12 The future

Reading

1 Read the blog post on page 81 quickly. Which is the best summary of the text: a, b, c, or d?

a In the TV show *Star Trek*, people had a "communicator."

b There were books about blogs, credit cards, and cell phones.

c Science fiction predicted future technology.

d Science fiction writers predicted the invention of future technology like blogs in 1835, cell phones in 1966, and tablets in 1968.

2 Why are the other summaries in Exercise 1 incorrect? Match the summaries (a–d) with the reasons below (1–3).

1 The information in the summary is not correct. ____

2 The summary includes details from the blog post, but not the main idea. ____

3 The summary gives the main idea, but too many details. ____

3 Read the blog post again. For each statement below, write the name of a modern invention from the text.

1 An invention like this helped homes to share information with other homes.
_____

2 A device like this was used for reading news.
_____

3 A device like this helped people to talk in space. _____

4 An invention like this appeared in science fiction around 60 years before real life.
_____

Four ways science fiction predicted the future

I've been a sci-fi fan all my life. When I was a kid, back in the 1960s, I watched TV shows about the future. I loved seeing the robots and gadgets, but I never imagined that they were possible. I was wrong. Lots of those things are now reality. But it seems sci-fi has always been good at predicting the future. Here are my top four examples.





1 Blogs and social media—predicted in 1835
The author Vladimir Odoevsky imagined a future world in the year 4338. In this world, houses are connected by technology. Every day, the people in each house create a report about their lives and share the information with other houses. This sounds like the blogs and social media of today!

2 Credit cards—predicted in 1888
In the novel *Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy, each person has a card. They can use the card to buy things in stores. The first real credit cards didn't exist until 1950.





3 Cell phones—predicted in 1966
The TV show *Star Trek* was popular in the 1960s. In the show, the people talked to each other with a device called a "communicator." This looked a lot like a cell phone. Twenty years later, the first cell phones went on sale.

4 Tablet computers—predicted in 1968
In the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*, people have a device called a Newspad. They use this to read information from all the world's newspapers. The device is very similar to modern tablets, which appeared about 40 years later.

So, can today's science fiction predict the future? In the TV shows I watch now, people can walk on Mars, they have robot teachers, and they become friends with the Artificial Intelligence (AI) on their phones. Is this likely? We will see!

4 Read the blog post again. Choose the correct option (a, b, or c).

1 The blogger says the TV shows of the 1960s were _____.
- a right about the future
- b wrong about the future
- c not sure about the future

2 The blogger says that in today's TV shows, you can see _____.
- a humans walking on other planets
- b friendships forming between humans and technology
- c both a and b

3 What does the blogger think about the things in today's TV shows?
- a They are very likely to happen.
- b He isn't sure if they will happen.
- c They aren't likely to happen.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar

Going to

1 One word is missing in each sentence. Rewrite the sentences and add the missing word.

1 I'm going visit another country this year.
I'm going to visit another country this year.

2 Mr. Lee not going to teach us next year.
_____

3 She isn't going have a party tomorrow.
_____

4 Are you going get married?
_____

5 Danika going to pass her exam?
_____

6 We not going to buy a car until next year.
_____

2 Complete the conversations with the correct form of *going to* and the verbs in parentheses.

1 A: The weather for this weekend looks good. [1]_____ (you / do) anything interesting?

B: Yes, we are. We [2]_____ (have) a picnic.

2 A: Have you heard? That nice café in town [3]_____ (close) down.

B: Oh no! What [4]_____ (the owner / do)?

A: He [5]_____ (retire).

3 A: [6]_____ (your cousins / spend) Christmas with you?

B: No, they aren't. They [7]_____ (visit) my sister this year.

3 Kaymi and Randall are making plans to be healthier this year. Look at their notes and write sentences about their plans with *going to*.

Both	
run together once a week ✓	
eat junk food ✘	
Kaymi	***Randall***
eat snacks at work ✘	drink more water ✓
walk to work ✓	watch TV late at night ✘

1 They *'re going to run together once a week*.
2 They _____.
3 Kaymi _____.
4 She _____.
5 Randall _____.
6 He _____.

Pronunciation

Understanding contractions (1): *gonna* and *wanna*

1 12-1 Listen and circle the words you hear.

1 *I'm going to / I want to* leave early today.
2 What *are you going to / do you want to* do?
3 *I'm not going to / I don't want to* drive.
4 *We're going to / We want to* join the class next week.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

Future time expressions

1 Write these future time expressions in the correct order in the diagram.

in four hours	in two weeks	next month
next Tuesday	next year	

NOW 12 p.m., Monday, March 1st

in 45 minutes

1 _____

the day after tomorrow

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

2 Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1 I'm going to _____ when I get home.

2 I'm not going to _____ until next week.

3 I will _____ after 2030.

Listening

1 12.2 Listen to the beginning of an interview. What does a trend spotter do? Choose the best answer (a or b).

a A trend spotter writes about what is popular now in fashion or technology.

b A trend spotter predicts what will be popular in the future.

2 12.3 Listen to the rest of the interview and complete the mind map. Write one or two words for each blank.

FUTURE TRENDS

Travel

There will be less [1]_____ in the future.

People will have vacations [2]_____ to home.

Air travel will become more and more [3]_____.

Cheap flights will not be [4]_____ in the future.

Shopping

People will say "no" to [5]_____ packaging.

People will buy [6]_____.

Stores will [7]_____, to make shopping a nicer and more [8]_____ experience.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar

Will for predictions

1 Complete the predictions below. Use *will* or *won't* and these verbs.

be	drive	eat	go	~~work~~	take

We asked you: "What will life be like in 10 years?" Here are your predictions.

"Technology is getting better, so I think a lot of office workers [1] *will work* (+) from home, not in an office. And children [2] _____ (+) to school less and learn online more."

Sakura

"People care more about the environment now. So, in the future, people [3] _____ (-) their own cars. They [4] _____ (+) public transportation."

Lila

"In my opinion, there [5] _____ (-) much international tourism in 10 years' time. And people [6] _____ (-) meat, only vegetables, because that's better for the environment."

Manu

2 What will your life be like five years from now? Complete these sentences with five predictions.

1 I'll probably _____.

2 I probably won't _____.

3 I think I'll _____.

4 I don't think I'll _____.

5 I won't _____.

Pronunciation

Understanding contractions (2): *will*

1 12.4 Listen and circle the words you hear.

1 I think *you* / *you'll* like it.

2 *You'll* / *You* work in the city.

3 *They* / *They'll* live in Colombia.

4 *We* / *We'll* help you.

5 *I* / *I'll* do the research.

Writing

1 Match the questions (1–4) with the blog introductions (a–d).

1 Which sentence asks a question that makes people think? _____

2 Which sentence uses an interesting quotation on the topic? _____

3 Which sentence tells the reader a very short story? _____

4 Which sentence gives the reader an interesting fact? _____

a They say, "A picture is worth a thousand words," and I wanted to tell stories with my photos.

b My love for photography began when my grandfather gave me his old camera.

c The first color photograph was in 1861—about 150 years before I got my first camera.

d Why do people love taking photographs so much?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Which sentence in Exercise 1 (a–d) does this conclusion refer back to?

I've learned that people enjoy taking photos because they like to create a record of their memories. _____

3 Read the notes for a blog post about a learning journey. What is the topic of the blog post?

a a hobby

b a job

c a sport

My learning journey

Past:

loved taking photos when a child

got a camera for 15th birthday

learned to take better photos from YouTube

Now:

taking a course online

photos now better, so post online

Future:

hope to take an evening class

plan to enter a competition

LIVEWORKSHEETS