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Book 3

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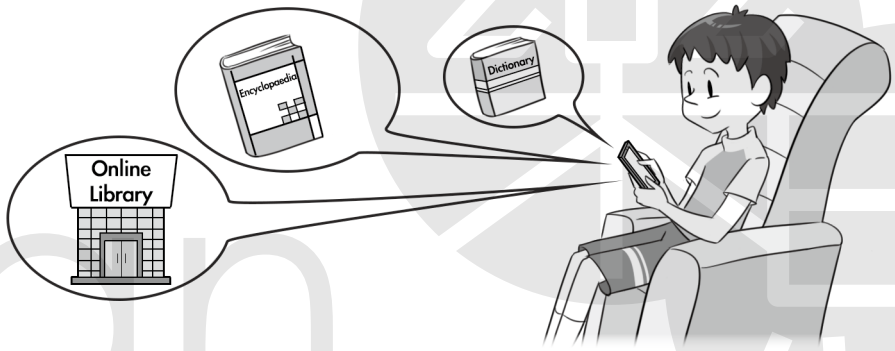
Unit 3 Innovation and you

Key grammar items

(1) Past perfect tense
(2) Present participle phrases
(3) Past participle phrases

1 Past perfect tense



Ethan: Miss Tam asked us to write an article about our favourite invention. What are you going to write about?

Jacob: I'll write about the Internet. Before computer scientists invented the Internet, people **had relied** on printed information, such as books and newspapers, to get information. I think it was very inconvenient. In the past, when the library was closed, people had no access to resources.

Ethan: You're right. Going online, we can find information anytime now, even at midnight. I have the perfect example. Last Saturday, I wanted to borrow a book. When I arrived at the library, it **had closed**. It was very inconvenient indeed.

Jacob: Connected to the Internet, I don't even need to leave home to gather information. Holding a light smartphone, I can collect and read information from different sources easily. I can just sit comfortably on my sofa.

Ethan: Now you have even more excuses to lounge around on your sofa.

We use the past perfect tense to talk about a completed action or event that happened before another action or event in the past.

Note: For the more recent action or event in the past, we use the **simple past tense**.

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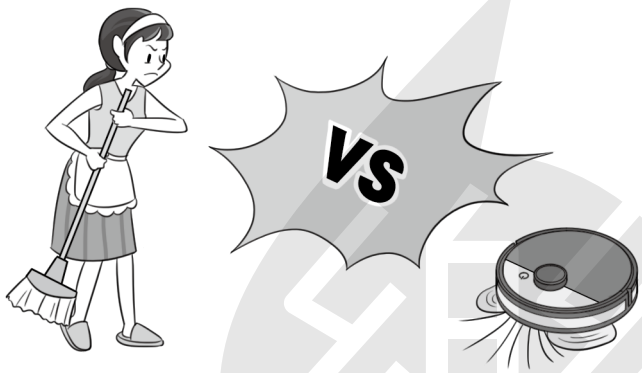
2 Present participle phrases

Make your home smarter!



Tired of sweeping the floor in your home every day? Our robot vacuum cleaner VC-100 is your best assistant. **Having** advanced sensors, it can move around obstacles effortlessly. Sofas, chairs, television sets, dogs … nothing can block it. **Vacuuming** dust and hair, the robot also sweeps the floor. Say goodbye to the trouble of picking up pet hair from the floor.

Owning VC-100, you can have more free time. **Turning** it on, you can do other things. When you do yoga, watch your favourite TV drama or read with your children, it cleans for you. Having a clean floor is this easy!

A **present participle phrase** is a phrase that begins with a present participle (the ***-ing*** form of a verb). It acts as an adjective and gives more information about a subject.

We can use a present participle phrase in these situations:

Situation	Example
To give a reason	*Having* advanced sensors, it can move around obstacles effortlessly. (= Because it has advanced sensors, it can …)
To show two actions happen at the same time in the present	*Vacuuming* dust and hair, the robot also sweeps the floor. (= It vacuums dust and hair and sweeps your floor at the same time.)
To show one action happens first, and then another action happens (shortly) after it	*Turning* it on, you can do other things. (= First, you turn it on. Then, you can do other things.)
To talk about a condition	*Owning* VC-100, you can have more free time. (= If you own VC-100, you can …)

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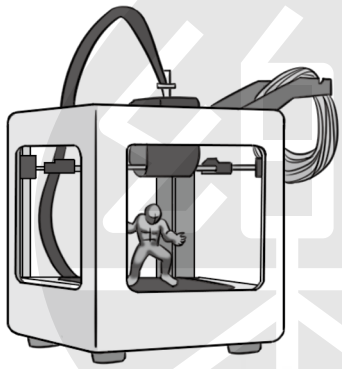
Exercise 6

Read the article and rewrite the underlined sentences with present participle phrases. Do not change the order of the clauses.

