

unit 4

DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE



Read the predictions made by John E. Watkins in the year 1900. Check (✓) the predictions that you think came true. Then listen to check.

I, John E. Watkins, an American civil engineer, predict in 1900 that in one hundred years from now, . . .

1. Trains will travel at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour.
2. A man in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean will be talking to his family in Chicago. It will be like his family is sitting next to him!
3. People will be buying ready-cooked meals.
4. People will be sending photographs from anywhere in the world. Photographs of major events from another continent will be in newspapers in an hour, and they will have the colors of nature.
5. People will be eating strawberries as big as apples! Raspberries and blackberries will also be big.
6. Americans will be taller by one to two inches.





Look at the list as you listen to two boys discussing their dreams for the future. Check (✓) the topics you hear them talking about.

DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

- I'll be working in my dream job.
- I'll be running my own business.
- I'll be living in another country.
- I'll be married.
- I'll be raising a family.
- I'll be working in the music industry.
- I'll be taking adventurous vacations.
- I'll be speaking several foreign languages, including English.
- I'll be earning a good salary.
- I'll be famous.

3

Imagine your life in twenty years. Look at the list in 2 and think about each statement. Circle the ones you think you will be doing.



Work with a partner. Listen. Talk about the items you circled.



What will you be doing in twenty years?

I'll be working in the music industry and earning a pretty good salary.





On futureme.org, people write to themselves in the future. MeToday has written three emails to her future self. Listen and read.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'www.futureme.org'. The website header is green with 'futureme.org' in white. Below the header, there are two email drafts. The first draft has a subject line 'Ten years from now' and a body of text starting with 'Dear FutureSelf:'. A pink arrow points from the subject line to the text, and a green arrow points from the text to a photo of four graduates in blue caps and gowns. The second draft has a subject line 'Thirty years from now' and a body of text starting with 'Dear FutureSelf:'. A green arrow points from the subject line to the text, and another green arrow points from the text to a photo of a city skyline with the Empire State Building.

futureme.org

TO MeToday@iMail2014.com
CC
SUBJECT Ten years from now

Dear FutureSelf:

It's 2014. I'm in my sixth grade English class. Ten years from now, I will be studying at a big university. I'll probably have a lot of classmates from different parts of the country and the world. I won't be making much money yet, so I'll be living in a small apartment near the university to save money. But I know I'll be successful after I graduate.

MeToday

TO MeToday@iMail2014.com
CC
SUBJECT Thirty years from now

Dear FutureSelf:

It's 2014. Right now, I'm in sixth grade. In thirty years, I'll be living in the United States and learning to speak a foreign language, probably Japanese. I'll be working in a beautiful office with a great view of Manhattan, and I'll hopefully be running my own business. I won't be raising a big family because I'll be working hard. It's OK. I won't work long hours all of my life. I really want to have kids, a dog, and a cat, too.

MeToday

www.futureme.org

TO MeToday@iMail2014.com

CC

SUBJECT Fifty years from now

Dear FutureSelf:



It's 2014. I'm twelve years old this year, and I'm in sixth grade. Wow, I'll be sixty-two years old fifty years from now! I'll probably be living back home in my country. I definitely won't be working. I'll be living in a small house, enjoying my retirement. My grandchildren will be visiting me often. We'll be taking rides in my flying sports car!

MeToday

READING COMPREHENSION

6 Write sentences. Then compare with a partner.

1. Write two things MeToday will be doing ten years from now:

Write one thing she won't be doing:

2. Write two things MeToday will be doing thirty years from now:

Write one thing she won't be doing:

3. Write two things MeToday will be doing fifty years from now:

Write one thing she won't be doing:

7 **THINK BIG** Work with a partner. Discuss.

1. Is there anything about MeToday that you admire? Explain.
2. Do you think MeToday will be successful? Why or why not?



Listen and read. Why will people be staying at home for their vacations?



