

DAY 41. VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Practice 1: Complete the text with the correct of the words.

Shanghai

Shanghai is the showpiece of modern China's (1) _____ economy. Technology, architecture, infrastructure and transport all combine to make this city one of the most (2) _____ in the world today.

BOOM

(3) _____ has been ongoing since rapid redevelopment began in the 1990s. Since then, 55 tall buildings have been added to Shanghai's skyline. On (4) _____, the Shanghai Tower will be the tallest in Asia and the second tallest in the world.

FUTURE

CONSTRUCT

COMPLETE

The city also boasts the longest metro network on the planet and, as if that weren't enough, the world's fastest train, the Maglev.

Using the latest in (5) _____ technology, the Shanghai Maglev Train is the first (6) _____ operated high-speed line and one of only two in the world. From an initial (7) _____ of zero to 300 km per hour in two minutes, the train then reaches a(n) (8) _____ speed of 430 km per hour – faster than a Formula One car. At those speeds, this dynamic metropolis is truly setting the pace for the rest of the world.

MAGNET

COMMERCE

ACCELERATE

IMAGINE

Practice 2: Choose the correct word.

Tall, taller ...

Modern human beings are taller than they were 150 years ago. In fact, the average height of people in industrialised countries has increased (1) **by / with** roughly 10 centimetres. Geneticists are (2) **in / of** the opinion that the most important factor (3) **for / in** human height increase is the improvement (4) **in / towards** nutrition. Better quality food gives rise (5) **at / to** longer, stronger bones.

Will the increase be ongoing? Are we (6) **about / around** to get even taller in the future? Scientists believe we are capable of only a little more vertical growth and that the trend towards taller humans is coming to an end. This suggests that our genes are coded with an upper limit for height beyond which we cannot go.

Practice 3: Choose the correct word.

UN Warning

With the population of the world (1) likely / inevitably to grow to nearly nine billion by 2040, experts are warning that we are rapidly running out of time to ensure that there will be enough resources to meet our (2) anticipated / perpetual needs.

According to the UN, the world is going need at least 50% more food, 45% more energy and 30% more water by 2030.

'Despite the (3) looming / promising catastrophe, little action is being taken to set sustainable development goals,' said a UN spokesman. 'The situation is already (4) critical / unforeseen. There is no time to waste.'

The UN's warning is (5) intended / fated to mobilise governments to take immediate action to (6) preserve / reserve resources and manage energy consumption more efficiently.

Practice 4

For questions 13–24, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

Robots ... past, present and future.

Over two thousand years ago, Aristotle considered the possibility of automated machines that worked independently of humans. In 'The Politics', he (13) _____ his readers that if every tool could do the work that befits it, (14) _____ when ordered to do so or on (15) _____ own, then chief workmen would not need servants, (16) _____ would masters need slaves. Leonardo da Vinci sketched a robotic knight and the inner mechanisms required (17) _____ work it.

As these examples show, the field of robotics has existed for hundreds (18) _____ not thousands of years. (19) _____ its long history, it is only more recently that robotics has advanced beyond the realm of science fiction into real, moving robots. When sent into space (20) _____ exploration, robots become the eyes and ears of scientists. In medicine, robotic arms perform the most delicate of surgeries (21) _____ they are steadier than the human hand.

The most exciting development in robotics is artificial intelligence, or AI. With AI, computers could (22) _____ trained to think in the way humans do. (23) _____ humans, computers could learn from experience, handle large amounts of complex data and make decisions using human reasoning skills. (24) _____ so much exciting potential, it remains to be seen how far AI can go.

Practice 5

Complete the second sentences so that they have a similar meaning to the first sentences.

1 Betty wanted to go to law school, so she worked very hard for her exams.

Betty _____ for her exams _____.

2 With all the competition these days, it's very difficult for young people to get a job.

Since there _____ these days, young people _____ to get a job.

3 No classrooms will be renovated in the foreseeable future because of budget cuts.

Due _____, they _____ any classrooms in the foreseeable future.

4 We're not surprised that Camilla is feeling stressed as she has so many decisions to make very quickly.

With _____, it's not _____ stressed.

5 It is unlikely that we will be able to afford to buy a house soon due to price rises in the construction industry.

Owing _____ in the construction industry, we are _____ to afford to buy a house soon.

