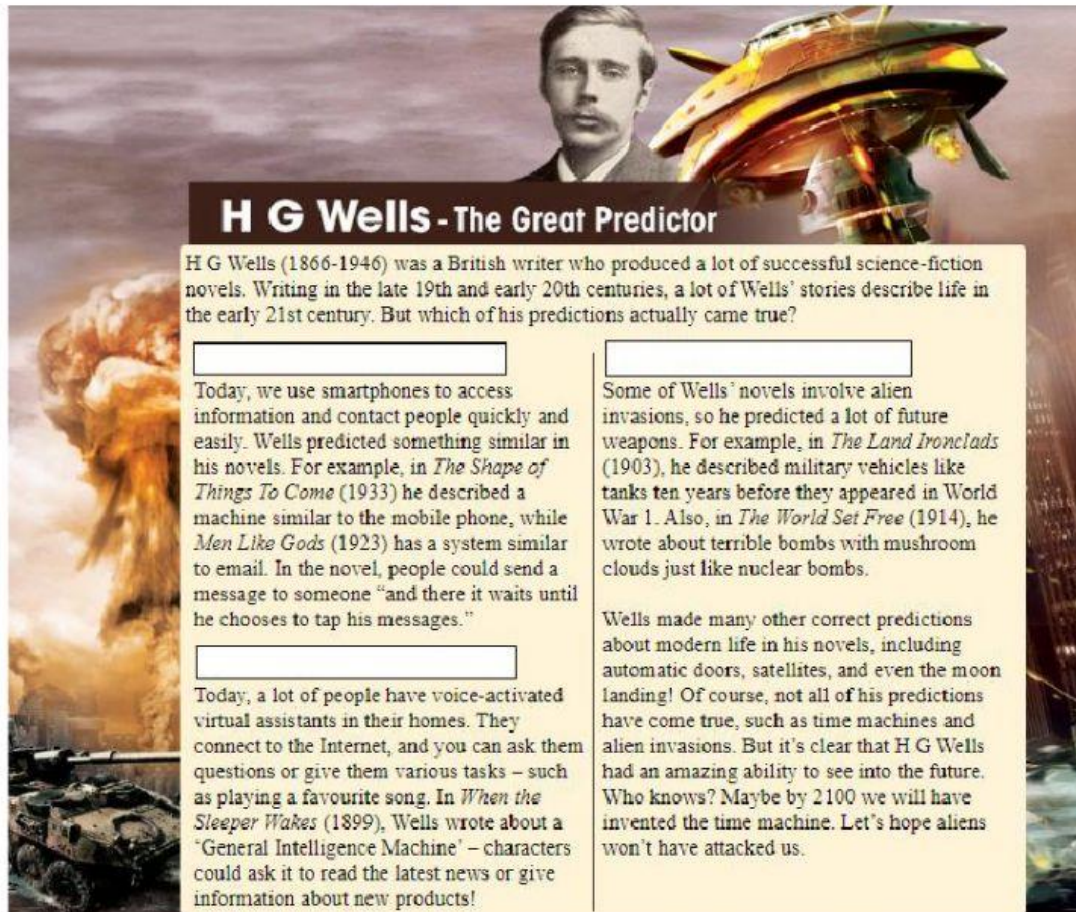


Reading exercise

1. Using **skimming strategy**, read and choose the correct heading for each section. There's one extra heading.



H G Wells - The Great Predictor

H G Wells (1866-1946) was a British writer who produced a lot of successful science-fiction novels. Writing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a lot of Wells' stories describe life in the early 21st century. But which of his predictions actually came true?

Today, we use smartphones to access information and contact people quickly and easily. Wells predicted something similar in his novels. For example, in *The Shape of Things To Come* (1933) he described a machine similar to the mobile phone, while *Men Like Gods* (1923) has a system similar to email. In the novel, people could send a message to someone "and there it waits until he chooses to tap his messages."

Today, a lot of people have voice-activated virtual assistants in their homes. They connect to the Internet, and you can ask them questions or give them various tasks – such as playing a favourite song. In *When the Sleeper Wakes* (1899), Wells wrote about a "General Intelligence Machine" – characters could ask it to read the latest news or give information about new products!

Some of Wells' novels involve alien invasions, so he predicted a lot of future weapons. For example, in *The Land Ironclads* (1903), he described military vehicles like tanks ten years before they appeared in World War 1. Also, in *The World Set Free* (1914), he wrote about terrible bombs with mushroom clouds just like nuclear bombs.

Wells made many other correct predictions about modern life in his novels, including automatic doors, satellites, and even the moon landing! Of course, not all of his predictions have come true, such as time machines and alien invasions. But it's clear that H G Wells had an amazing ability to see into the future. Who knows? Maybe by 2100 we will have invented the time machine. Let's hope aliens won't have attacked us.

Weapons

New inventions

Wireless communication

Virtual assistants

2. Using **Scanning strategy**, read again and complete the sentences.

- Wells wrote in the 19th and _____.
- 2 *Men Like Gods* has a system like _____.
- 3 Wells' virtual assistant can provide _____.
- 4 In *The World Set Free*, Wells predicted weapons like _____.
- 5 Two of Wells' predictions that have not come true are alien invasions and _____.