
Predictions for the new decade

WORKSHEET A

Jake

The biggest changes over the next decade will be technological. By 2020 most people in the US, even young kids, will own some kind of hand-held device with internet access. TVs will also become more advanced: for example, you'll probably be able to access information about the people on the screen – an actor in a movie, say, or a politician on the news – by pointing at them with your remote control. I guess there'll also be technological changes in transportation. Electric cars already exist, of course, but by 2020 we'll need to have lots of them if we want to cut carbon emissions.

Sharon

I think work will be different in ten years' time. Technological advances will allow office workers like me to do more of their work from home, online, which will also be cheaper for their employers. Employees in lots of companies will only go to the office when they really need to meet co-workers or clients face to face. But if you believe what many scientists are saying, the biggest difference between now and 2020 will be the climate. Winter is already less cold than it used to be, and I guess it's possible that in 2020 there'll be no snow at all. Some birds and insects that are common today will be much rarer, and others that don't live here right now will begin to appear. I just hope we don't start seeing lots of cockroaches – they're disgusting.

Karen

I think there'll be changes in the area of health over the next ten years. On the positive side, there's a chance that better medicines will be invented to treat terrible diseases like cancer, but on the negative side, even more children and teenagers will be eating fast food and spending far too much time watching TV and playing computer games. More young people will be overweight, therefore, which means they might have serious health problems when they're older. Travel will also be different in 2020, for environmental reasons. I think there'll be tollbooths on lots of roads and highways, to encourage people to use their cars less, and there might even be a limit on the number of flights people can take per year.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Decide for which of the three people (Jake, Sharon, Karen) the following statements are true.

1. They mention work.
2. They mention animals.
3. They mention children.
4. They mention transportation.
5. They mention technological or scientific advances.

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't determine (D).

1. Sharon thinks the climate has already changed.
2. Karen thinks that in 2020 people will have to pay to use lots of roads and highways.
3. Jake predicts that in 2020 almost everyone in the US will have a computer in their home.
4. Sharon works in an office.
5. Jake likes to watch the news on TV.
6. Karen thinks young people will have healthier lifestyles in 2020 than they do now.
7. Sharon predicts that the populations of some kinds of animals will decrease between now and 2020.
8. Jake already has an electric car.

Exercise 3

Answer the questions below.

1. What does Jake think people will be able to do while watching TV by 2020?
2. Why does Karen think that in 2020 there might be a limit on how many flights people can take per year?
3. How does Sharon think that having more employees working from home will be good for employers?
4. What insect does Sharon dislike?

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 4

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Jake

The biggest changes over the next decade will be technological. By 2020 most people in the US, even young kids, will own some kind of (1) **hand-hold** (2) **devine** with internet (3) **axes**. TVs will also become more (4) **advanced**: for example, you'll probably be able to access information about the people on the (5) **scene** – an actor in a movie, say, or a politician on the news – by (6) **pinting** at them with your (7) **remo** control. I guess there'll also be technological changes in transportation. Electric cars already exist, of course, but by 2020 we'll need to have lots of them if we want to cut carbon (8) **missions**.

Sharon

I think work will be different in ten years' time. Technological advances will allow office workers like me to do more of their work from home, (9) **line**, which will also be cheaper for their employers. (10) **Employes** in lots of companies will only go to the office when they really need to meet (11) **by-workers** or (12) **clients** face to face. But if you believe what many scientists are saying, the biggest difference between now and 2020 will be (13) **climate**. Winter is already less cold than it used to be, and I guess it's possible that in 2020 there'll be no snow at all. Some birds and insects that are (14) **come on** today will be much (15) **railer**, and others that don't live here right now will begin to appear. I just hope we don't start seeing lots of (16) **rockcoaches** – they're (17) **gusting**.

Karen

I think there'll be changes in the area of health over the next ten years. On the positive side, there's a chance that better medicines will be invented to (18) **treat** (19) **terrible** diseases like cancer, but on the negative side, even more children and teenagers will be eating (20) **quick food** and spending far too much time watching TV and playing computer games. More young people will be (21) **weight**, therefore, which means they might have (22) **serious** health problems when they're older. Travel will also be different in 2020, for (23) **environment** reasons. I think there'll be (24) **tollboots** on lots of roads and highways, to (25) **courage** people to use their cars less, and there might even be a limit on the number of flights people can take per year.