2.1 About business   IT solutions
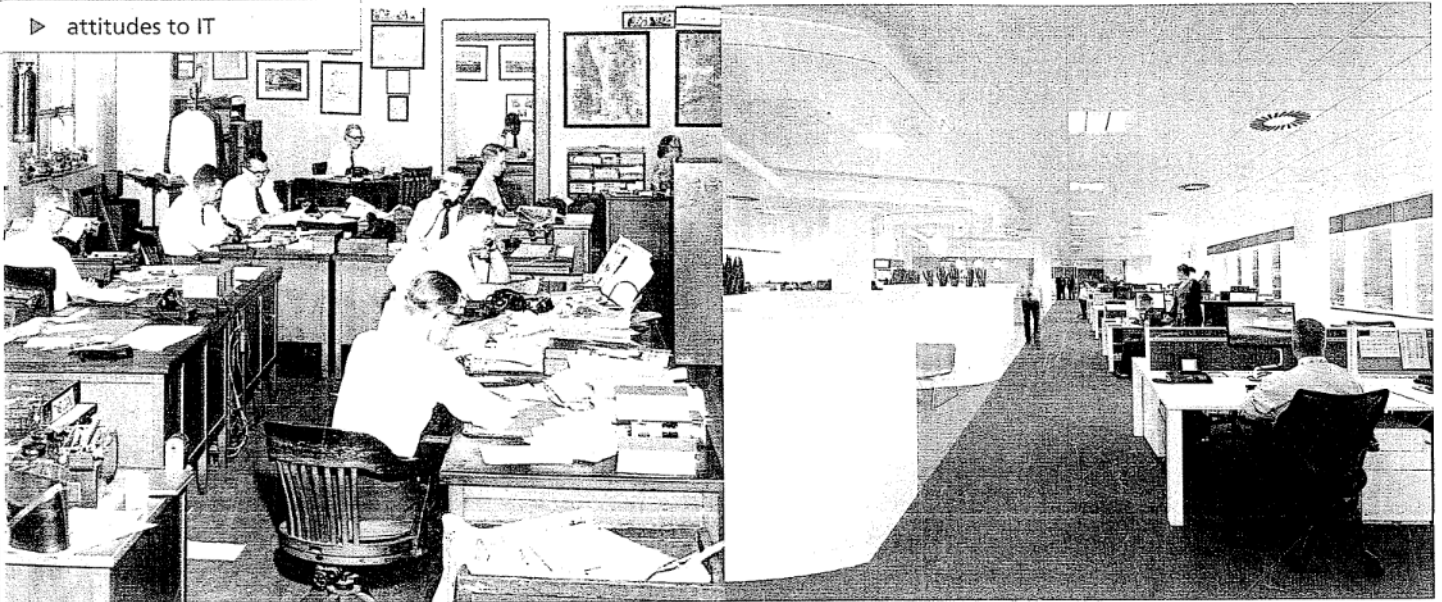
Internet research

Search for the keywords *smart dust* to learn about an emerging technology. Discuss possible applications, and how they might change our lives.

Discussion

1 Look at the pictures and answer the questions below.

1   How is the office of the 1950s different from today's workplace?
2   What do you imagine the office of the future will be like?
3   Do you expect technology to make your life easier or harder?

Summarizing

2 Read the article opposite. Decide which statement a–c best summarizes the writer's overall argument.

a) Technology helps people save time.
b) Technology makes people work harder.
c) Technology is a waste of money.

3 Read paragraphs 1–4. Choose the correct summary a–d for each paragraph.

a) How several factors have combined to make the workplace more pressurized.
b) Poorly planned IT systems generate more work, not less.
c) Managers see investment in information technologies as a productivity solution.
d) Working conditions have become uncomfortable in recent times.

4 Read paragraphs 5–7. Write a sentence to summarize each paragraph.

Listening

5 🔊 1:25–1:28 Listen to four people being interviewed about their attitudes to IT. Which are for and which are against IT?

6 🔊 1:25–1:28 Listen again and summarize each speaker's opinion. Do you agree with what they say? Why? Why not?

Discussion

7 To what extent do you agree with these statements?

1   The computer is the most important invention in the history of civilization.
2   A computer makes it possible to do tasks which were completely unnecessary before.
3   To make mistakes is human, but to really mess things up, you need a computer.