



Technology in Irish life: advantages and drawbacks

4th Class

Print and cut along the dashed lines. These carry the **text a group reads**: a job to do, a brief to research, or notes to identify by. Check the lesson's teacher notes for how many sets each group needs and how they are used: some lessons hand out one card per group, others sort or sequence a full set.

Card A1: Job (bus tracker)

Catch a bus to town. Know when the next bus comes so you do not wait too long in the rain

Card A2: With it (live bus tracker)

Phone app or stop screen shows live arrival times. Uses the bus's location to estimate when it will arrive. You can see if the bus is about three minutes or fifteen minutes away. Needs a charged phone or a working stop screen, plus a signal

Card A3: Without it (paper timetable)

Printed times fixed to the stop or kept in a leaflet. Lists planned times only. Needs no battery; works in any light you can read by. Cannot tell you the bus is stuck in traffic or cancelled. In rural areas the gap between buses can be long, so a late bus matters a lot

Card A4: Watch-outs in Irish life (bus tracker)

Live bus info grew as phones and mobile data became common. Helps workers, secondary pupils and visitors plan journeys. New habits: people stare at phones at the stop. People may feel stuck if the battery dies or the feed freezes

Card A5: Places to try (bus tracker)

Busy city stop with good signal. Quiet rural stop with weak signal. Younger child with no phone. Tourist who does not know the route. Dark winter evening in heavy rain

Card B1: Job (weather app)

Know if tomorrow suits a match, a farm job, or a trip to the coast. Get a useful weather picture in time to plan

Card B2: With it (weather app)

Phone app can show hourly rain chance, wind, temperature and warnings for your area. Many Irish families check Met Éireann information through an app or website. Updates can arrive quickly when a storm track changes. Needs a device, battery, data or Wi-Fi, and skill to read the symbols. Some apps ask for location so the forecast matches where you are

Card B3: Without it (sky, radio or TV)

People still read the sky, feel the wind, and listen to a set-time forecast. Farmers and sailors often combine local knowledge with official forecasts. Needs no personal data; works if the phone is dead. Update may be less frequent and less local than a live app map

Card B4: Watch-outs in Irish life (weather app)

Atlantic weather can change fast. Better forecasts help fishing, farming, school sports and road safety. Apps can pull people back to screens many times a day. Some families set rules about how often children may check phones

Card B5: Places to try (weather app)

Planning a beach day two days ahead (kitchen table). Deciding whether to cut silage this morning (farmyard). A classroom with no pupil phones. A hill walk where signal drops. A storm warning night when power might fail

Card C1: Job (smart farming)

Know how animals or crops are doing. Spot problems early so feed, water or fertiliser are not wasted

Card C2: With it (sensors, tags or farm apps)

Some Irish farms use sensors on gates, tanks or animals. Apps can show alerts on a phone. A tank sensor can warn that water is low. A tag can hint that an animal is less active than usual. Data can be checked from the yard or the kitchen. Tools cost money; they need power, signal and training

Card C3: Without it (walk the land and look)

Farmers walk fields, check troughs, watch animal behaviour and keep simple notebooks. Needs no subscription; builds deep local knowledge. Takes time; a problem in a far field may be noticed later. Harder on a large farm or in bad weather

Card C4: Watch-outs in Irish life (smart farming)

Irish farming is a big part of rural life and food supply. Digital tools can cut waste and support animal welfare. Not every farm has strong broadband. Some families worry more screens mean less time noticing the land with their own eyes

Card C5: Places to try (smart farming)

Large farm with fields far from the yard. Small holding next to the house. Young farmer who likes apps. Older relative who prefers walking the stock. Storm night when you cannot safely cross fields in the dark