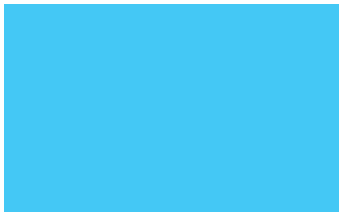
- Lisa:** I'll definitely buy a nice car when I grow up.
- Gavin:** A car? We'll probably be flying around in spaceships when we're older!
- Lisa:** You're such a dreamer.
- Gavin:** Well, maybe in twenty or thirty years.
- Lisa:** So, do you think we'll be taking a spaceship to work every day?
- Gavin:** Why not? I'll be living in Tokyo and working in Mexico.
- Lisa:** But the world is running out of oil. If there's no oil, how will we fly around in spaceships?
- Gavin:** People will discover a new source of fuel by then so we won't need oil.
- Lisa:** But if we all have spaceships, traveling won't be exciting anymore! Where will we go on vacation?
- Gavin:** Maybe we'll be vacationing in space!



Practice the dialogue in 8 with a partner. Change the underlined words.



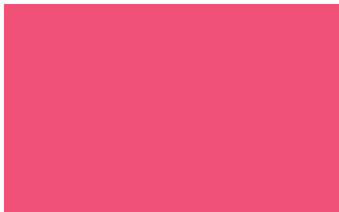
Listen and stick. Then complete the sentences. Use words from the box.



live in
read
travel to
work on

1. In 100 years, we'll _____
_____.

2. In twenty years, she'll _____
_____.



3. In fifteen years, he'll _____
_____.

4. In forty years, they'll _____
_____.

What **will** you **be doing** ten years from now?

I'll definitely **be studying** at a big university.

Where **will** you **be living** in twenty years?

I probably **won't be living** in Europe.

Tip: Use the future progressive to talk about what you will be doing in the future. For degrees of certainty (how likely something is), use either *definitely* or *probably*.



11 What will you or won't you be doing forty years from now? Write complete sentences. Use the future progressive of the verbs in parentheses and *definitely* or *probably*.

1. (live in another country)

2. (run my own business)

3. (take vacations on the moon)

4. (go on white-water rafting trips)

Will you **be running** a business?

No, definitely not. I definitely won't ...

Yes, definitely. I definitely will ...

Probably not. I probably won't ...

Yes, probably. I probably will ...

12 Write three Yes/No questions about the future. Exchange your questions with a partner. Write your partner's answers. Then answer your partner's questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



TK
13 Listen and read.

CONTENT WORDS

3-D image
upload

download
virtual

futurist

nano

wireless technology

EXPERTS' PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Futurists are people whose job it is to look ahead and help us plan for the future. Here are a few of their predictions for the next fifty years.

Virtual Reality

In a virtual-reality game, you, as a player, experience an imaginary world and interact with the game characters as though you were part of that world. Now, imagine yourself in a virtual-reality school of the future, where you would be socializing and learning with virtual people. Cool, right? In order for this to happen, a 3-D image, linked to your brain, will make you feel as though you were actually in the classroom and interacting with your virtual teacher and virtual classmates.

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is the science of incredibly small things. Exactly how big is a nano? *Nano* means “billionth,” so a nanometer is one billionth of a meter! When something is a nano size, it is so small, it is invisible! With nanotechnology, we will have microscopic computerized robots called nanobots! Because nanobots can be built into almost anything—even appliances—household chores will be easier.

Brain-to-Computer Communication

How about this for an amazing prediction: One day everyone and everything will be linked through wireless technology. Nanocomputers will be in your system, so your brain, just like a computer, will be receiving downloads and uploads. Do you want to learn a new language or how to tango? As soon as you think the thought, your brain will be uploading the new language and the dance steps, and you'll be learning them instantly!



**THINK
BIG**

14 Work with a partner. Discuss.

1. Talk about each of the predictions. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of each?
2. If you could learn something by uploading it to your brain instantly, what would you like to learn? Why?





