



1. Do you know Stephen Hawking? Share with your partners the information you have about him.
2. Read some information about Professor Hawking and decide which information is correct. Circle the correct option.

1. Professor Hawking is...

- A. a Mathematician. B. a Physicist. C. a Psychologist.

2. He suffers from...

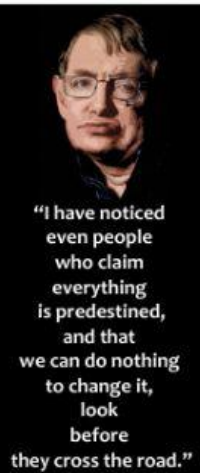
- A. a psychological condition. B. a motor neurone disease. C. Schizophrenia.

3. He works at...

- A. Oxford University. B. Harvard University. C. Cambridge University.

4. He communicates by using...

- A. a wheelchair. B. a voice synthesiser. C. a microphone.



Speaking Time

1. You are going to read an interview with Stephen Hawking in which he is asked to predict the future of human kind in the next millennium. Before reading the text, work with a partner and make your own predictions about the following:

- a. making contact with intelligent life from another planet.
- b. developments in computer technology.
- c. genetic engineering for plants, animals and humans.
- d. developments in human intelligence and knowledge.

2. Which of the following objects will become obsolete? Why?



3. Which of the following do you think will be banned from genetic manipulation? Why?



Future & Technology



Reading

1. Read the interview and find out Stephen Hawking's predictions.

A Brief History Of The Future

Will we colonise the universe? Are aliens out there? Can computers outsmart us? In a unique interview, professor Stephen Hawking, who has spent a lifetime applying his **formidable** intellect to the big questions, gives Nigel Farndale his predictions for the human race.

I've come to Cambridge University's Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics **on the turn of** the millennium to ask Professor Hawking what he thinks the future **has in store for** the human race.

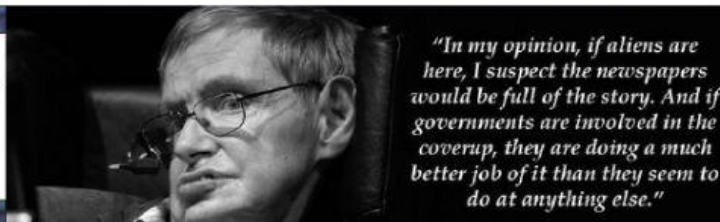
If the world's population continues to grow at its present **rate** –doubling every 40 years– there isn't going to be enough **room** for us all on Earth by the year 2600. So will we, I ask, be able to **spread out** to other planets? The electronic voice delivers the answer five minutes later. 'We shall probably manage a flight to Mars in the next century', Hawkin says. 'But Earth is by far the most favoured planet in the solar system. Mars is small, cold and without much atmosphere, and the other planets are **unsuitable** for human beings. We either have to learn to live in space stations or travel to the next star. We won't do that in the next century.'

Will computers ever show true intelligence, whatever that might be? 'It seems to me that if very complicated chemical molecules can **operate** in humans to make them intelligent, then equally complicated electronic circuits can also make computers act in an intelligent way. And if they are intelligent, they can **presumably** design computers that have even greater intelligence and complexity.'

It's time to ask the big one: will we make contact with aliens in the next millennium? He smiles. His fingers click the pressure pads. The answer comes minutes later. 'Even if life developed in other stellar systems, the chances of catching it at a recognisably human stage are very small. Any **alien** life we encounter will be much more primitive or much more advanced than us. And if it's more advanced why hasn't it spread through the galaxy and visited Earth? Some people believe that the reason we have not been contacted is that when a civilisation reaches our stage of development it becomes **unstable** and destroys itself. But I'm an optimist. I think we have a good chance of **avoiding** nuclear war and Armageddon.'

2. Answer.

- Does anything Stephen Hawking says surprise you?
- Do any of his predictions scare you?
- What would you like to know about the future?



"In my opinion, if aliens are here, I suspect the newspapers would be full of the story. And if governments are involved in the coverup, they are doing a much better job of it than they seem to do at anything else."

3. Match the definitions below with a corresponding word in bold from the text.

- speed
- foreign
- waiting to happen
- inappropriate
- impressive
- space

- elude
- cover a larger area
- without any balance
- at the beginning of
- apparently
- work

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