

1. Predictions for the new decade

This week's lesson features three people's predictions regarding how life will change during the second decade of the 21st century.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students if they can think of any major changes (in any area – society, politics, technology, climate, etc.) that have happened in their country, and/or the world as a whole, since the year 2000. Then ask them (perhaps in pairs or groups) to predict changes that will take place between now and 2020.
2. Tell students they are going to read the predictions of three British people regarding the next decade. Give them five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. You could ask them to check if any of their ideas are mentioned. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the different types of comprehension questions in Exercises 1, 2 and 3.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students if they particularly agree or disagree with any of the predictions on Worksheet A, and if so, why.
6. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to turn over their copies of Worksheet A, or to hand them back to you temporarily. Then ask them to attempt Exercise 4 on Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A with twenty incorrect words that they have to identify and correct. The words containing the mistakes are all in bold, as are five other words that are correct. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
7. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. Sharon 2. Sharon 3. Harry, Karen 4. Harry, Karen 5. Harry, Sharon, Karen

Exercise 2

1. T 2. T 3. D 4. T 5. D 6. F 7. T 8. D

Exercise 3

1. Harry predicts that people watching TV will be able to access information about the people on the screen by pointing at them with their remote control.
2. Karen thinks it would be for environmental reasons.
3. Sharon thinks it will be cheaper for employers.
4. Cockroaches.

Exercise 4

1. hand-held 2. device 3. access 5. screen 6. pointing 7. remote 8. emissions
9. online 10. employees 11. colleagues 13. the climate 14. common 15. rarer
16. cockroaches 17. disgusting 20. fast food 21. overweight 22. environmental
24. booths 25. encourage

Words in bold that are correct: 4. advanced 12. clients 18. treat 19. terrible
23. toll

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/series/2020>

'The world in 2020' as seen by British newspaper *The Guardian*. Challenging for intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8295607.stm>

A BBC article (October 2009) on the imaginary inventions suggested by British children as a means of improving our quality of life by 2020. Challenging for intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8396028.stm>

BBC News reviews the years 2000-2009, asking 'What were the key events of the decade?' Challenging for intermediate level.