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Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.24

**P = presenter, G = guest**

**P:** Now most of us will remember TV series like *The Bionic Woman* or *The Six Million Dollar Man*, or more recently, the *Terminator* films, where the characters are a futuristic mixture of technology and nature. Tonight on Channel 10, there’s a fascinating documentary which suggests that this bionic future is already here. Nadene, you’ve seen a preview of the programme.

**G:** Yes, Owen, and it really does seem as if science fiction has become science fact. The programme follows the treatment of a woman whose arm was amputated in a traffic accident, a man who has had a full face transplant and an amazing process which actually grows human organs.

**P:** So it’s not just looking at what medical science might be able to achieve, but how it really is changing people’s lives right now.

**G:** Absolutely. Take the woman I mentioned – the lady who injured her arm – Amanda Kitts. She’s been getting treatment in a hospital where they specialise in bionics. And they’ve developed a bionic arm which fits onto her shoulder.

**P:** And what kind of things can she do now?

**G:** Well it’s early days, but the doctors are confident that she’ll be able to do the normal things that we take for granted, like making sandwiches or holding a cup of coffee.

**P:** So bionics is great news for patients who have lost the use of a limb.

**G:** Absolutely. And the programme shows all sorts of other bionic devices, too. There will come a time when the blind can see, the deaf can hear ... Right now, it seems as if the possibilities are endless. The technology, or should I say biotechnology, already exists.

**P:** And that’s on Channel 10 tonight at 9.30.

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