

Unit 13: Future Trends

Objectives

- Talk about future trends
- Make predictions
- Link ideas together
- Make predictions and forecasts



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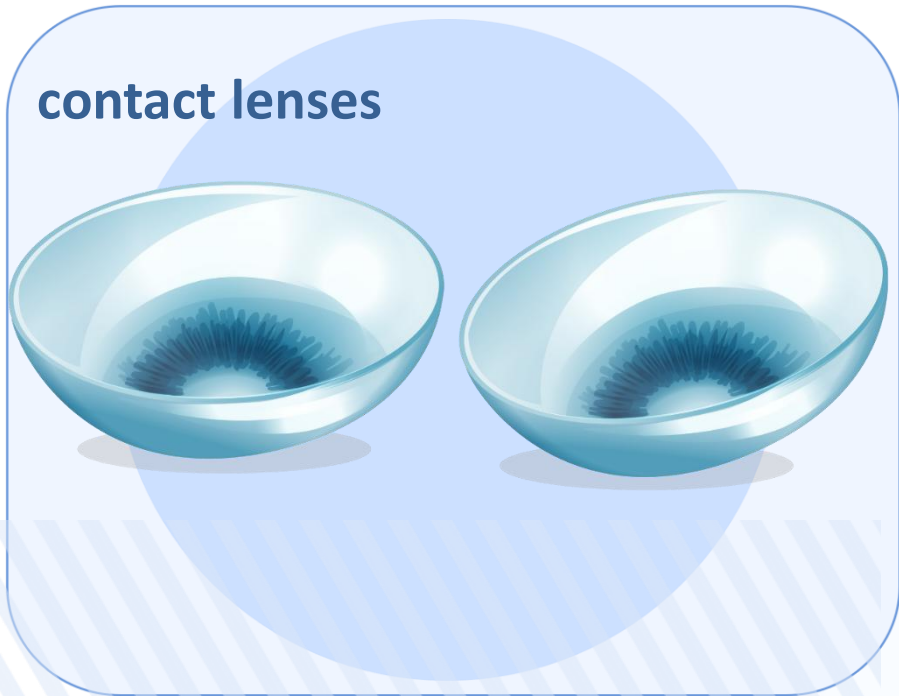
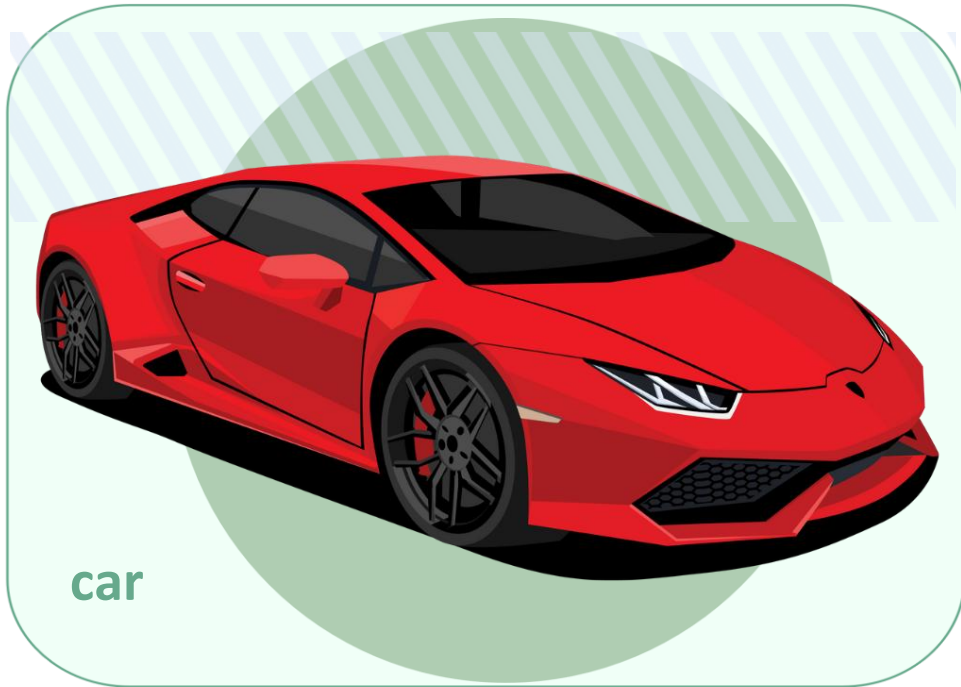
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1. Look at the things below. How different do you think they will be in the future?