6 You handed in your work late, so you can't expect to get it back any time soon.

Seeing _____ your work late, _____ to get it back any time soon.

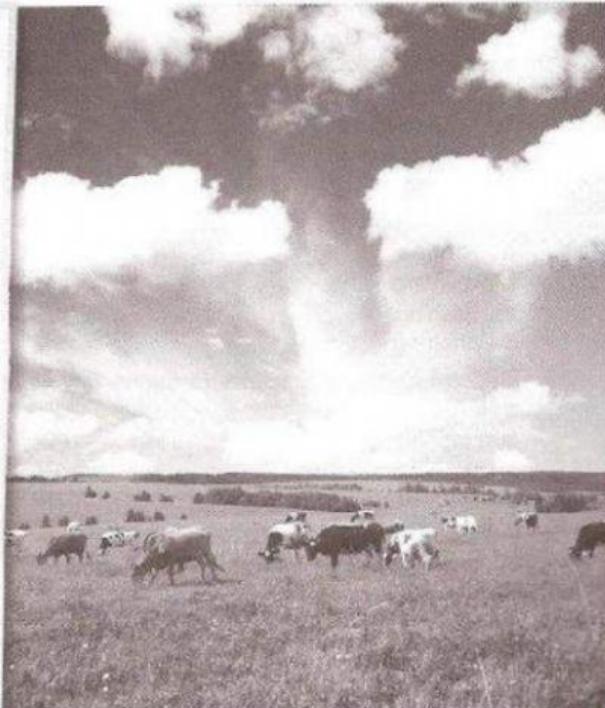
Practice 6: Read the example essay below and complete it with these phrases and sentences.

Although sustainable agriculture in the 21st century could lead to better farming practices, will it ensure that enough food is produced for a growing population? Discuss.

- a Critics of sustainable agriculture claim that its methods will result in fewer crops and increased land use.
- b Sustainable agriculture takes many forms
- c On the other hand, if sustainable agriculture is introduced extensively in the 21st century, it will involve a wide range of techniques
- d The industrial approach relies on the cultivation of a single crop

Sustainable agriculture in the 21st century

- (1) ___, but the main idea behind it is a rejection of the industrial approach to food production developed during the 20th century.
- (2) ___, mechanisation, chemical pesticides and fertilisers, and biotechnology. Although it may sound environmentally unfriendly, we cannot ignore the fact that this approach has made food plentiful and affordable. However, the ecological and social price has been high: soil erosion and contamination, water contamination, loss of biodiversity, deforestation and the decline of the family farm.
- (3) ___, including organic and free-range. These methods are like natural ecological processes. Farmers will have healthy soil by planting fields with different crops year after year, and they will avoid using pesticides by encouraging the presence of organisms that control pests which destroy crops.
- (4) ___. They add that a commitment to its practices will mean inevitable food shortages for a world population expected to exceed eight billion by the year 2030. There's recent evidence, though, suggesting that over time, sustainably farmed lands can be as productive as conventional industrial farms. We will have to wait and see.



Following a class discussion, your teacher has asked you to write an essay giving your views on this topic.

Everything will be different in the future. The clothes we wear, the food we eat and our modes of transport will all change. But what about people and society? What changes do you foresee?

Write your essay.

- 1 What do you need to discuss?
- 2 Do you need to convince the reader that your view is correct?
- 3 How will you support your argument?

Read the example essay. Is the writer optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Why?

In any discussion about the future, one will encounter both pessimistic and optimistic views. The pessimists will say that we are doomed. On the contrary, I believe that in the future people will be better off and more satisfied with their lives.

It is a feature of human societies that we seek to improve our lives. Were that not true, we would still be living primitive lifestyles. This desire to succeed and overcome obstacles will continue. Driven by technology, the changes will be rapid and will serve only to improve society and the lives of all its members.

The most important change, and the new defining feature of our society, will be equality. Once the problems of food shortages and poor health have been dealt with by science and technology, and education is available to all, there will be no more poverty and suffering. People all over the world will be free to live their lives to the fullest and make the most of their potential.

Admittedly, this vision for the future will require more than just the efforts of science to materialise. It will take a fundamental change in the way we think in order to replace greed and selfishness with altruism and respect for one's fellow human beings. But that is the beauty of change – it can, and often does, happen.