> **Technology:**
> *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.

MY WORD
WITH RODNEY MARTIN

Technology

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 ask their grandchildren to set up their video-recorder and toddlers to show them how to use the remote for their DVD player.

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!"

When you sometimes think the kids are 'getting on your goat', you are closer to the truth than you might realise. The word *kid* 'young child' (1841) comes from the older meaning 'young goat'. 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 becoming 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. Of course, we ancients can just take a tablet, or iPad, and a good lie down – just kidding (lol)!

Rodney Martin is a children's author and educator. His SA family business, Era Publications, creates interactive online children's books for homes, schools and public libraries around the world. See free samples at **www.erapublications.com/south-kids.**

44

www.southkids.com.au
Want to become a South Kids distribution point? Email: info@southkids.com.au

SAkids