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SELECTION

# 'World must prepare for war against a global pandemic': Bill Gates fears a Spanish flu-like disease could wipe out 33 million people in less than a year

- Gates said the risk of a pandemic meant it was reckless not to act now
- He added technology will be a crucial asset in the fight against disease
- The 59-year-old philanthropist compared it to preparing for war
- And fears a pandemic - like Spanish flu which wiped out 50 million people in 1918 - could decimate populations in less than a year

By [VICTORIA WOOLLASTON FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 23:17 EDT, 27 January 2015 | UPDATED: 10:51 EDT, 28 May 2015

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Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates has said the world must use the lessons from battling Ebola to prepare for a future 'war' against a global killer disease.


At a recent conference in Berlin, Mr Gates said the risk of a worldwide pandemic is so high it is reckless not to act now - and added technology will be a crucial asset in the fight against disease.


He explained: 'We don't know it will happen but it's a high enough chance that one of the lessons of Ebola should be to ask ourselves: are we as ready for that as we should be?'

'A good comparison is that we prepare ourselves for war - we have planes and training and we practise.'

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Speaking at a recent conference in Berlin, Bill Gates (pictured) said the risk of a worldwide pandemic is so high it is reckless not to act now . He explained: 'Are we as ready for that as we should be? A good comparison is that we prepare ourselves for war - we have planes and training and we practise'

He said this included building teams of volunteers who are ready to mobilise quickly in a public health emergency, similar to schemes developed in the countries hit hardest by Ebola such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which registered almost 9,000 deaths in the last year.

'Look at the death chart of the 20th century,' he told **Vox** this week.

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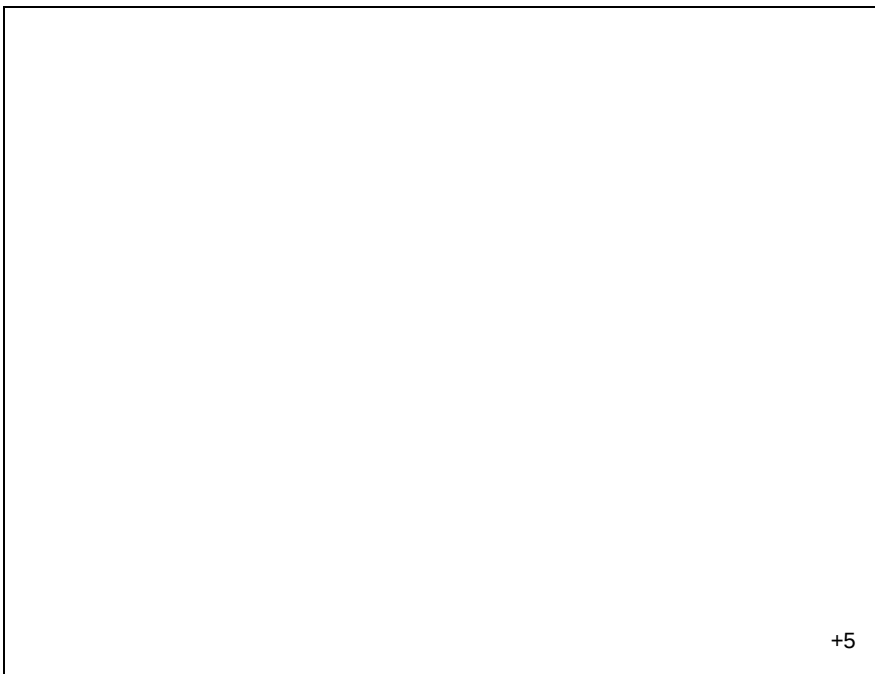
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He said this included building teams of volunteers who are ready to mobilise quickly in a public health emergency, similar to schemes developed in the countries hit hardest by Ebola such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (pictured), which registered almost 9,000 deaths in the last year



In particular, Mr Gates fears a Spanish flu-like epidemic similar to the one that killed more than 65 million people in 1918 could decimate populations in a matter of months. In this image, patients of the Spanish flu lie in Influenza Ward No. 1 in a French hospital as doctors battled the virus and the effects of the War

Researchers recently discovered the pandemic virus arose shortly before 1918, when a human H1 virus, which they believe had already been circulating in the human population since about 1900, picked up genetic material from a bird flu virus.

Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill juvenile, elderly, or already weakened patients; in contrast the 1918 pandemic predominantly killed previously

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healthy young adults.

Microsoft's co-founder originally made the comments at a donor conference for the Gavi alliance which delivers vaccines to poor countries in January.

Red cross nurses make masks to fend of Spanish flu in 1918



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THE 1918 FLU OUTBREAK - THE WORST THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN

The deadly flu virus attacked more than one-third of the world's population, and within months had killed more than 65 million people - three times as many as the World War I - and did it more quickly than any other illness in recorded history.

Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill juvenile, elderly, or already weakened patients; in contrast the 1918 pandemic predominantly killed previously healthy young adults.

To maintain morale, wartime censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality in Germany, Britain, France, and the United States.

However, newspapers were free to report the epidemic's effects in Spain, creating a false impression of Spain as being especially hard hit - and leading to the pandemic's nickname Spanish flu.

The close quarters and massive troop movements of World War I hastened the pandemic and probably both increased transmission and augmented mutation, researchers believe.

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Lacking a reliable cure, public health groups concentrated on prevention

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The cleavage-boosting full-skirted frock was a full-on Hollywood glamor

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The global mortality rate from the 1918/1919 pandemic is not known, but an estimated 10% to 20% of those who were infected died, with estimates of the total number of deaths ranging from 50 to 100 million people.

Calling vaccines the 'biggest saver of lives' worldwide, the 59-year-old praised German Chancellor Angela Merkel for hosting the conference and making vaccinations a priority of her G7 presidency this year.

However, he said he was 'concerned' about an anti-vaccination trend in the West, due to exaggerated fears of risks associated with the jabs, that was leading to dangerous outbreaks.

'Our focus is on the poor children where you have millions that die of vaccine-preventable disease. It's unfortunate that you're not getting 100-per cent coverage in the rich countries,' he said.

'They're choosing to potentially infect somebody who can't protect themselves,' he said, noting the renewed spread of illnesses such as measles and pertussis (whooping cough).

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The talk show host

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Donned shades

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Dark brunette tresses pulled back

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Lady in red

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The blonde beauty looked as toned as ever

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Outside an afterparty for the Adrift premiere

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Microsoft's co-founder (left) originally made the comments at a donor conference for the Gavi alliance, which delivers vaccines to poor countries. Calling vaccines the 'biggest saver of lives' worldwide, the 59-year-old praised German Chancellor Angela Merkel (right) for making vaccinations a priority of her G7 presidency

'I'm glad there are people who are championing reducing these misunderstandings in rich countries because of the risk that creates.'

Mr Gates - ranked by Forbes magazine as the world's richest man with a net worth of some \$80 billion (£52 billion) - said the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation already distributes about \$4 billion each year to help the world's neediest.

It is also a major contributor to the Gavi alliance, which Tuesday drew pledges of \$7.5 billion to help immunise 300 million more children in developing countries over the next five years.

## EBOLA'S ACHILLES HEEL FOUND

Ebola's 'Achilles heel' has been identified by a team of scientists,

And he continued technology is a crucial asset in his foundation's field work, seen most recently in a drive against polio.

'We use satellite photos to find out where people are living, we use a GPS tracker with a cell phone so that we can see if the vaccine team is going to every place they're supposed to go, we do statistical analysis within a few days to see if there's any kids that we missed,' he said.

'Measurement is a pretty natural private sector thing... Innovative new technologies are going to make it possible to see what's going on with far less cost.'

Mr Gates said moving from the world of big business to working in villages in the developing world where people 'have no idea who I am' had been satisfying.

