

Reading

- 1 Look at the headlines. What do you think the articles are about?

A Meeting in progress – no coffee required!

B Information overload!

C The future of communication?

- 2 Match the headlines to the correct article. One headline is not needed.

1

The Museum of the Future in Dubai now has an exhibition about communication changes in the coming decades. The three main themes are how robots, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and technology will improve human physical capabilities, business relations and communication.

Du, the UAE telecommunications company, has already developed a new technology called EyeShare which allows people to fully share, in real time, their experiences with friends and family. So, for instance, if your friends are having a great day out, instead of looking at their tweets and uploaded photos on a social media site, you will be able to see, feel and hear what they are *doing* simultaneously.

Exhibits at the museum also include Moodview, a form of technology which promises to help us understand how the people we are with are feeling. Then, according to the designers, it will tell us what to say and how to act. Since so many arguments are caused by people not understanding each other, maybe this will help people to stay calm and not fight.

Share your dreams! Sound like something from a science fiction movie? Well, the makers of DreamStream claim that one day we will be able to design and share our dreams with others via a global dreaming network. As we don't all have exciting dreams, why not link up with a friend's dreams! As with Twitter, you will be able to attract followers and share dreams with celebrities, your family or even random strangers.

2

It's hard to imagine that less than a century ago most communication was done either face-to-face or by handwritten letters. Since then, the world of communication has changed enormously, from telephones and fax machines to emails. Next came mobiles, then smartphones, which

combined speaking, texting and emails all on one small handheld machine. So what's next?

According to some IT experts we are moving rapidly towards the next stage in immersive media. High-tech goggles will allow films, live shows and video games to be beamed into our brains without the need to go

anywhere. In addition, virtual reality (VR) won't just be about leisure time, but may become the future of business communication, too. Imagine that instead of everyone going to the same room for a meeting, you will be able to hold a virtual meeting. Everyone stays in their own office but, through VR, they appear to be in the same room

wherever they are in the world, whilst all looking at the same virtual whiteboard and sharing ideas and images. As a result, business may be completed more efficiently and cheaply as workers won't need to travel around the world to meet.

- 3 Read the two articles again. Are the statements below true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?

- 1 The Museum of the Future is only about changes in communication.
- 2 Understanding how a person is feeling could help prevent disagreements.
- 3 The author thinks that other people's dreams are boring.
- 4 The world of communication is changing all the time.
- 5 People will be able to watch concerts in their living rooms.
- 6 Companies will no longer need meeting rooms.