

# 10

## The past and the future

### 1 SNAPSHOT



Source: *The Twentieth Century* and *The Random House Encyclopedia*

**Talk about these questions.**

What were some of the consequences of these events?

Have any of these events affected you personally? If so, explain how.

What are three important dates in the twentieth-century history of your country?

### 2 CONVERSATION

**A** Listen and practice.

Emma: Look. Here's a quiz on events of the twentieth century.

Steve: Oh, let me give it a try. I'm good at history.

Emma: All right. First question: When did World War I begin?

Steve: I think it began in 1917.

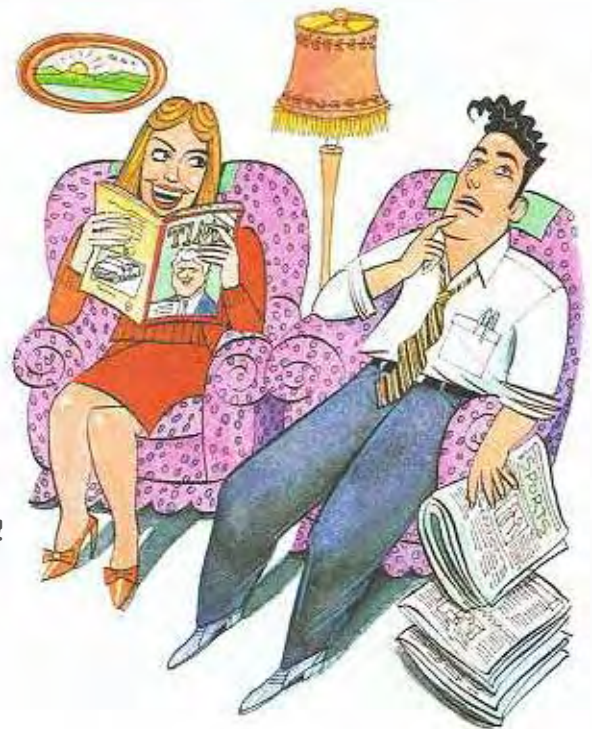
Emma: OK. And how long has the United Nations been in existence?

Steve: Uh, since Kennedy became president in 1961.

Emma: Hmm. Next question: How long was the Berlin Wall up?

Steve: Well, they built it right after World War II, and it came down in 1989, so it was up for 44 years. Uh, how am I doing so far?

Emma: Not very well. None of your answers is correct!



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**B** Do you know the correct answers to the three questions in part A? Listen to the rest of the conversation. What are the correct answers?

### 3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

#### Referring to time in the past

**Referring to a point of time in the past**

When did World War II take place?

During the 1940s. In the 1940s. Over 50 years ago.

**Referring to a period of time in the past**

How long was the Berlin Wall up?

From 1961 to 1989. For 28 years.

**Referring to a period of time in the past that continues into the present**

How long has the United Nations been in existence?

Since 1945. Since World War II ended.

For about the last 55 years. For over 50 years.

**A** Complete these statements with words from the grammar box. Then compare with a partner:

- Rock 'n' roll led to the transformation of popular music ..... the 1950s. Rock music has been popular around the world ..... more than 40 years.
- The Beatles were a well-known English band ..... the 1960s. They sang together ..... 1960 ..... 1970. They were together ..... ten years.
- One of the Beatles, singer and composer Paul McCartney, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth ..... 1997.
- The exploration of outer space began ..... 1957 with the launch of the satellite *Sputnik* by the Soviet Union.
- The Apollo project in the U.S. sent astronauts to the moon ..... more than three years ..... 1969 ..... 1972.
- No human has landed on the moon ..... the Apollo project ended ..... 1972.




**B Group work** Write three true and two false statements about world events. Then take turns reading your statements. Others give correct information for the false statements.


A: Rock music has been popular since the 1940s.

B: That's false. It became popular during the 1950s.

### 4 PRONUNCIATION Syllable stress

**A**  Listen and practice. Notice which syllable has the main stress in these words.

segregátion    discrimínation    populátion    invéntion

**B**  Mark the main stress in these words. Then listen and check.

assassination    discovery    exploration    revolution  
demonstration    expédition    explosion    vaccination

## 5 WORD POWER *Historic events*

**A** Match each event with the best example. Then compare with a partner.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Example</i>
1. achievement .....	a. The cellular telephone was developed in Sweden in 1979.
2. assassination .....	b. A huge unexplained explosion occurred above Siberia in 1908.
3. catastrophe .....	c. Sir Hillary and Sherpa Norgay climbed Mount Everest in 1953.
4. discovery .....	d. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and killed in 1968.
5. invention .....	e. A vaccine was found to prevent polio in 1954.
6. mystery .....	f. The space shuttle <i>Challenger</i> exploded after takeoff in 1986.

**B Pair work** Choose four of the words in part A and give an example for each one.

"The creation of the space shuttle was an amazing achievement."

## 6 LISTENING



**A** Listen to two people explain who they feel has been the most important public figure in the last 30 years. Complete the chart.

Public figure's name	Reason for importance
1. Andrew .....	.....
2. Stephanie .....	.....

**B Group work** Who do you think has been the most important public figure in the last 30 years? Why?

interchange 10

## 7 WRITING *A biography*

**A** Research information about a person who has had a major influence on the world or your country. Answer these questions in your composition.

What is this person famous for? How did he or she become famous?  
What are his or her most important achievements?

*Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He became a minister, a powerful public speaker, and the most respected leader of African Americans in the United States. ...*  
*King participated in many peaceful demonstrations and went to jail more than 16 times.*  
*He was assassinated in 1968. After his assassination, ...*

### History buff

Find out how good you are at history. Student A turns to page IC-13. Student B turns to page IC-14.

**B Pair work** Exchange compositions. Should your partner add any information?

## 8 CONVERSATION

**A**  Listen and practice.

Kathy: Have you heard about the new computer they're coming out with? It'll be able to recognize any voice command, so you won't ever need to use the keyboard.

John: Yeah, and soon everyone will be using computers that fit into the palm of your hand.

Kathy: Within 20 years, I bet all our news and information will be coming through computers.


John: By then, maybe even newspapers will have disappeared!

Kathy: Wow! Computers are going to take over our lives one of these days.

John: Yeah! Isn't it great!



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AUDIO  
ONLY

**B**  Listen to the rest of the conversation. Write down two other ways the world might be affected by computers.

## 9 GRAMMAR FOCUS

### Describing the future

**Use present continuous, "will," or "be going to" for future events or situations.**

They're coming out with a new computer.

It'll be able to recognize any voice command. You won't need to use a keyboard.

Computers are going to take over our lives one of these days.

**Use future continuous for ongoing actions in the future.**

Soon everyone will be using computers that fit into the palm of your hand.

All our news will be coming through computers.

**Use future perfect for actions that will be completed by a certain time in the future.**

Within 20 years, they will have found a way for us to get all our news through computers.

By then, maybe even newspapers will have disappeared.

Complete these statements with the correct verb forms. (More than one answer may be possible.) Then compare with a partner.

1. Soon they ..... computers that can translate perfectly from one language to another. (sell)
2. In ten years, flights from New York to Tokyo ..... more than two hours. (not take)
3. Within 50 years, many people ..... on the moon. (live)
4. In less than a century, global warming ..... most of the polar ice caps and many coastal cities ..... (melt / disappear)
5. By the middle of the twenty-first century, scientists ..... a way to prevent aging. (discover)
6. Maybe in the future, scientists ..... a way for us to transmit our thoughts to one another. (find)

## 10 WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**A Group work** Take turns reading the statements in Exercise 9. Do you agree with them? Why? If you don't, what do you think will happen?

- A: I don't believe they will soon be selling computers that can translate perfectly.
- B: I don't either. The technology is just too advanced.
- C: Yes, but they already have computers that can translate fairly well. . . .



**B Class activity** Talk about these questions.

1. What three recently developed pieces of technology will have the greatest effect on our lives in the next 20 years?
2. What three jobs do you think people *won't* be doing in 50 years? Why?
3. What do you think are the three most important changes that will have occurred on earth by 2050?

## 11 LISTENING A perfect future?

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**A** Listen to people discussing changes that will affect these areas in the next 50 years. Write down two changes for each topic.

Area	Future changes
1. work	.....
2. transportation	.....
3. education	.....
4. health	.....

**B Group work** Can you suggest one more possible change for each area?

## 12 THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT!

**Group work** Talk about these questions.

- What do you think you'll be doing a year from now?  
five years from now?
- Do you think you'll still be living in the same town or city?
- What are three things you think you'll have accomplished within the next five years?
- What are three things you won't have done in that time?
- In what ways do you think you'll have changed by the time you retire?

## 13 READING

# The Global Village

What do you think the term *global village* means?

**M**ore and more often, the term *global village* is used to describe the world and its people. In a typical village, however, everyone knows everyone else and the people face the same kinds of problems. How can the world be a village, when it is home to almost 6 billion people? Political and technological changes in the past century have made the global village possible.

**Political changes** The years following World War II seemed to promise peace and more equality among people. For example, the United Nations was founded in 1945 to help countries resolve disputes peacefully. This promise was soon shattered, however, by the Cold War – tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. These two superpowers engaged in an arms race, spending huge sums of money on weapons. The other nations of the world were split into two “sides,” and the world was frozen in a perpetual state of hostility, seemingly on the brink of destruction.

It was not until the collapse of communist governments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe between 1989 and 1991 that the Cold War ended and the political climate changed. The end of Cold War tension made the global village more politically possible by opening new channels of communication between nations.

**Technological changes**

Technologically, the greatest contributor to the global village is the microchip – an electronic circuit on a tiny chip. The microchip has



made satellites and computers possible. These forms of high-tech communications allow news and ideas to travel quickly from country to country, making people aware of their neighbors around the globe in dramatic new ways. Through the Internet, we can get information from computers anywhere and carry on electronic conversations with people everywhere. Through television programs transmitted by satellite, we are exposed to many cultures.

What will happen as we move into the twenty-first century and beyond? Almost certainly the development of the global village will continue. Not only is this possible, but the challenges that the world faces – for example, pollution, population growth, and conflicts among peoples – will make it necessary.

**A** Read the article. Then use the information to explain the following terms in your own words.

1. What is the United Nations?
2. What was the Cold War?
3. Who were the superpowers?
4. What was the arms race?
5. What is a microchip?
6. What is a global village?

**B** *Pair work* Talk about these questions.

1. What do you think are some of the advantages of a global village – for individuals and for nations?
2. Some people say that there are disadvantages to a global village – that we are becoming too much alike. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. What other challenges do you think the world will face in the twenty-first century? Which do you consider the most serious?