'I was super proud of the work I did at Microsoft..it let me carry the message of software out into the world in a very enthused way,' he said.

'Now I have a different message, my wife and I, that we should be generous to the poor. To the degree I have visibility hopefully I'm using that in a positive way.'

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prompting hopes of new treatments to stop the virus spreading.

Researchers in New York believe they have located the vital protein, which affects whether or not the virus can spread to infect its victim.

Their study found the virus can only invade host cells by attaching to the protein - called Niemann-Pick C1 (NPC1).

If it is unable to access that protein, it loses the ability to infect and kill its victim.

The vicious disease has infected almost 27,000 people, killing 11,135, in the last 18 months.

**was first getting famous**  
The In My Blood hitmaker, who is only 19

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The dancer beamed a million dollar smile with her auburn tresses

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She was attempting to fly under the radar

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Just had another baby

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swapping her sensible  
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Pair were enjoying  
glorious weather

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The 48-year-old star flies through string of outfits

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Michael's daughter was cutting a low-key figure

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Enjoyed a sunlit walk in the West Village with her toddler

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Chatted outside bar and puffed on a cigarette

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Couple enjoyed some retail therapy in a sunny Big Apple

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on The Real  
Housewives Of NYC

▶ 'Harry is Meghan's  
protector': Palm reader  
explains why 'sensitive'  
royal newlyweds really  
are the perfect match -  
and says the Prince is  
'in his wife's corner'

▶ Kara Del Toro goes  
braless in dangerously  
low-cut gown at Adrift  
premiere in LA  
The model, 24, worked  
her red carpet magic once  
again

▶ Prince Charles dons  
his full regalia as he  
attends the traditional  
Order of the Bath  
service at Westminster  
Abbey in London  
Looked in high spirits

▶ Halle Berry, 51,  
catches up with co-star  
Keanu Reeves as she's  
pictured on set of John  
Wick 3 for the first time  
She greeted him with a  
kiss on the cheek

▶ Mila Kunis looks  
effortlessly cool in floral  
embroidered bomber  
jacket as she heads out  
in LA  
The actress was flying  
solo

▶ Jillian Harris of Love It  
Or List It reveals she's  
expecting a baby girl  
with fiancé Justin  
Pasutto  
Exciting news for the ex-  
Bachelor contestant

▶ Scott Baio won't face  
charges for allegedly  
molesting Nicole Eggert  
on the set of 'Charles in  
Charge' in the 1980s  
because statute of  
limitations has expired

▶ Olivia Culpo  
accentuates her slender  
frame in gray skinny  
jeans as she carries a  
bouquet of flowers after  
low-key dinner in  
Beverly Hills

#### ADVERTISEMENT

▶ The Kardashians,  
Jenners and Kanye  
West go head to head in  
the first look at  
Celebrity Family Feud...  
but Caitlyn's nowhere to  
be seen

▶ Mom on duty! Ivanka  
Trump ditches her  
thigh-high Zara wrap

skirt for comfortable jeans as she spends her evening with her sons in DC

▶ Chrissy Teigen teases President Trump about his Twitter blocking ruling... one year after he barred her from his page  
Hilarious

▶ Robin Thicke and girlfriend April Love Geary mirror one another's style during fun family day out with their three-month-old daughter Mia

▶ Anne Hathaway is all smiles as she dons three vibrant ensembles while promoting Ocean's 8 in NYC  
Showed off three different ensembles

▶ Dianna Agron and husband Winston Marshall enjoy sunny New York day while strolling hand in hand  
Pair look infatuated with each other

▶ Emily Ratajkowski wows in quirky ensemble as she is supported by husband Sebastian Bear-McClard at In Darkness premiere  
Cute couple

▶ Actress Jessica Walter claims her Arrested Development co-star Jeffrey Tambor verbally harassed her on set - but denies claims he sexually abused cast

▶ Anna Kournikova shows off her silky dance moves while carrying newborn daughter Lucy in a sling  
New mom is staying in shape