Listen and read.

Kids' Predictions for the Future

When it comes to predicting the future, look no further than your classmates! Why? In the world of predictions for the future, kids have had some pretty amazing ideas. In some cases, their predictions, especially about technology, have turned out to be true, or most likely will be coming true. Here's what some kids from around the world have predicted for the future:

People around the world will be living happily. They will accept and help each other. Everyone will have food and shelter. People will be enjoying life because they have time.

People, no matter what their skin color, gender, culture, or religion, will be living harmoniously together. The environment will be safe to live in.

In the future, there will be more space travel. There may be people living on Mars or on the moon.

Nanobots and nanopets will be living with us. We won't have to do anything. Our nanobots will be doing our work for us. For example, they can go shopping for us. They can even entertain us.

There will be a time machine that can show us what we'll look like in the future. We can also use the time machine to show us the past—like what our parents and grandparents looked like when they were young.



16 **THINK BIG** Ask and answer with a partner.

1. Which of the kids' predictions are already true?
2. Which ones do you think will be coming true in the future?
3. Which prediction would you like to have come true? Why?

17 With a partner, read these two emails and decide which is formal and which is informal. Discuss the differences with your partner.

TO

CC

SUBJECT

Dear Ms. Santos:

I'll be working on next week's writing assignment this weekend because I have play rehearsals all week, but I need more information about it. I have some questions:

- What type of essay will we be writing?
- I'm planning to write about future technology. Is this topic OK?
- What is the deadline for the essay?

Thank you for your help.
Mario Medina

TO

CC

SUBJECT

Hey, Leo,

Any plans 4 tomorrow? Wanna hang out at my house? I'm staying home all day cuz I have to baby-sit my little sister. Wanna do homework together?

Got the new video game, btw. It's awesome! Just text me b4 u come over. OK? CU soon.
Mario

18 Write two emails: one to a teacher and one to a friend.

Formal

TO

CC

SUBJECT

Dear Ms. _____

Informal

TO

CC

SUBJECT

Hey, _____

19 Many young people don't think too much about the future. But they should. Read these statements. Write your response to each one.



Why do I have to study English? I don't plan to live abroad, so I don't have to learn it.

[Empty response box]



My parents own a business. I don't need to finish school because I'll be running the business when I'm old enough.

[Empty response box]

