


## VOCABULARY

### extreme adjectives

1  Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- 1 Paris during the 1920s was home to the **astonishing** / **incredible** / **finest** writers and artists of the age.
- 2 Have you ever seen a van Gogh painting in real life? They're **magnificent** / **mighty** / **precious**.
- 3 The **finest** / **mighty** / **precious** Amazon River winds its way through the rainforest.
- 4 The museum contains valuable pieces of jewellery which contain **precious** / **finest** / **mighty** stones.
- 5 Only the **magnificent** / **incredible** / **finest** coffee beans are used in this unique blend.
- 6 I can't believe how fast you can run – it's **astonishing** / **mighty** / **precious**!

## READING

2A Skim the article quickly and answer the questions.

Do scientists think it is possible to:

- 1 travel forwards in time?
- 2 travel backwards in time?

B Complete the sentences with words from the article.  
Write between one and three words.

- 1 The writer says that we do not find our own kind of time travel .....
- 2 The writer suggests that un-doing ..... would be a good reason to travel back in time.
- 3 The writer refers to a theory known as ....., which involves complex mathematics.
- 4 If we lived on the ISS for a long time, we wouldn't need to apply .....
- 5 Einstein's ..... tell us that backwards time travel is theoretically possible.
- 6 Unfortunately, the ..... make travelling back in time impossible in reality.
- 7 Scientists are aware of ....., although it is impossible to see it.
- 8 Tunnels, known as ....., could allow us to travel enormous distances.

C Read the article again. What would make a good concluding sentence?

- a It looks as though time travel to the future is more likely than to the past!
- b For the moment, maths can only suggest that time travel is possible – but watch this 'space'!
- c You never know, time travel could be a reality in the very near future!

## Is time travel actually possible?

Sofia Valdez | 20th Oct | 12.02 GMT

You may have seen *Doctor Who*, *Back to the Future* or read *The Time Traveller's Wife*, but can you imagine yourself jumping into the future or back into the past? Is it even a possibility? Here's what the scientists say.

We all travel through time, second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour. But there doesn't seem to be anything incredible about that (unless you stop and think about it) because it's our norm, and, much as we might like to go backwards in time, perhaps to correct our mistakes or experience something fantastic again, we can only go forwards. Scientists say we can travel faster if we want to. But explaining *that* involves Einstein and theories and physics and maths, and something known as 'space-time'. (It's all a bit complicated.)

Astronauts are the nearest we have to *actual* time travellers. They can be in space for several weeks or months. When they're on the International Space Station (ISS), they're moving faster than the rest of us back on Earth. This actually creates a situation where they're going slower in time than we are on Earth. (It's true, trust us.) If they were there for years, they'd age better than the rest of us. So, perhaps space travel is better than face creams and anti-aging diets!

But can we go *back* in time? Unfortunately, Earth's physics simply don't allow it. But if we return to Einstein for a minute, we know that some of his mathematical calculations do indeed suggest travelling back in time is possible. The problem is that although Einstein might have *theoretically* proven we can go back in time, in fact, all the other laws of physics really do make it impossible.

This doesn't stop scientists from trying, though! We know that dark matter exists (parts of the universe that we can't see because they don't give off energy or light – as far as we know). And in that dark matter, there *might* be 'wormholes' (theoretical tunnels through space and time). If there are, we could travel from one area of space to another – which could be billions of kilometres away *and* in a different place in time.