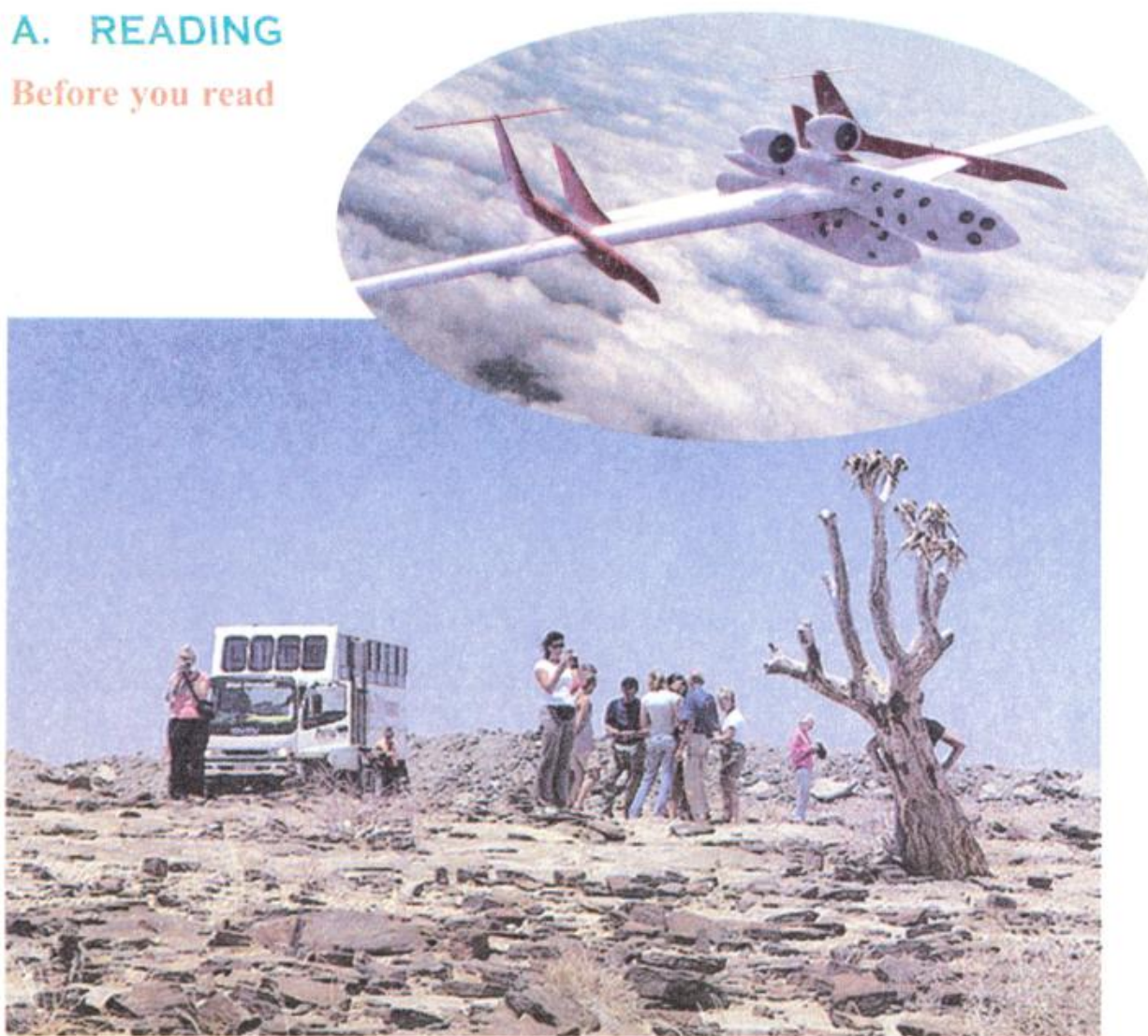


LIFE IN THE FUTURE

A. READING

Before you read



• *Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.*

1. Do you think life will be better in the future? Why/Why not?
2. List three things that might happen in the future.

While you read


Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

What will life be like in the future? Different people have different answers to this question; some are pessimistic while others optimistic.


Things will be much worse than they are nowadays, pessimists say. The whole world will experience a period of economic depression. Many large corporations will be wiped out and millions of jobs will be lost. The security of the earth will be threatened by terrorism as terrorist groups will become more powerful and more dangerous. On the contrary, optimists believe that life will be far better than it is today. We will be living in a much cleaner environment, breathing fresher air and eating healthier foods. We will also be better looked after by a more modern medical system. Domestic chores will no longer be a burden thanks to the inventions of labour-saving devices.

For better or worse, it is certain that in the future some things will be very different. Developments in micro technology – computers and telecommunication are bound to have a huge influence on various aspects of our lives. Take work, for instance. Robots will do most of the work in factories, so they will be cleaner places for fewer people to work in them. Offices, too, will go electronic with the result that paper will almost completely disappear. More people will work from home on computers linked to a head office. As for travel, it is likely that space-shuttle technology will be used in normal air travel achieving speeds of up to 15,000 kph. Cars will still be with us, but, instead of petrol, they will run on anything from electricity to methane gas. They will also be fitted with computers to tell us how efficiently we are driving and if there is anything wrong on the road ahead.

