



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. What did writers of the past predict about the future?
2. What do we have today that past writers did not imagine?
3. What did past writers imagine that we still don't have today?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. 100 years | d. not long ago |
| b. ordinary; common | e. push |
| c. showed | f. yearly; once a year |

1. ___ The 1900s were called the 20th century.
2. ___ Burning gasses propel a rocket up or forward.
3. ___ The average person is not ready to go into space like an astronaut.
4. ___ I recently bought a new car.
5. ___ The company demonstrated how the new product worked.
6. ___ There is an annual convention where inventors can demonstrate their new machines.

Where Are Our Jetpacks?



In the 1920s, the science fiction **hero** Buck Rogers flew across the pages of comic books using a jetpack. It was a **vision** of the future that has yet to actually be created. Now that we are living in the 21st century, people still aren't using jetpacks to get around. Lots of inventors have tried to build working jetpacks over the years, but none of them have ever worked as well as the one Buck Rogers wore in the comic books.

One jetpack that was recently demonstrated at the annual **Experimental Aircraft Association's Convention** was the Martin jetpack. This jetpack was built by an inventor from New Zealand named Glenn Martin. Martin's 120 kilogram jetpack holds about twenty liters of **gasoline** and can fly for about thirty minutes. Two large fans pointing toward the sky create a jet of air that the jetpack **operator** flies on. The Martin jetpack may be too loud and too heavy for the taste of some people. However, it really works, and it is on the market today.

Another jetpack that was demonstrated recently is Raymond Li's Jetlev-Flyer. This is a jetpack that propels a person into the air by shooting out a **jet** of water rather than a jet of air. The Jetlev-Flyer is smaller and lighter than the Martin jetpack. This is due to the fact that the engine and water **pump** for the jetpack is on a boat that is pulled along behind the operator. A ten meter **hose** connects the engine and the pump to the Jetlev-Flyer. In a test of his jetpack, Li flew almost ten meters high and could travel forward at a speed of 35 kph.

Neither the Martin jetpack nor the Jetlev-Flyer are going to be big sellers. They are just too expensive for the average person. Both cost over \$100,000 each.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds

311 words

¹ *hero*: a person who helps or saves others

² *vision*: an image; a mental picture

⁶ *experimental*: not yet proven to work

⁶ *aircraft*: a machine that can fly

⁷ *convention*: a meeting of people with a similar interest for discussion and action

⁹ *gasoline*: the fuel burned in cars, motorcycles, small boats, etc.

¹⁰ *operator*: a person controlling a machine

¹⁴ *jet*: a small stream of liquid or gas that shoots out with great force

¹⁶ *pump*: a machine used for pushing liquids or gases

¹⁷ *hose*: a long tube that liquids or gases can flow through

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of this reading?
 - a. Buck Rogers is still popular with older readers.
 - b. It is impossible to really fly with jetpacks.
 - c. People can buy jetpacks, but don't use them for transportation.
 - d. The future is rarely like what is seen in comic books.
2. How many working jetpacks are described in the reading?
 - a. None
 - b. One
 - c. Two
 - d. Three
3. Which of the following is NOT true about the Martin jetpack?
 - a. It has two large fans on it.
 - b. It is very loud when it is running.
 - c. It propels the operator on jets of air.
 - d. It can hold more than fifty liters of gas.
4. What can be inferred about Raymond Li?
 - a. He is not afraid of heights.
 - b. He enjoyed working with Glenn Martin.
 - c. He knows how to fly a plane.
 - d. He works for a company that makes boats.
5. How much does a working jetpack cost today?
 - a. Less than \$10,000
 - b. About as much as a small motorcycle
 - c. As much as an average car
 - d. \$100,000

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **get around** [to travel from place to place]
You can **get around** easily by taking the subway.
- **on the market** [sold to the public; available to buy]
There are many different kinds of cameras **on the market** today.
- **due to the fact that** [because; since]
Due to the fact that she is still a student, she can't get a full-time job.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. The movie was popular mostly _____ there were two famous actors in it.
2. Before there were cars, people _____ on horses or on foot.
3. How long has this product been _____?

Summary

Read the sentences from the reading passage. Paraphrase the sentences to create a summary of the passage.

- a. In the 1920s, the science fiction hero Buck Rogers flew across the pages of comic books using a jetpack.
- b. It was a vision of the future that has yet to actually be created.

1. **a + b:** Buck Rogers flew with a jetpack in the comic books, but a jetpack like that _____.

- c. This jetpack was built by an inventor from New Zealand named Glenn Martin.
- d. However, it really works, and it is on the market today.

2. **c + d:** Glenn Martin built a jetpack that really works, and his jetpack _____.

- e. Another jetpack that was demonstrated recently is Raymond Li's Jetlev-Flyer.
- f. This is a jetpack that propels a person into the air by shooting out a jet of water rather than a jet of air.

3. **e + f:** Raymond Li made another kind of jetpack called a Jetlev-Flyer, but unlike Martin's jetpack, the Jetlev-Flyer _____.



Listening

A License to Fly



Listen to the dialog. Check **True** or **False** for each sentence.

- 1. The government requires people to get licenses to fly jetpacks.
- 2. A jetpack is classified as an ultralight vehicle.
- 3. People do not need a license in order to operate a Segway.

True ☐ False ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

Discuss the following questions.

1. Would you enjoy using a jetpack to get around? Why or why not?
2. What are some benefits of using jetpacks? What are some problems?
3. Who do you think might buy a Martin jetpack or a Jetlev-Flyer?

Grammar

Relative Pronoun Used as a Subject

Relative pronouns *who*, *which*, or *that* can be used as the subject of the relative clause.

It was a vision of the future (who / that) has yet to actually be created.

One jetpack (that / it) was recently demonstrated at the annual Experimental Aircraft Association's convention was the Martin jetpack.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

People with Money

Example

(1) Who do you think might buy a Martin jetpack or a Jetlev-Flyer? **(2)** Why would they be interested in such products? **(3)** When or how might they use them? **(4)** How would jetpacks benefit those people?

I think people who win the lottery might buy a Martin jetpack or a Jetlev-Flyer. These people would be interested in such products because they have a lot of extra money to spend. They might use the jetpack once or twice after they buy it, just to show off for their friends. The people using the jetpacks would impress their friends, but I don't think they would have much benefit beyond that.

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. The boat's ____ left the boat tied to the dock while he went to eat lunch.
a. convention b. jet c. operator d. pump
2. If you don't know how to use the program, I can ____ it for you.
a. admire b. demonstrate c. earn d. propel
3. The lack of rainfall this year has ____ affected crops in the south.
a. aggressively b. necessarily c. negatively d. recently
4. It has been over a ____ since the first car was invented.
a. century b. hero c. hose d. vision
5. Very few people would be ____ to pay \$100,000 for a jetpack.
a. annual b. average c. experimental d. willing
6. We did not go skiing during the winter vacation ____ it was really too warm for skiing.
a. due to the fact that b. on the market c. over and over d. sooner or later
7. Your final grade in the class will ____ how well you do on your class project.
a. call you names b. depend on c. get around d. throw away

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. Over 800 members attended this year's ____ convention.
a. annual b. annually c. annuals
9. Scientists try to prove theories by showing ____ facts in support of a theory's predictions.
a. demonstration b. demonstrating c. demonstrable
10. The swimmer ____ himself through the water by kicking his feet.
a. propeller b. propelled c. propelling