

Accessible messenger



Activity created by

The
Tech She Can®
Charter

Project brief

Technology is changing the way we communicate, often making it faster and easier to get the message across. It is important that technology is improving everyone's lives and is accessible to all age groups. In this project you will try out apps which improve communication. You will interview people of different ages at home and in school to gather data about how they use tech to help them communicate and what, if any, barriers they face using technology. You will need to communicate your findings in a magazine article, blog or vlog post.

Does your social media feed suggest responses to you? How would you quickly translate a message that was in a foreign language? What other examples can you find of how artificial intelligence is being used to improve communication?

Find and try out a range of web or mobile applications which use tech to help people communicate. You could include apps which translate between foreign languages and/or apps which help people with hearing impairments, visual impairments or dyslexia. Compare the apps, recording the target audience, the purpose and the features they offer.

Design and carry out a survey to find out how people of different ages currently use tech to communicate, what challenges they face and what they think of the current apps available. You could ask them what methods they use to communicate including what apps (if any) they use. You should aim to ask people of a range of different ages including older adults.

Research the future of communication technology. Will it help to solve some of the challenges people currently face?

Write a magazine, blog or video blog post to communicate the findings from your survey and research.

Things to think about

- How has communication changed since you were younger?
- What communication channel do people of different ages use most often?
- Are the latest communication apps accessible to everyone? Is anyone missing out?
- Which apps were most useful in helping people translate between different languages?
- How do you think artificial intelligence will improve communication in the future?

Useful resources

- A smartphone and access to free apps;
- Access to the internet for research;
- Access to volunteers of different ages to interview.

Health and safety

To avoid any accidents, make sure you stick to the following health and safety guidelines before getting started:

- find out if any of the materials, equipment or methods are hazardous using science.cleapss.org.uk/Resources/Student-Safety-Sheets/
- assess the risks (think about what could go wrong and how serious it might be);
- decide what you need to do to reduce any risks (such as wearing personal protective equipment, knowing how to deal with emergencies and so on);
- take care if collecting any personal data in your survey;
- make sure your teacher agrees with your plan and risk assessment.