Whatever we expect from the future, remember that progress has never moved in straight lines, and history is full of unexpected developments. However, we are confident that the future is in our hands, and it is our responsibility to contribute to bettering our own lives.

 **Task 1.** Find words or phrases in the passage which have the following meanings.

1. People who always expect bad things to happen _____
2. People who always expect good things to happen _____
3. A period when there's little economic activity
and many people are poor or without jobs _____
4. The use of violent action in order to achieve
political aims or to force a government to act _____
5. Be destroyed or removed completely _____
6. Spacecraft designed to be used for travelling
between the earth and a space station _____

 **Task 2.** Answer the following questions.

1. What will happen in an economic depression?
2. Why, according to pessimists, will the security of the earth be threatened?
3. What will life be like in the future, according to optimists?
4. What are the most important factors that will bring about dramatic changes in different aspects of our lives?

 **Task 3.** Complete the notes about how technology will influence our life in the future.


- work: _____

- travel: _____

After you read

Work in groups. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of robots.

B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1.** Look at the newspaper cuttings from the future, and say what will have happened by the end of the 21st century.

CHINESE ASTRONAUTS LAND ON MARS

25th October, 2099

NEW MOON CITY OPENED

The third city on the moon was declared open yesterday.

The new city has a population of over 200,000 people.

16th May, 2089

THE COLD WAR ENDS

Scientists have found a cure for the common cold

4th September, 2099

150th BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Oldest world citizen celebrated her 150th birthday yesterday.

2nd July, 2087

HOLIDAY RESORT ON JUPITER

Vietnam tourism welcomes the fiftieth holiday-maker back from Jupiter.

12th April, 2098


CAR ON SEA WATER

At last, the first car running on sea water was finished yesterday.

9th August, 2087

Example:


– *By the end of the 21st century, Chinese astronauts will have landed on Mars.*

 **Task 2. Work in pairs.** Which of these predictions are likely/unlikely to happen? Give at least two reasons for each.

Example:

- *I think it's very unlikely that by the end of the 21st century Chinese astronauts will have landed on Mars, because it is too far from the earth.*

	Likely	Unlikely
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● developments in science and technology ● living standards improved ● cures for fatal diseases found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● too far ● no water ● thin atmosphere ● too costly ● too cold/hot ● more diseases ● just impossible

 **Task 3. Work in groups.** Make some more predictions about what life will be like one hundred years from now.

C. LISTENING

Before you listen

- **Work in pairs.** Discuss the question: Which of the following factors do you think might help people have a long and healthy life?

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ● eating healthy food | ● doing exercise |
| ● laughing a lot | ● going to bed early |
| ● drinking a lot | ● eating a lot of meat |

- **Listen and repeat.**

incredible	centenarian	life expectancy
fatal	eradicated	eternal life

While you listen

Listen to the interview about people's life expectancy in the future and do the tasks that follow.

 **Task 1.** Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

T F

1. Nobody can predict how long we will be able to live in the 21st century. ☐ ☐
2. People's general health will improve because they eat a lot of mushrooms. ☐ ☐
3. Nowadays, if people look after themselves, they can live to be 90. ☐ ☐
4. Within 30 years, 80% of cancers will be curable. ☐ ☐
5. Eternal life isn't impossible. ☐ ☐

 **Task 2.** Listen again and answer the questions about the interview.


1. What are the factors that help people have longer life expectancy according to Dr. Davis?
2. Which factor is the most important one? Why?
3. What will we have been able to do about AIDS in ten years' time?

After you listen

***Work in pairs.** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a very long life.*

D. WRITING


Describing the world in which you would like to live in the year 2020.

 **Task 1.** Your school organises a competition for students to write about *The world in which I would like to live in the year 2020*. Below is an essay by one of the students. **Work in pairs.** Read and answer the questions about it.

My ideal world would be a peaceful one. There are no wars or conflicts between nations. People won't have to live under the threat of

terrorism but all live together in harmony. Everyone has a job to do, and there is a good healthy standard of living for all. I would also wish to live in a clean healthy environment with less noise and less pollution. There are more and larger parks where children can play and wildlife can be protected. But my main desire is to see people less materialistic, less selfish, less violent and more loving than they are now.

1. What are the student's concerns about:
 - world peace?
 - employment?
 - the environment?
 - the people?
2. Are your concerns similar to those?
3. Do you have other concerns? What are they?

 **Task 2.** Write about the ideal world in which you would like to live in the year 2020, using the ideas you have discussed in Task 1.

E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

- **Pronunciation: Contracted forms of auxiliaries (continued)**
- **Grammar: Prepositions and articles**

Pronunciation

- *Read the following phrases. Pay attention to how the full and contracted forms of the auxiliaries are pronounced.*

Full forms	Contracted forms	Full forms	Contracted forms
I have	I've	I have not	I haven't
you have	you've	you have not	you haven't
he has	he's	he has not	he hasn't
she has	she's	she has not	she hasn't
it has	it's	it has not	it hasn't

● *Practise reading these sentences.*

I've got something for you.