▶ Ariana Grande is pictured surrounded by family at vigil on the anniversary of concert attack as her mom Joan pays tribute to the 'strength of Manchester'

#### ADVERTISEMENT

▶ Mandy Moore is pretty in floral blue dress as This Is Us star hangs out with pals in Beverly Hills  
Had half sleeves and was cinched under the bust and at the waist

▶ Naomi Watts looks effortlessly chic in a white spotted shirt and



flared jeans as she takes her pet pooch for a walk in sunny New York City

▶ Kim Kardashian sports green dress in throwback picture from 1997 while posing with pal Sarah Howard  
They've been friends for over 20 years

▶ 'I was mind blown!' Jenna Dewan reveals that Janet Jackson once gifted her a 'pleasure chest' of sex toys  
She used to be one of her back-up dancers

▶ Will Smith raps 'stop the divorce rumors' in triumphant return to music career after 13 year absence  
Will debuted new music on Wednesday

▶ Jennifer Lopez showcases flawless figure in dazzling skintight yoga outfit with beau Alex Rodriguez  
Flaunted her show-stopping body

▶ Jenna Dewan is a doting mom as she takes daughter Everly to the mall amid Channing Tatum divorce  
Had a mommy-daughter day out

▶ Ashley Graham flaunts her enviable curves while showcasing her struggle pulling up a pair of shorts  
Shared another inspiring message

▶ Jennifer Garner keeps casual in grey track pants and a fleece jacket as she takes daughter Violet to karate class  
Low-key look

▶ Michael Phelps' wife Nicole hits back at critics with a snap of herself pumping breast milk at gala  
Had second son Beckett in February

▶ Camila Cabello takes a stroll with her mom in Beverly Hills after being hospitalized for dehydration  
Was too sick to perform in Seattle

▶ David Beckham opts for comfort in hooded jumper and jogging bottoms as he joins son Brooklyn, 19, at Narita

[Airport in Tokyo](#)  
Cut casual figures

▶ [Shailene Woodley and boyfriend Ben Volavola pack on the PDA at Adrift premiere in Los Angeles](#)  
Actress wowed in a plunging gown

▶ [Extra co-host Mark Wright is gifted a solo sex toy to spice up his long distance relationship with wife Michelle Keegan in hilarious clip](#)

▶ ['Not sure what it opens... I'm hoping it's the wine cellar': West Hollywood grants Stormy Daniels keys to the city 'for speaking truth to power'](#)

▶ [Rocker Rod Stewart, 73, and his photographer wife Penny Lancaster, 47, put on an affectionate display during romantic lunch in Rome](#)

▶ [Mom says daughter, 15, tried to kill herself as part of a suicide pact with four other kids after mimicking self-harm methods on Netflix show 13 Reasons Why](#)

▶ [Jeff Goldblum, 65, reveals joy over having two 'spectacular' sons in his 60s as he feels 'fit as a fiddle'](#)  
Shares sons with wife Emilie Livingston, 35

▶ [Emilia Clarke reveals she will pay tribute to end of Game Of Thrones with 'cool' flying dragon wrist tattoo](#)  
Actress, 31, revealed she will get a tattoo

▶ [Adam Levine gets pulled over by cops as he joins James Corden in teaser for next Carpool Karaoke](#)  
The Maroon 5 frontman sang for the cop

▶ [Kim Zolciak-Biermann makes up with brother Mike on her 40th birthday after not speaking for 17 years](#)  
Welcomed him to her lavish party

▶ [Chris Hemsworth rocks out with daughter India Rose and twins Sasha and Tristan to future sister-in-law](#)

Miley Cyrus's hit  
Wrecking Ball

► Katy Perry is a golden  
gladiator in sexy  
metallic armor as she  
returns to Witness tour  
in Germany  
She's back in Europe on  
her travels

