

EXERCISE 1: PART A – Read the article

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Futurists (sometimes called futurologists) are professionals who make predictions about the future of human society, the earth, and even the universe. They study the past and present in order to understand how things change and what factors can alter or interrupt these changes.

Since most people are curious about the future, futurists often try to picture how our lives will be different in a certain year. 2050 is a popular target since it is far enough away to require some speculation, but close enough that many of us will see the changes in our lifetime. Here are some of their predictions.

In the area of technology, computers will be nearly a billion times more powerful than they are today. That means that there will be almost no limit to what you can create, store, and display. Computers will also be small enough to implant in people's brains to improve memory, vision, or even to allow paralyzed people to move again. For those who love shopping or travel, a technology called "immersive telepresence" will allow us to actually feel like we are in two places at the same

time, buying things in expensive foreign shops or visiting fascinating tourist destinations while sitting at home.

There will be many more people on earth – as many as 9.6 billion. This means that food production and housing will need to increase dramatically. People will live in mushroom cities, skyscrapers that house many people and use solar power and other eco-friendly technologies. Futurists also think that – thanks to advances in genetics – we will be close to finding cures for most human diseases. Some futurists even predict that wars and other conflicts will become less common as people learn that they have to get along in order to survive.

Of course, none of these predictions is a certainty. Even futurists can't know how epidemics, natural disasters, or climate change will alter our lives. Having some idea of what is in store for us, however, may help us to make the best choices for our own personal future.



EXERCISE 1: PART B

Skim the article. Which sentence below could be another title for the article? Why?

Professionals Who Can Change the Future
Good Guesses About the Future

An Unhappy View of the Future

EXERCISE 1: PART C

Read the article. Check (✓) the predictions futurists made about the year 2050.

1. Computers will be as powerful as they are today.
2. Tiny computers will help people with physical problems.
3. Travel will be faster than it is now.
4. People will be able to explore places without leaving home.
5. People will need less food.
6. Many people will live together in eco-friendly buildings.
7. People will not get sick anymore.
8. People will fight with each other over food and water.

EXERCISE 2: MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE CORRECT DEFINITION

a. To be released	___ A sudden success
b. Fad	___ To be published or put on the market for sale
c. Overnight sensation	___ A style, activity, or interest that is very popular for a short period of time
d. Powerful	___ A country or area controlled politically by a more powerful country that is often far away
e. Set up	___ Organized or arranged
f. Colony	___ Having a lot of power
g. Futurist	___ Someone who studies social, political, and technical developments to understand what may happen in the future
h. In order to	___ With the aim of achieving something
i. Alter	___ Change something
j. Picture	___ Planned or likely to happen to
k. Target	___ Products designed to do the least possible damage to the environment
l. Require	___ Put or keep things in a special place for use in the future
m. Speculation	___ A guess without having enough information to be certain
n. Store	___ Imagine how something looks
o. Eco-friendly	___ Something to aim for; something you intend to achieve
p. In store for (someone)	___ Need something or make something necessary