

# Death of the video recorder

## Level

Pre-intermediate and above

## Tasks

Discussing if students have a video recorder and / or DVD player  
Completing the dates in a product history table by scanning an article  
Reading an article about the end of the VCR  
Using some common business expressions taken from the article  
Brainstorming other products which have become obsolete

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask students if they buy or rent video cassettes, DVDs or both. Hand out the worksheet and get students to tell each other which recorders / players they own. Many students will own both DVD players and video recorders. If anyone has a DVD recorder, ask them to tell the class if it is easy to use. Some students may have a DVD recorder on their computer.
- 2 Ask students to scan the article and complete the product history information box.

## Answers

(a) 1976      (b) 1978      (c) early 1980s      (d) 1990s

- 3 Students read the text again for general understanding and give their own opinion on the disappearance of the video recorder.
- 4 Ask students to create sentences or questions about their own company containing the phrases. Deal with any other questions of vocabulary at this point e.g. revolutionise.
- 5 Pre-teach the adjective 'obsolete'. Ask students to think about other products that are no longer widely available and those that have replaced them. Some ideas are: typewriter replaced by computer + printer, telex replaced by fax and e-mail, records replaced by CDs, film cameras replaced by digital cameras etc. Ask students to discuss the questions in (b). Now ask each pair to present their list to the class and hold a feedback session. If time, get students to think about products in use today that they think may be replaced by new technology in the future.

## Related websites

Send your students these websites, or just take a look yourself.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal\\_video\\_recorder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_video_recorder)

<http://hometheater.about.com/od/dvdrecorderfaqs/a/dvdrecfaqintro.htm>

<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/vcr2.htm>