► Natalie Dormer flashes  
black lace lingerie as  
she dons stylish tuxedo  
suit for In Darkness  
premiere  
Turned heads as she  
arrived on the red carpet

► Jaden Smith pulls  
faces on girlfriend  
Odessa Adlon as they  
enjoy a lunch date in  
Los Angeles  
They began dating last  
year

► Liev Schreiber's dad  
pad! Ray Donovan star  
gives AD a tour of his  
kid-friendly 'dream  
home' in NYC  
Showed off his  
redecorated home

► Kristen Stewart nails  
casual chic in edgy  
double denim ensemble  
as she enjoys a night  
out in LA  
The Twilight star rocked  
casual chic

► Kevin Federline looks  
in good spirits in LA  
after filing child support  
docs against Britney  
Spears  
He wants an increase in  
payments

► Andy Cohen sparks  
new round of feuding  
between NeNe Leakes  
and Kim Zolciak after  
reunion 'gang up'  
Things boiled over  
between two women

► Royal wedding source  
reveals exhausted Harry  
and Meghan enjoyed  
just a few drinks at their  
'rowdy' reception before  
they 'snuck off' to get  
some rest

► Woody Allen's son  
Moses DEFENDS his  
father over accusations  
he molested his sister  
and claims his 'abusive  
and violent' mother Mia  
'brainwashed' her

► Resurfaced 2013 Craig  
Ferguson interview with  
Meghan Markle goes  
viral - but some viewers  
are slamming 'creepy'

host for complimenting  
her 'HAIR-FREE' body

► Kaia Gerber, 16, shows  
model style in  
Alexander Wang  
sweatsuit as she  
departs from LAX  
Kaia was looking typically  
stylish

► Drew Barrymore  
beams as she dons  
shimmering striped  
blazer while leaving  
cosmetic line event in  
NYC  
Dazzling

► Lucas Hedges is seen  
for first time in his role  
as a younger Shia  
LaBeouf on set of biopic  
Honey Boy  
Lucas has been cast as a  
young Shia

► Kim Kardashian glows  
in neon jacket while at  
Disneyland with kids,  
sister Kourtney and the  
family  
All together at the  
happiest place on earth

► Kim Kardashian  
shares cute video of  
four-year-old daughter  
North with dandelions  
braided into her hair  
She enjoyed quality time  
with her eldest

► Super mom! Gwen  
Stefani is casual chic in  
black hoodie and ripped  
denim during outing  
with sons Apollo and  
Zuma  
Family fun

► Not in the face! Keanu  
Reeves sports bloody  
scratches while filming  
John Wick: Chapter 3  
sequel in New York City  
The 53-year-old actor  
sporting facial cuts

► 'I'll kill you': Gwyneth  
Paltrow reveals that  
Brad Pitt threw Harvey  
Weinstein against a wall  
and threatened his life  
after she told him mogul  
sexually harassed her

► Ben Affleck pumps gas  
in LA after Gwyneth  
Paltrow said he was 'not  
in a good place' when  
they dated  
The A-lister, 45, wore a  
black leather jacket

► Behati Prinsloo flaunts  
trim figure in midi dress  
just three-months after  
welcoming second  
daughter

Welcomed her baby girl in February

▶ [Cindy Crawford, 52, showcases her age-defying beauty as she looks stylish at charity dinner with Rande Gerber](#)  
Cute couple

▶ [Ariana Grande almost lost \\$169,000 diamond choker as it flew off during Billboard Awards performance](#)  
Her team scoured the area to find it

▶ [John Malkovich cast as Hercule Poirot in BBC One's Agatha Christie compilation The ABC Murders](#)  
Will focus on A.B.C., a serial killer

▶ [Kourtney Kardashian flaunts her gym-honed physique as she takes son Mason Disick to art class in LA](#)  
Put her parenting boots on

▶ [Dakota Fanning, 24, stuns in baby blue dress at The Alienist Emmy FYC event in Beverly Hills](#)  
Paired the stunning sleeveless dress with towering heels

