

Almost all the seven billion people **who call in** this green and blue orb ~~we call~~ home; view and communicate with the world through the digital world of technology. **GUST students take part in this communication process on a daily basis. A recent study found that all of the 107 of the 101 respondents owned smartphones, which 78 percent of them admitted to using when with family (Newman, 2017). More than 60 percent confessed to even using their mobiles while in the toilet. The results of this study seem in line with what other users report. While t**Technology has **made life easier for these students and other mobile users, it has resulted in weakening their family bonds and their language** ~~not only changed the way we communicate, but also who we are; in both good and bad ways.~~

The initial effect of technology is a positive one, making life easier for users. But although ~~technology has had its ill effects on us, even this author must admit that it has made life easier.~~ **One smartphone user puts it well when she says, “It has led to bringing brought** the world to our fingertips.” At the click of a button or a tap of a finger, anything and everything can be discovered. Today a person **does not doesn't** have to toil away in the library for their research projects; they can just ‘Google it’. **While there are still only 24 hours in a day, today’s world demands that people fulfill obligations that, prior to communications technology, would have required 36 hours to accomplish. Consequently, a**At the fast pace life is driving **users us** at, **their easier lives are the result of communications** ~~technology has very much improved our way of life.~~



121 words

In addition to making life easier, tTechnology **affected users and their families but in a negative way: It has disintegrated the bond between families. Too**

busy connecting with others, they do not communicate with each other.

Communications gives rise to a strong bond among individuals. When communications become limited or non-existent, the result is a fractured bond, or family. In a visit to the Qatar airport, this author had hauntingly recorded seeing a family of four sitting around a table at the food court with all their heads pointed down, including a small boy who seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the digital device he was holding on to. This is the effect that technology has wrought on families. Long ago, when interconnection wasn't such a hype, families would sit together and discuss various social issues, share a funny anecdote from work or just enjoy the company of their blood relatives. But now that has reduced to nothing but short words and long silences in which fingers are furiously typing away and Instagram accounts are being updated on what 'mom cooked today'. **In other words, connecting via a device with users kilometers away has replaced communicating with people present in a room.**

A final effect is tTechnology has reduced ~~our~~ linguistic skills to short forms and emoji's. When the world was young and people **were not weren't** so antisocial, words were an art. Love letters, poems and stories would be spoken or written with sophisticated language skills. But now, hearts are sent to the people they love, a boyfriend sends a short 'ILY' to his girlfriend and explanations are dumbed down to sentences fit for a ten-year-old. Where has **society's** ~~our~~ love for language gone? Why do people prefer short words and small sentences? **Communications technology has increasingly led to graphics and acronyms replacing language.**

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As can be seen, ~~t~~Technology has had a varied effect on **users' our** lives. **It** has made life much easier than it used to be, **but** ~~i~~it is breaking the family bond and trashing ~~our~~ vocabulary, ~~but it has made life much easier than it used to be.~~ In conclusion, although technology has made life easier in more ways than one, if people continue exploiting this resource the way they are doing so now, they are dancing on the path of destruction.