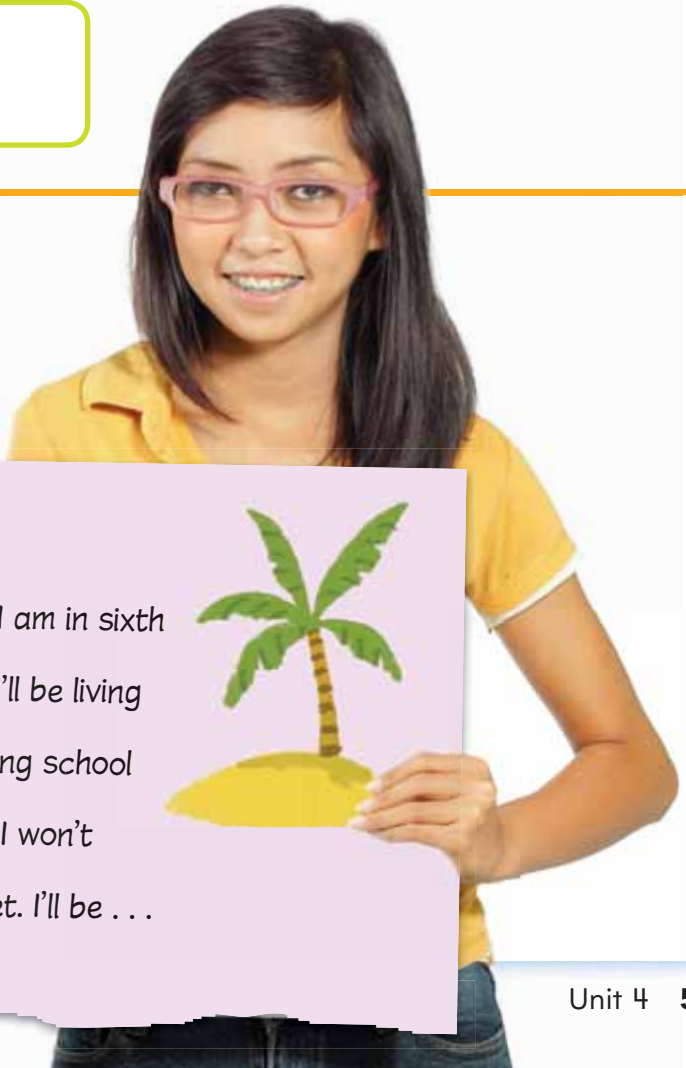


Me? Learn how to do household chores? No way! I'll have maids at home, so I won't be doing any chores in the future.

[Empty response box]

PROJECT

20 Make a FutureSelf book. Write a letter to yourself fifteen years, thirty years, even fifty years from now! Put copies of your letter into a class album.



Dear FutureSelf,
 Today is January 4, 2014, and I am in sixth grade. Fifteen years from now, I'll be living on a tropical island. I'll be teaching school there and living near the beach. I won't be married or raising children yet. I'll be . . .



21 Work in a small group. Create a chart like the one below. Write predictions in the first column. Complete the chart independently by putting a check (✓) in the column that applies to you. Think about your reasons.

	In thirty years, I will...	Definitely won't be	Probably won't be	Probably will be	Definitely will be
1.	... be working in the fashion industry.			✓	
2.					
3.					

22 In your group, ask and answer questions.



Will you be working in the fashion industry in thirty years?

Yeah, I probably will be. I'm interested in designing clothes, and I love art.

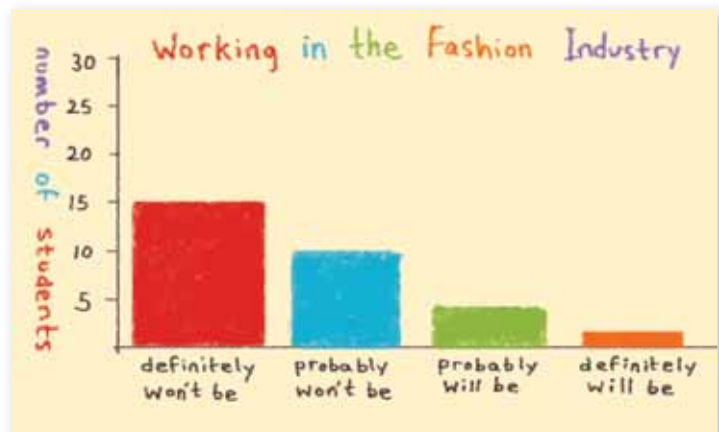


23 Create class surveys.

- As a group, choose one of the topics from the chart in 21.
- Choose a group leader. The group leader conducts a class survey on your topic. Tally the results.
- As a group, create a graph. Then present your graph to the class.



In our class, 15 out of 30 students think they definitely won't be working in the fashion industry.



24 Use the words in the box to complete the expressions.

a business a family a foreign language
 a good salary adventurous vacations in a nice office

1. run _____
2. earn _____
3. take _____
4. work _____
5. raise _____
6. speak _____

25 Write four sentences about what four of your classmates will be doing in the future. You can use the expressions in **24** plus *probably* or *definitely*.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

26 Write answers to the questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What will you probably be doing tonight at 7:20?

2. Will you be traveling with friends ten years from now? Why or why not?

3. What will you definitely not be doing in the future?

4. What will you be doing forty years from now?



I Can



talk about and make predictions about the future.
 talk about levels of certainty.