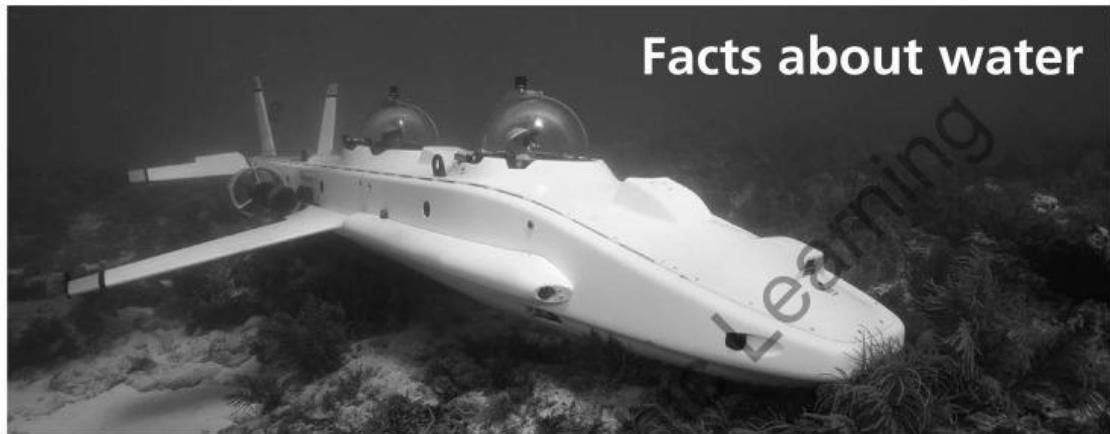


A Read the fact file. Then complete the facts with *can* (✓), *can't* (✗), *could* (✓), *couldn't* (✗), *will be able to* (✓), or *won't be able to* (✗).



- ✓ Using current technology, humans ¹_____ now travel to the deepest point underwater in the world.
- ✗ Scuba divers who have only passed a beginner's course ²_____ dive deeper underwater than 18 meters.
- ✓ The S.S. *United States* was the fastest ocean liner ever. In the 1950s, it ³_____ cross the Atlantic Ocean in about three and a half days.
- ✓ Christopher Columbus was a famous explorer who sailed to the Americas in the 1490s. Unusually, he ⁴_____ swim very well. In fact, he once swam to safety from a burning ship.
- ✓ Under-sixteens ⁵_____ take part in swimming events at the next Olympics. Some sports ban under-sixteens—gymnastics, for example—but not swimming.
- ✓ Experts predict that one day, in the future, swimmers ⁶_____ swim faster than 7.7 kilometers per hour. Currently, around 7.7 kilometers per hour is the fastest recorded time—so it's likely that somebody will go faster.
- ✗ Women ⁷_____ compete in swimming events at the first Olympics in 1896. In fact, they weren't allowed to compete in swimming until 1912.
- ✗ You ⁸_____ drink even 1% of the water on Earth during your life.
- ✗ An average person ⁹_____ safely drink more than a liter of water every hour.
- ✗ Imagine that, starting now, a human being has no water to drink—he or she ¹⁰_____ survive until the end of the week.

B Which fact did you find the most surprising? Tell your partner.

A Complete the technology predictions for 2050 with *will*, *won't*, *could*, *might*, or *may*. Use *probably* when you can. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

The Home

I'm sure that all the simple jobs like washing dishes and cleaning the house ¹_____ be automated. We ²_____ use robots that are built for a particular job, or I guess we ³_____ have larger, functional robots that can do a lot of jobs. I think this is less likely, however.

I'm certain that the home ⁴_____ become a system with different parts that communicate with each other. Humans ⁵_____ have to do any jobs about the house ever again! In fact, I'm almost certain of that!

Travel

There ⁶_____ be any gas cars. It's not certain, but it is likely that governments ⁷_____ make them illegal. And I think there ⁸_____ be more driverless electric cars than regular ones—but that's just my opinion. I ⁹_____ be right. Who knows?

Shopping

In the future, stores ¹⁰_____ exist. No stores—imagine! It is a real possibility, but not at all certain. Actually, I think there ¹¹_____ be fewer stores and malls, but there ¹²_____ definitely be some.

B Discuss the predictions with a partner. Which do you agree with? What are your predictions for home, travel, and shopping?