

# Skills for Living

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## Topic 19-2

# Impact of Technology on Consumers

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- In this topic, you will learn about the impact of technology on consumers, as well as
  - ❖ **Technology options available**
  - ❖ **Managing technology**

# Impact of Technology on Consumers

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## **Objectives for Topic 19-2**

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- list information technology available to consumers
- analyze the impact of information technology on the lives of consumers
- summarize ways to manage technology

# Topic 19-2 Terms

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- ❖ computer
- ❖ handheld organizer
- ❖ computer-aided design (CAD)
- ❖ real-time
- ❖ simulation software
- ❖ obsolescence



# Technology Options Available

- ***High-tech*** refers to products and processes that result from technology



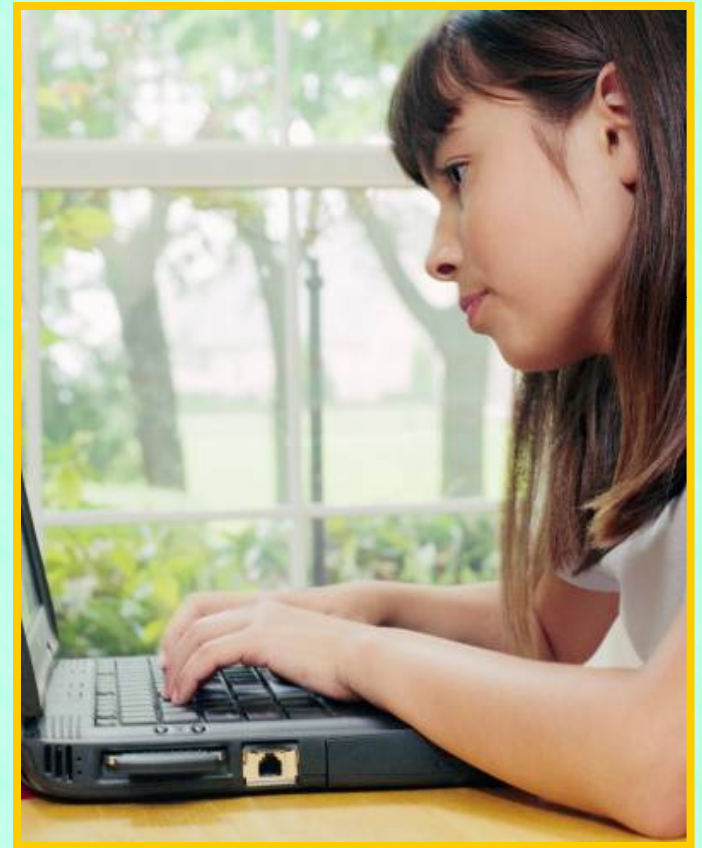
# High-Tech Products and Services

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- *Computers* are electronic devices that process information according to instructions
- Internet access includes e-mail, Web sites, and message boards
- A *handheld organizer* is a pocket-size machine that serves as a personal planner

# The Functions of High-Tech Equipment

- Computers can be used for
  - ❖ information processing
  - ❖ money management
  - ❖ information gathering and learning
  - ❖ entertainment
  - ❖ communication





# The Functions of High-Tech Equipment

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- Information processing

- ❖ Write letters
- ❖ Create reports, charts, or graphs
- ❖ Design landscapes or interiors for homes
  - *Computer-aided Design (CAD)* is graphics software that assists in creating a design



# The Functions of High-Tech Equipment

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- Money management
  - ❖ Create budgets
  - ❖ Balance checkbooks
  - ❖ Access banking on the Internet
- Information gathering and learning
  - ❖ Access real-time news, databases, and discussion groups
    - *Real-time* refers to an event happening now

# The Functions of High-Tech Equipment

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## ■ Entertainment

- ❖ Play games
- ❖ View broadcasts
- ❖ Use *simulation software*, which imitates an actual experience

## ■ Communication

- ❖ Send e-mail
- ❖ Attach documents, photos, or sounds
- ❖ Use instant messaging

# Managing Technology



- To get full value from information technology
  - ❖ make good buying decisions
  - ❖ use the items to enhance your life
  - ❖ be aware of drawbacks to using technology



# Making Buying Decisions

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- What equipment features do you need?
- What new products will be introduced soon?
- What nonproduct factors should you consider before buying?
- What is the total cost?

# Drawbacks to Using High-Tech Equipment

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- Personal privacy may be threatened
- Health and development can be adversely affected
- *Obsolescence*, or the state of uselessness, threatens the natural environment as old technology is discarded
- Spending can occur too easily
- Too much pressure can be exerted on other family resources
- Family life may be threatened

# Summary for Topic 19-2

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- The computer and other types of high-tech equipment are common purchases in today's information age
- When used well, technology can be an aid in such tasks as information processing, money management, record keeping, information gathering, and communication
- When not used well, high-tech equipment can have a negative effect on the quality of life