You've got something for me?

We've failed and they've passed.

I haven't always lived in this cottage, you know.

Haven't you? You've not been here long, of course.

I haven't. But I've grown to love it already.

He's left, and she's gone to work, too.

Hasn't the doctor come yet?

No. The doctor hasn't been called.

Grammar

Exercise 1. Choose the appropriate prepositions.

1. Luckily, you are *in/on* time for the meeting.
2. Many people are dying *of/by* various types of cancer.
3. I will not be here next week. I am going to be *on/in* business in Mexico.
4. *At/In* the end of the book, they get married and live happily ever after.
5. Thank you for everything you've done. You are a true friend *of/to* me.
6. I can't believe *in/to* you. You always let me down.
7. I have warned you *on/about* the difficulties you have to face when applying for the job.
8. Britney Spears is famous *by/for* her beautiful face and sweet voice.
9. The bookshop is *among/between* the chemist's and the butcher's and *across/opposite* the library.
10. Next year, I am going to get married *to/with* John and we are going to move to Bristol.

Exercise 2. Put *a/an, the* or ϕ in each space to complete the following sentences.

1. We went by _____ train to the west of England.
2. _____ people who live in _____ Scotland are called _____ Scots.
3. _____ Columbus was one of _____ first people to cross _____ Atlantic.
4. Davis learned to play _____ violin when he was at _____ university.
5. Did you read _____ book I lent you _____ last week?
6. Is that _____ present Bill gave you for _____ Christmas?
7. _____ computer has already changed _____ our lives dramatically.
8. There was _____ accident yesterday at _____ corner of _____ street.
9. I need _____ time to think about _____ offer you gave me.
10. _____ little knowledge is _____ dangerous thing.

TEST YOURSELF C

I. Listening (2.5 points)

Listen to a passage making predictions about the second half of the twenty-first century. Choose the best answer from the options A, B or C.

1. The world's population will increase from 6 billion to 10 billion, mostly in _____.
A. America and Asia
B. Africa, Asia and Latin America
C. Africa, Asia and America
2. The earth's climate will become warmer, which will create _____.
A. droughts and famine in Africa
B. droughts and famine in southern Europe
C. Both A and B
3. In the second half of the 21st century, _____.
A. the world's supplies of petroleum will run out
B. people can't produce electric vehicles
C. we'll go on using our normal cars
4. With the help of new technology, _____.
A. people will communicate easily in the same place
B. people won't need to be in the same place to communicate
C. people can use computers and videophones at home
5. Patterns of work may change. People _____.
A. won't need to go to banks, offices
B. won't have to go to schools, universities or shops any more
C. Both A and B

II. Reading (2.5 points)

Read the passage and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

People used to know more or less how their children would live. Now things are changing so quickly that we don't even know what our own lives will be like in a few years. What follows is not science fiction. It's how experts see the future.

You're daydreaming behind the wheel of your car, but that's OK. You have it on automatic pilot, and with its high-tech computers and cameras, your car "knows" how to get you home safely.

What's for lunch? In the old days, you used to stop off to buy a hamburger or pizza. Now you use your diagnostic machine to find out which foods your body needs. You find out you need more vegetables and less fat. Your food-preparation machine makes you a salad.

After lunch, you go down the hall to your home office. Here you have everything you need for doing your work. Thanks to your information screen and your new computer, you almost never go into the office any more. The information screen shows an urgent message from a co-worker in Brazil. You set the screen to translate Portuguese into English, then you read and reply to the message.

T F

1. The experts who write science fiction think about our own lives in the future. ☐ ☐
2. You will be able to get home safely by car because you bring your own high-tech computers and cameras with you. ☐ ☐
3. For lunch, your special machine will help you choose proper foods and makes you a salad. ☐ ☐
4. With the help of your information screen and new computer, you will be able to work at home without going to the office. ☐ ☐
5. When receiving an urgent message from someone in Brazil, you will be able to translate it from Portuguese into English yourself before reading and replying to the message. ☐ ☐

III. Grammar (2.5 points)

A. Put **a/an, the** or no article (\emptyset) in each space to complete the sentences.
(1.5 points)

1. I must go to _____ post office to buy some stamps.
2. Would you like _____ apple?
3. Mr. and Mrs. Smith invited us to _____ dinner.
4. Did Jane get _____ job she applied for?
5. We took _____ taxi to the airport.
6. There are millions of stars in _____ space.

B. From each pair of sentences, make one sentence with **Although** or **Even though**. (1 point)

1. Nam worked very hard. He didn't pass the exam.
_____.
2. I was very tired. I couldn't sleep.
_____.
3. She had all the necessary qualifications. She didn't get the job.
_____.
4. The traffic was bad. We arrived on time.
_____.

IV. Writing (2.5 points)

In 150 words, write a passage about the changes in our lives in the next 30 years. You should focus on the following areas:

- People
- Foods and water
- Transportation
- Communications