

1. **Instructions:** Read the article and complete it using the past participle of the verbs in brackets.

THE GOLDEN QUARTER

Some of our greatest cultural and technological achievements took place between 1945 and 1971. Why has progress _____ (stop)?

Almost every week we read about 'new hopes' for cancer sufferers, developments in the lab that might lead to new cures, talk of a new era of space tourism and super-jets that can fly round the world in a few hours. Yet a moment's thought tells us that this vision can't be right, that many of these reports of progress are speculation – even fantasy.

Yet there once *was* an age when speculation matched reality. That true age of innovation – I'll call it the Golden Quarter – ran from 1945 to 1971. Just about everything that defines the modern world came about or started during this time.

In 1971, a regular airplane took eight hours to fly from London to New York; it still does. And in 1971, there was one airplane that could do the trip in three hours. Now, Concorde is dead. Our cars are faster, safer and use less fuel than they did in 1971, but there hasn't _____ (be) a major changes.

Since 1970, the US Federal Government has _____ (spend) more than \$100 billion in the 'War on Cancer'. Despite these billions, this war has _____ (be) a spectacular failure. In the US, the death rates for all kinds of cancer dropped by only 5 per cent in the period 1950-2005, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. With most kinds of cancer, your chances in 2014 are not much better than they were in 1974. In many cases, your treatment will be pretty much the same.

There hasn't _____ (start) a new Green Revolution yet. We still drive steel cars powered by burning petroleum or diesel. There hasn't been new materials revolution since the Golden Quarter's advances in plastics, semi-conductors or other types of materials. Discoveries in physics have apparently _____ (stop). String Theory is perhaps our best hope of reconciling Albert Einstein with the Quantum world, but no one has any idea if it is even testable. And nobody has _____ (be) to the Moon for 42 years.

If the pace of change had continued, we could be living in a world where Alzheimer's was treatable, where clean nuclear power had ended the threat of climate change, and where cancer really was just a simply disease. Forget colonies on the Moon; if the Golden Quarter had become the Golden Century, the battery in your magic smartphone might even last more than a day.

2. **Instructions:** Decide if the sentences are true "T" or false "F".

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| a. Airplanes have become faster than in the past. | T | F |
| b. Our cars have become safer than in the past. | T | F |
| c. The treatment for cancer hasn't changed much. | T | F |
| d. A new Green Revolution hasn't started yet. | T | F |
| e. Scientist have discovered new materials since the Golden Quarters. | T | F |
| f. Vehicles have stopped using petrol or diesel. | T | F |
| g. There haven't been many important discoveries in physics ye | T | F |
| h. Humans haven't been capable of going back to the moon yet. | T | F |

Taken and adapted from: <https://aeon.co/essays/has-progress-in-science-and-technology-come-to-a-halt>