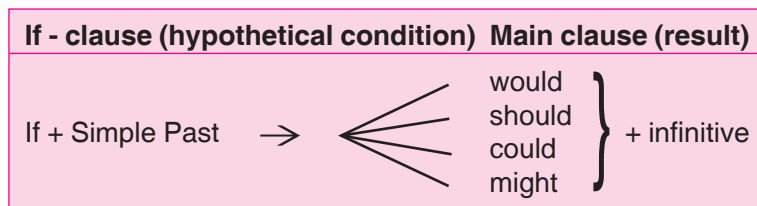
2. The above example belongs to the

- a) 1st type of conditional sentences
- b) 2nd type of conditional sentences
- c) 3rd type of conditional sentences

USE

The 2nd type of Conditional sentences is used for actions or events, which are not likely to happen. It also expresses an imaginary situation in the present. It consists of two parts (hypothesis - result) which are combined as follows:

STRUCTURE



Now use the cues below to make sentences as in the example.

- No telephone → people / see each other more often
- No telephone → people / communicate by writing letters
- No cars → people / walk more
- No cars → people / not travel so often

- No television → people / talk more
- No television → people / go out more often
- No refrigerators → people / eat fresher food

II. Cause - Effect

Power-cuts usually cause a lot of trouble and confusion to our everyday lives. Some serious effects of a power-cut are that the refrigerators, elevators, traffic lights, etc. stop working and a series of unpleasant results follow.

Look at the following table to see how this cause - and - effect relationship is expressed.

CAUSE	EFFECT
Because of a power-cut	→ the refrigerators stopped working
Due to a power-cut,	→ the refrigerators stopped working
There is a power-cut,	→ and so the refrigerators stopped working
There is a power-cut,	→ and as a result, the refrigerators stopped working
Because there is a power-cut	→ the refrigerators stopped working
Since there is a power-cut,	→ the refrigerators stopped working

Following the examples in the table, use the cues below to describe some more effects due to a power-cut.

CAUSE	EFFECT
<i>long power-cuts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>foodstuff is spoilt.</i> • <i>shopkeepers suffer serious damage.</i> • <i>people cannot watch their favourite serials on T.V.</i> • <i>companies lose a lot of money.</i> • <i>there is traffic chaos.</i> • <i>it's hard for people to go up and down the stairs of multistorey buildings.</i> • <i>people use candles / oil lamps to light their houses.</i>