

Read two articles from two different sources on global trends. Which of the topics from the list in 1 are mentioned? Which article has a more positive view of the future?

The Endless City

Urban drift is now "unstoppable," the director of UN-Habitat, Anna Toboju, states sadly. "The rural population is **decreasing** fast. At the moment, just over half the world lives in cities. By 2050 that figure will **rise** to 70%."

We are going to see the world's cities merge to form an **increasing** number of urban "megaregions." Some of them will stretch for hundreds of kilometers and across more than one country. This process is already happening in China. The largest of these megaregions—the Hong Kong-Shenzhen-Guangzhou region—will be home to about 120 million people by 2030. It will certainly create more jobs, but the gap between rich and poor will **grow** as people move from the rural areas in search of work. "If these new cities are going to be successful, they will need to know how to reduce these inequalities," said the report's coauthor Eduardo Moreno.



Cell Devices Take Over the World

In developing nations, 57% of people now have cell phone access, and this number is going to **increase rapidly**. While Internet use is also increasing, UN reports say it won't **go up** so **quickly** because of higher costs. There are currently 5 billion global cell phone subscriptions, compared with about 1 billion in 2002. It will **gradually turn into** "the most prolific and desirable consumer device on the planet." The difference is that in Africa, cell devices will be used in all aspects of life, not just to chat with friends. They will be used, for example, for the movement of money, for finding jobs and even for taking college courses.



birth rate
wealth distribution
climate change
multilingualism

urban drift*
women in the workplace
rise of Asia
m-learning

- In the first reading the topics mentioned are....
- In the second reading the topics mentioned are...
- The article with a more positive view of the future is...

3 Read the articles again and answer the questions.

Article 1

- 1 What exactly are "megaregions"?
- 2 What is the only advantage of these regions, according to the UN report?
- 3 Which cities will be the most successful when this change comes?

Article 2

- 4 What does the article say about the status of cell phones?
- 5 Why is cell phone use increasing more rapidly than computer use?
- 6 In what ways will cell phones be used in Africa?

VOCABULARY: Describing trends

- 1 a Look at the words in **bold** in the articles in **READING 2**. Use them to complete the chart.

Describing trends and changes		
verbs	adverbs	adjectives
<i>rise</i>		

- b Rewrite the words in *italics* in the sentences using the expressions from 1a.

- 1 The movement of people from rural to urban areas cannot be stopped.
- 2 The rural population is becoming smaller and smaller.
- 3 The urban population will increase to 70% by 2050.
- 4 The number of urban megaregions is increasing.
- 5 Internet use will develop more slowly.
- 6 The cell phone will steadily transform itself into the most desirable product.

1. The movement of people from rural to urban areas _____.
2. The rural population is _____.
3. The urban population will _____ to 70% by 2050.
4. The number of urban megaregions is _____.
5. Internet use will develop more _____.
6. The cell phone will steadily _____ into the most desirable product.