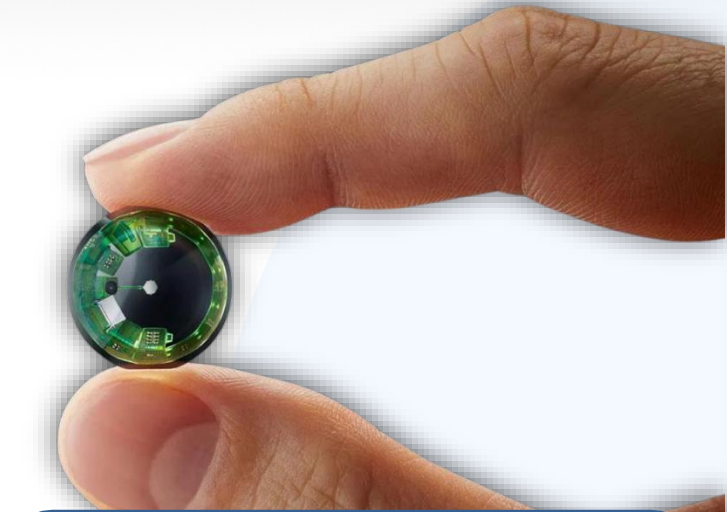




Audio
13.1

2. Listen to the interview about AR lenses and say if the statements below are True or False.

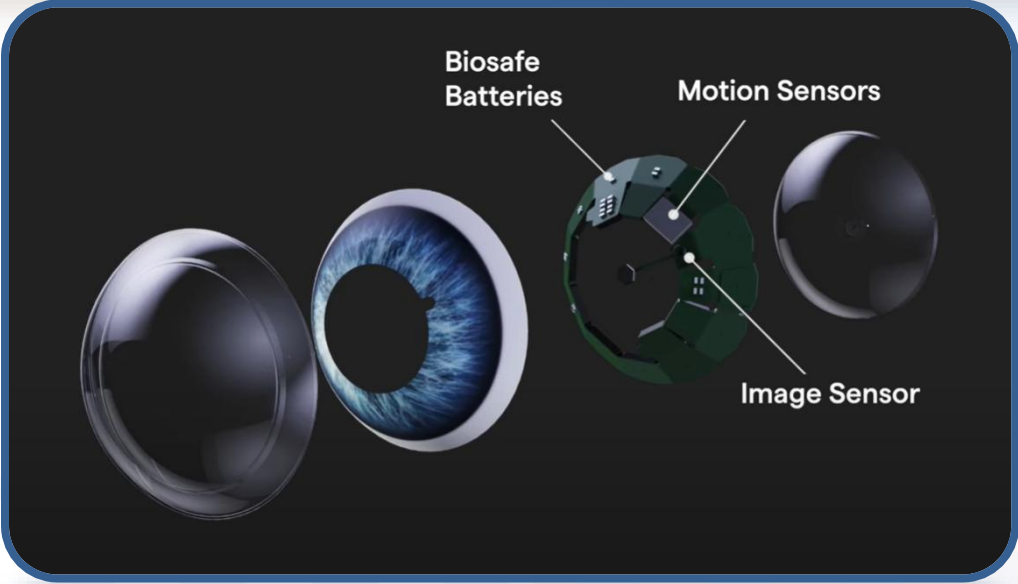
- 1. AR lenses show you information in front of your eyes.
- 2. AR lenses need a phone to work.
- 3. AR lenses can only be used in the daytime.
- 4. AR lenses cannot help people with vision problems like glaucoma.
- 5. These lenses use tiny batteries and special sensors.



Audio
13.1

3. Match the sentence halves, then listen again and check.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. That might just plant | a. future ... |
| 2. You can have access to | b. timely information all day. |
| 3. You can stay updated | c. a seed for a new way to see the world. |
| 4. It's just around | d. how they will change our lives. |
| 5. They have limitless | e. future ahead. |
| 6. In the not-so-distant | f. the corner. |
| 7. Time will tell | g. applications. |
| 8. We think there is a bright | h. without missing out on the world around you. |



4. Complete the sentences with the words below.

- access
- not-so-distant
- future
- seed
- updated
- Time
- corner
- applications

1. Our company has a **bright** _____ ahead.
2. Andy likes to read newsletters to **stay** _____ on company news.
3. The product launch is **just around the** _____.
4. Employees **have** _____ **to** the company database.
5. _____ **will tell** if the new strategy works.
6. We need to **plant a** _____ for new projects.
7. This software has **limitless** _____ for our business.
8. **In the** _____ **future**, we will expand our market.

