

5

Life in the future

Reading

Before reading

1 Discuss these questions.

- 1 How old will you be in 20 years? Think about your life then.
- 2 Do you think computers, TVs and phones will be the same? How will they look?
- 3 Do you think that we will all have robots in our homes?

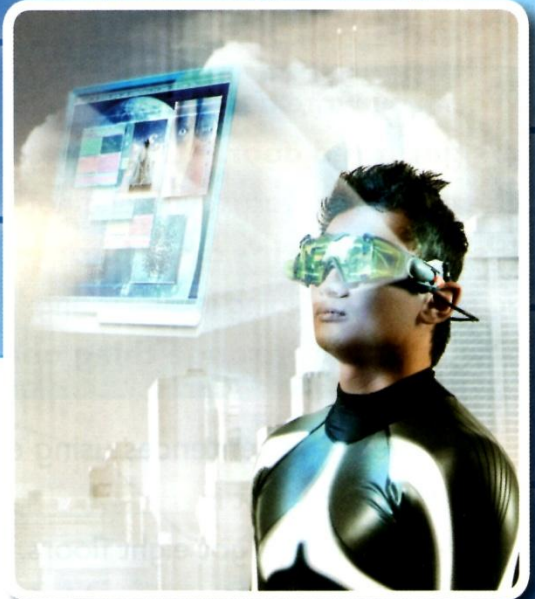
2  Read and listen.

Our future

In the next few **decades**, new inventions and discoveries will make huge changes to our lives. On these two pages, scientists give their **predictions** about life in the future.

Will there be schools in the future?

Yes, children will still go to school, but schools will be very different. There will still be teachers, but computers will teach some lessons. Some students will stay at home and learn in **virtual** classrooms. Virtual reality will give them an **image** of a classroom in three dimensions - or 3D. They will see their teacher and their friends, so they will feel like they are really at school.



Will computers understand what we say to them?

Computers will be more intelligent. They will understand what we say, what we think and how we feel. In the future, humans and computers will be part of a huge radio **network**. We will send messages from our **brain** to our computer and the computer will send messages straight to our brain, without using **wires**. When you want to learn something new, your computer will send the information straight to your brain.

What will clothes be like?

In a few years there will be clothes with soft TV screens in them. You will be able to change the pattern on your T-shirt. You will be able to show music videos on your clothes while you are dancing. Before long, there will be jackets with a soft watch on the sleeve.

Will we have robots to help us?

In the future, we will have lots of very clever robots called **nanobots**. Nanobots will be very small, but they will be everywhere. They will clean our homes, mend our clothes and make our meals.

Will there be televisions?

Televisions in the future will be different from televisions now. They will be much bigger and the pictures on the television won't be flat. They will all be in 3D. You will be able to walk into your favourite TV programme. It will happen all around you.

What about TV channels?

TV **channels** will be a thing of the past. People will choose TV programmes from a **menu** on their computer. In the future, TV programmes, films, music and books will all come to us through our computers. We will say to the computer, "I want to watch a funny film" or "I'd like to hear some dance music." The computer will understand us and choose the film or the music.

Vocabulary

3 Use the words from the text to complete the sentences.

- 1 There are many predictions about our future.
- 2 A _____ is a tiny robot which will help people with the housework.
- 3 All the computers at our school are on the same _____.
- 4 When you click on the HELP icon, a _____ appears.
- 5 Your _____ is in your head. You use it to think.
- 6 There are ten years in a _____.
- 7 *SimCity* is a computer game. You can use it to create a _____ city.
- 8 Usually, a _____ attaches a computer to a printer.
- 9 The picture on a TV or computer is often called an _____.
- 10 "This TV programme isn't interesting. Let's try another _____."

Reading comprehension

4 Write *True* or *False*.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| 1 | There won't be any schools in the future. | <u>False</u> |
| 2 | In some lessons, computers will teach the students. | _____ |
| 3 | Some students will have lessons at home. | _____ |
| 4 | We will have computers in our brains. | _____ |
| 5 | Our brains will be connected to computers with wires. | _____ |
| 6 | Some people will have TV screens on their clothes. | _____ |
| 7 | There will be a lot more TV channels. | _____ |
| 8 | We will be able to speak to our computers. | _____ |

5 Complete the facts. Write one word in each gap.

- Sometimes students will learn in a virtual classroom.
- Computers will _____ what people say.
- People and _____ will be part of the same network.
- Computers will send information straight to our _____.
- Some _____ will have a watch on the sleeve.
- Small _____ will help us in our homes.
- There won't be any TV _____ in the future.
- Your computer will _____ films and music for you.

6 Write short answers.

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Will there be teachers in the future? | <u>Yes, there will.</u> |
| 2 | When students learn at home, will they see their friends? | _____ |
| 3 | Will there be lots of wires on computers? | _____ |
| 4 | Will computers know how people feel? | _____ |
| 5 | Will all clothes be like they are now? | _____ |
| 6 | Will there be little robots in people's houses? | _____ |
| 7 | Will housework be easier? | _____ |
| 8 | Will there be lots of TV channels? | _____ |

7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- Do you think these predictions will come true?
- Do you think that virtual classrooms are better than real ones?
- Do you think life will be better in the future? Why or why not?

A day in my life in 2020

I imagine I will wake up early. I won't have an alarm clock. My computer will send a message to my brain to wake me up. I will have a shower and get dressed. For breakfast, I will tell my microwave how to cook my eggs. A robot will bring me tea.



I probably won't go to school. I think I'll have my lessons at home on my computer. The teacher's computer and all the students' computers will probably be part of the same network. Perhaps I'll go to a 3D cinema after lessons. I hope we'll drive there in a flying car!

Use think, imagine (that), and perhaps when you think something may happen but are not sure:

I think that we will all have robots in the future.

Perhaps I'll talk to my computer.

Use probably when you are more sure:

We will probably work at home with computers.

Use hope (that) when you want something to happen:

I hope I'll have a flying car.

8 Write predictions.

- 1 we / probably / have / tiny computers
We will probably have tiny computers.
- 2 I think / people / go on holiday / in space
- 3 I imagine / scientists / invent / lots of new things
- 4 perhaps / students / have lessons / on the Internet
- 5 I hope / we / use / alternative energy
- 6 people / probably / travel / by spaceship

9 Write about a day in your life in 2050. Answer these questions.

Where will you live?

How will you travel?

What will you eat?

What will you do in your free time?