▶ [Jodie Foster attends press conference for new sci-fi film Hotel Artemis alongside co-star Sofia Boutella](#)  
Looked ready for business in a blazer

▶ [Sienna Miller looks lovely in floral mini dress at opening for Off-Broadway's Peace for Mary Frances](#)  
The actress beamed as she posed

▶ [Carey Mulligan reveals fears of falling victim to dementia after watching beloved grandmother lose her battle with Alzheimer's](#)

▶ [Vanderpump Rules' Scheana Marie holds hands with Bachelor star Robby Hayes on romantic beach trip](#)  
The reality television stars were all-smiles

▶ [ABC's The Chew is CANCELLED just months after host Mario Batali was ousted from the show following](#)

allegations of sexual  
misconduct scandal

▶ Olivia Munn flaunts her  
toned physique in blue  
frocks as she debuts  
FOURTH outfit change  
for the day  
Wanted to make the most  
of her closet

▶ Selena Gomez watches  
Vanderpump Rules  
reunion sipping out of  
baby bottle like show's  
star Lala Kent  
She is an avid fan of the  
Bravo reality show

▶ 'I've admired all his  
films!' Rebel Wilson  
cast in new movie  
created by Thor director  
Taika Waititi after her  
\$4.5 million Bauer  
defamation court case

▶ Cardi B's fiancé Offset  
back on his feet after  
car crash confirming he  
swerved to avoid  
'crackhead'  
He still has a wound on  
his right hand

▶ Bella Thorne flashes  
her enviably flat midriff  
in biker chic black  
leather as she steps out  
in NYC  
She's never afraid to bare  
some skin

▶ Amber Rose pulls a  
pout as she waits for  
her car at valet after  
lunch in West  
Hollywood  
Pulled a face as she  
waited to catch her ride in  
Los Angeles

▶ Arrested  
Development's Jeffrey  
Tambor submitted for  
Emmy consideration  
amid sexual harassment  
claims

▶ Willow Smith says dad  
Will is 'so happy' she  
isn't 'curvy' because he  
wants men to focus on  
her 'brain'  
Famous dad wants  
intellect to shine

▶ How Trevor Noah had  
a cameo in Black  
Panther as the voice of  
A.I. system Griot... and  
no one seems to have  
noticed

▶ Natalie Dormer stuns  
in a floral frock while  
promoting Picnic At  
Hanging Rock in LA

The Game of Thrones  
star put on quite the  
display

► Britney Spears says  
it's 'not her problem' ex  
Kevin Federline need  
more money for his SIX  
kids after he asks for  
\$60K a month  
Child support battle

► Mark Wahlberg gets a  
healthy dose of grilling  
about the shirtless  
photos he posts online  
when visiting Ellen  
DeGeneres

► The Handmaid's Tale  
star Elisabeth Moss  
reveals she has '100  
percent approval' over  
nude scenes  
Can pick and choose  
what is used

► 'I'm always going to be  
Meg': Meghan Markle's  
make-up artist shares  
her heartwarming  
response after he asked  
the bride what he  
should call her after  
wedding

► Michael Jackson  
estate slams Disney  
over 'crass exploitative'  
TV special on his last  
days  
Over ABC's The Last  
Days of Michael Jackson

► As seen on screen!  
Lavish mega-mansion  
owned by Cameron  
Diaz's character in hit  
2006 romcom The  
Holiday is on the market  
for \$11.8 MILLION

► So cute! Hilaria  
Baldwin shares heart-  
melting clip of six-day-  
old son Romeo grinning  
in his sleep  
Adorable tot looks just like  
actor dad Alec

► Arie Luyendyk Jr. and  
Lauren Burnham reveal  
their wedding date and  
venue as they talk THAT  
Bachelor finale  
Wedding bells for reality  
TV couple

► Has Camilla become  
Meghan's confidante?  
Touching moment  
Duchess and Harry's  
bride held hands at  
Charles' 70th birthday  
party