3D printing



3D printing is a technology that enables people to print physical objects from digital designs. (1) It has revolutionized many industries and transformed the ways we create things. Revolutionizing many industries, it has transformed the ways we create things.

(2) When we cannot find an object that suits our special needs on the market, we can print it ourselves now.

How does 3D printing work? (3) If we want to print something, we need to create a digital design first.

A 3D modelling software can be used to create the design. Then, we can send the design to a 3D printer.

(4) As the 3D printer deposits the materials layer by layer, it builds up an object.

Therefore, even in a small model, there can be hundreds of very thin layers.

There is a range of materials like plastic and metal we can use for printing, so it is simple to print the object we want.

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(5) 3D printing it allows people to customize the design of a product and the material used. It is used to create personalized jewellery. _____

_____

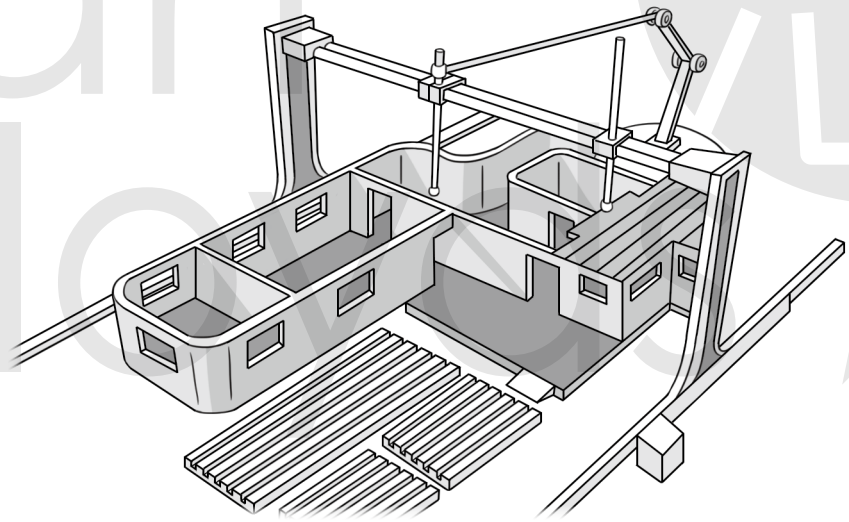
Of course, this is only one of the many creative ways we can use this technology. People are also using it in different fields now. For example, in Texas, there is a community of 3D-printed houses already. In the medical field, researchers are also making breakthroughs in creating 3D-printed organs. In the future, more and more things will be 3D printed.

(6) While we are exploring new applications for 3D printing, we are also pushing the boundaries of innovation.

_____

_____

If it is used wisely, 3D printing may be a solution to many problems.



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Consolidation exercise

Complete the tapescript of a video clip. Rewrite the underlined sentences using present participle phrases or past participle phrases, and fill in the blanks with the correct form of the given words.

Welcome to another episode of *Innovation Unveiled*, where we explore cutting-edge technologies that are shaping our future. Today, we're looking into a fascinating type of artificial intelligence (AI): Generative AI. It is also known as GenAI.

(1) GenAI is evolving quickly. It is now at the forefront of the AI revolution. Evolving quickly, GenAI is now at the forefront of the AI revolution.

(2) As they have a wide range of applications in our daily lives, GenAI tools can make us more productive. _____

_____

(3) They can generate texts, music and graphics because they are designed to create new content. _____

_____

(4) When they are given a situation, they analyze it and create products that can be used in the situation. _____

_____

Before GenAI (5) _____ (come) into the picture, we (6) _____ (establish) various manual processes to handle the tasks. For example, in order to write an article on a topic, we had to do some research on the topic, analyze and organize the information logically. This could take a few hours or days. However, (7) GenAI uses complex algorithms and it can finish these tasks in just a few seconds. _____

_____ We just need to enter some prompts, and then GenAI will do the rest for us.

When the technology (8) _____ (be not) as advanced in the past, it (9) _____ (be) quite easy to tell whether a product was created by a computer program or a person. Nowadays, it can be difficult to distinguish between computer-made and man-made products. The reason is that GenAI has made it possible for computer-generated products to look natural. In 2023, a photo created using GenAI even won a photography contest.

Although GenAI has many advantages, many people are also worried about the dangers it poses. How much more will they evolve? How will that affect us? Stay with us for our next episode.