

1. A different world

This week's lesson mentions a few of the significant events that took place one hundred years ago, in the year 1911, and looks at some of the huge differences between the world then and now.

Level

Upper intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B2 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of the differences between the world today and the world in 1911: how many can your students come up with? (Maybe you could create categories – for example, transport, technology, population, health, politics, society – and touch on some of the themes that come up in the main text.) In what ways do your students imagine that life today is better, or worse, than life then? Do they have any predictions for what life will be like one hundred years from now, in 2111?
2. Divide your students into pairs, then hand out Worksheet A and give them sufficient time both to look up new vocabulary and to attempt Exercise 1, in which they are asked to fill in the gaps in the text. Make clear that the answers depend to some extent on general knowledge and that in some cases the students might have to guess. Note that a couple of the answers appear more than once.
3. Check answers in open class.
4. Keeping your students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask them to complete the crossword.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to turn over their copies of Worksheets A and B, or to hand them back to you temporarily. Then ask them to attempt Exercise 3 on Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A with fifteen 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. If you wish you could also hand out Worksheet D, which contains the main text without any gaps or mistakes.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. South Pole
2. *Titanic*
3. bombs
4. *Titanic*
5. bombs
6. South Pole
7. television
8. cars
9. radio
10. telephone
11. London
12. Tokyo
13. average
14. Africa
15. Britain's
16. New Zealand
17. Finland

Exercise 2

1. wireless
2. population
3. hand
4. year
5. healthy
6. leader
7. Norway
8. invented
9. Libya
10. global
11. expectancy
12. colonies

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Ronald Reagan* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 3

1. case
2. Northern
3. iceberg
4. hand-held
5. destination
6. impact
8. former
9. latter
11. populous
12. expectancy
14. independent
15. empires
18. aspects
19. miraculous
20. generations

Words in bold that are correct: 7. jet 10. developed 13. proportion 16. democracy 17. rarity

2. Related websites

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

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1911>

The *Wikipedia* entry for the year 1911, with a list of historical events that took place that year. Accessible to Upper intermediate level.

<http://www.paleofuture.com/blog/2011/1/18/edisons-predictions-for-the-year-2011-1911.html>

Predictions for the year 2011 made in 1911 by the great American scientist and inventor Thomas Edison (1847–1931). Accessible to Upper intermediate level.

<http://www.stratfor.com/next100years>

American political scientist George Friedman gives a five-minute video summary of predictions from his book *The Next 100 Years*. Challenging for Upper intermediate level.