► Rita Ora puts on quirky  
display in bizarre cut-  
out hat before slipping  
into sizzling scarlet  
catsuit for performance

in Paris

► [The Baby-Sitters Club](#)  
'to get the reboot  
treatment in new TV  
series from producer  
Michael De Luca'  
All the original characters  
will appear

► [Idris Elba signs up to  
play the Hunchback of  
Notre Dame in new  
Netflix movie...](#) which  
actor will also direct  
AND produce music for

► [Rags to riches! How  
Meghan's beagle was  
DAYS away from being  
put down when she  
rescued him \(and he's  
now living a life of  
luxury in Kensington  
Palace\)](#)

► ['You killed Shine':  
Eddie threatens to  
reveal Lucious's dark  
secret as Empire gears  
up for next week's  
explosive finale](#)  
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► [Chris Harrison  
'approves' of Ashley  
Iaconetti and Jared  
Haibon's romance as  
Bachelor stars weigh in](#)  
Shared a sweet photo of  
the loved-up duo

► [Husband of Meghan  
Markle's best friend  
Jessica Mulroney  
reveals what prompted  
his son's scene-stealing  
photobomb as he  
dishes on the nuptials](#)

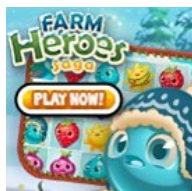
► ['I don't care!': Michelle  
Wolf shuts down The  
View's Meghan McCain  
after she insinuates that  
her WHCD remarks will  
stop other comedians  
from doing the dinner](#)

► [Chrissy Teigen's  
daughter Luna poses  
next to a huge  
arrangement of roses  
sent by pal Kim  
Kardashian](#)  
Just had second tot

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Game on iTunes. Play it  
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## GADGET REVIEWS

### ► **Naim Atom: The hifi that will change the way you listen to music**

It's eye-wateringly expensive at \$2,999, but Naim's Uniti Atom is a revelation, an integrated amplifier that makes it easy to stream music at a quality you've probably never heard before.



### ► **Apple's new iPhone X is a glimpse into the future**

After a day with the iPhone X, while Face ID isn't perfect, and the 'notch' is an annoyance, the iPhone X is a glimpse into the future of phones and the best handset of the market by a long way.



### ► **Shinola hopes to banish Beats with the best looking headphones around**

They aren't cheap, but Shinola's \$595 foray into headphones are the perfect accessory for design obsessives looking to upgrade their listening habits.



### ► **The best Android handset out there: Google Pixel 2 review**

With the Pixel XL, Google has created a handset that is not only the best Android device out there, but arguably matches the iPhone 8 in terms of design and feel.



### ► **Apple Watch Series 3: The smartwatch that liberates you from your phone**

Apple's Watch will free you from your phone - while making sure you don't suffer the fear of missing out. It's a huge step forward, and a compelling reason for the average user to buy a smartwatch.



### ► **iPhone 8: Why a lack of X appeal shouldn't put you off**

While the iPhone X may have stolen the headlines, in fact the iPhone 8 could be the sleeper hit of Apple's new range, offering the same power as the X but with features and a design users trust.



### ► **Is it really worth paying £280 for Nintendo's Switch? MailOnline's verdict**

While the design is impressive and easy to use, the game line up is disappointing.



### ► **The \$1,000 wireless speaker that really IS worth the price: Naim Mu-so Qb review**

Naim's incredible Mu-So Qb takes you back to the good old days - where the



music captivates and enthalls, rather than simply being something in the background.



▶ **The best all in one wireless speaker you'll ever hear: Naim Mu-so review**

It might not be a name familiar to the US market, but Naim is a legendary British brand hoping to make a splash with the American launch of its \$1499 Mu:So speaker.



▶ **The hi-tech \$2,000 spin bike that really could change your life**

Peloton's hi-tech bike lets you stream live and on demand rides to your home - and it's one of the best examples of fitness technology out there - at a price.



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