



# Technology

by Rodney Martin

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*Technology* originally referred to 'grammar', from Greek *techno* 'art, craft' + *logy* 'study of'. The meaning of 'science of mechanical and industrial arts' was not used until the mid-1800s.

Technology and grammar are commonly thought of as being at opposite ends of the curriculum, but in Australia's recent national curriculum, teachers of science and mathematics are also required to teach literacy as it applies to those subjects, while teachers of English are required to teach the use of IT. The meaning of technology has done a full circle.

On the other hand, for some years now, parents have been watching the artfulness with which babes adapt to technology. Grandparents have been asking their grandchildren to program their recorder. Toddlers to show them how to use their smart phone or remote for their smart TV.

How often have you heard this phone call about kids and technology?

"Can I speak to my grandchildren, please?"

"Why, did we leave something behind today?"

"No. My computer has been changed and I would like to be able to log in again as ME!"

We even have a special word for children born from 1990 – *digital natives*! These are the kids who have never known what life was like before computers, and the first digital natives are now teachers. Thankfully, they are arriving just in time for the new Australian curriculum.

Digital natives might understand the mumbo-jumbo of techno talk today's kids use, at least until the next new invention.