Technology

Technology Mania

Mariama Diallo

Why are people willing to stand on line for hours to get the newest product? When a new version of the iPhone comes out, I notice that people are already talking about the next one. They believe the hype that the next one will somehow be better than the new one they have in their hand.

Is it necessary to always have the latest gadget on the market? Do you really need to upgrade your technology or do you just want to be in style or show off your cool new toy?

Technology is a big part of our daily life. We use technology to learn at school, to pay our bills, to communicate with friends and family, and so much more. People need technology in order not to be left behind. But sometimes, instead of being thoughtful about what products we need, we fall into what I call technology mania.

I think the problem is not with technology, but with the way we crave it. We are constantly bombarded with messages that these new products will solve all our problems, make us feel like we are connected to others, and bring us happiness. The companies bombard us with these messages to make money, lots of money. I wonder why we can’t resist their messages. I guess some people have a need to brag about what they have, some have a need to feel better about themselves, and some just follow the trends.

We need to resist these constant messages. After all, there will always be newer, bigger, better products on the market. Technology is not a fashion statement but it is a necessity to get on in our world.

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What Do You Think?

Do you like to have the latest gadget? Why or why not? (Maybe you’re wondering what all the various gadgets are and what they can do. If so, see p. 54 for more information.)

Why do you think there is often a new and slightly improved gadget on the market?

Look at the phones on the next page. Which ones do you think got fixed when they broke? Which ones get thrown away?

Share what you know about the production cycle of electronic gadgets. Then read the articles on pp. 8-9 and 50-51.