5. Discuss changes that will affect our lives in the future. Choose from the list.

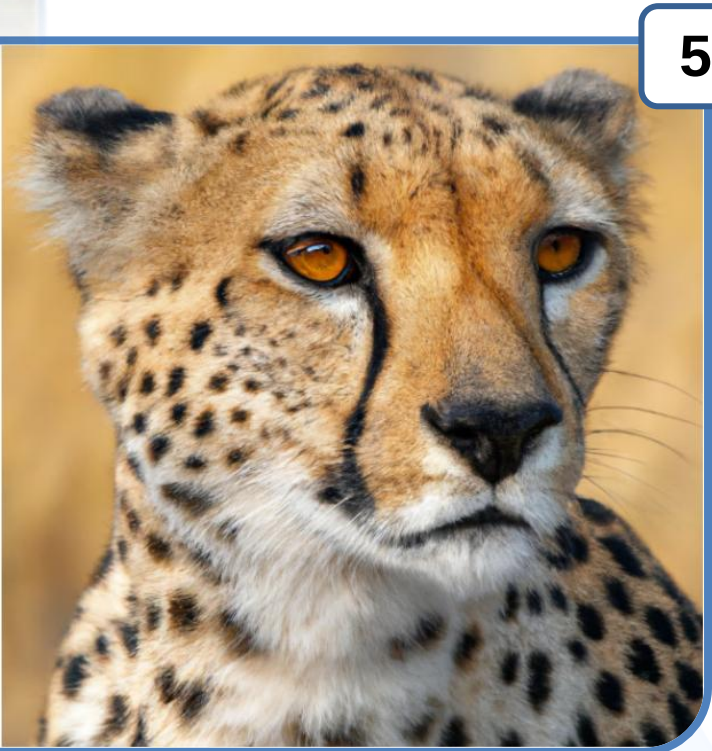
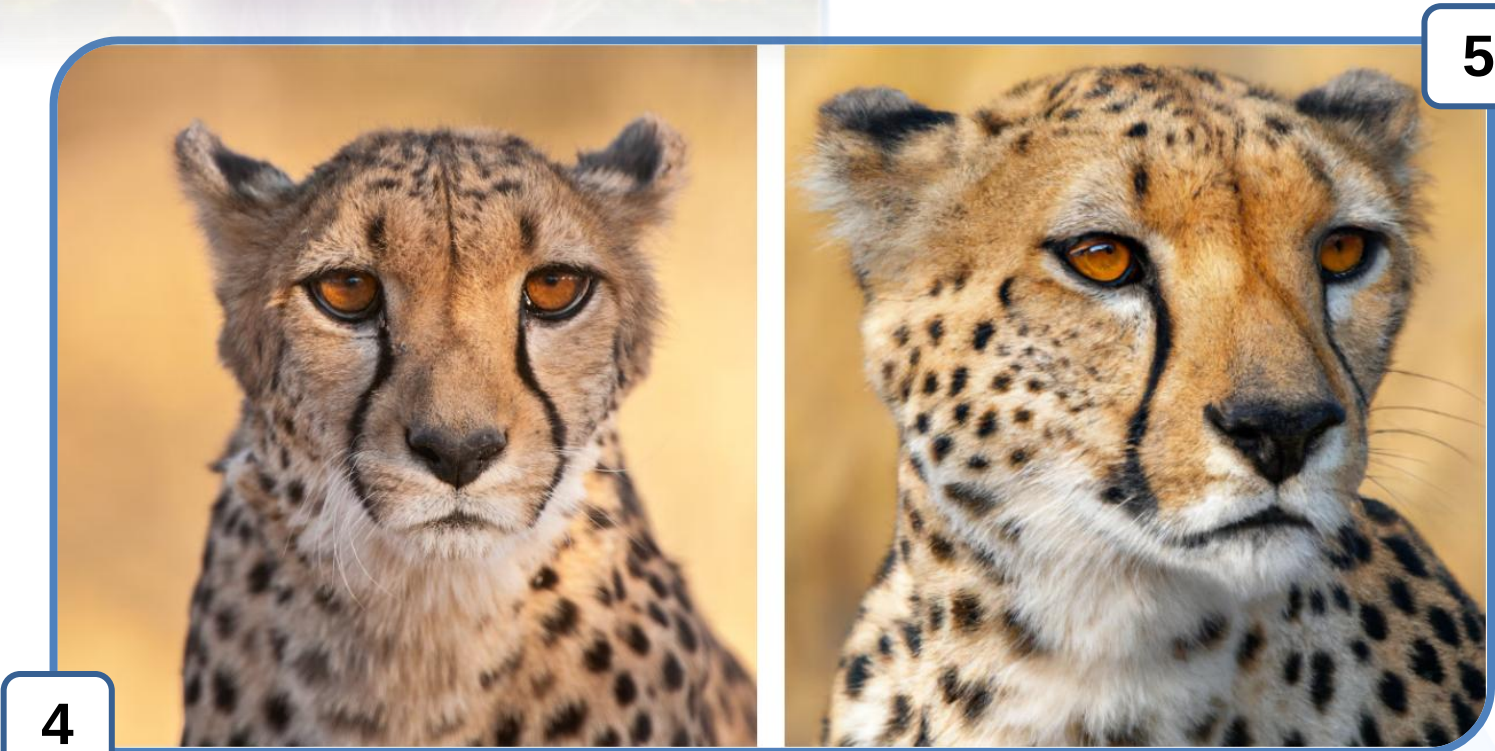
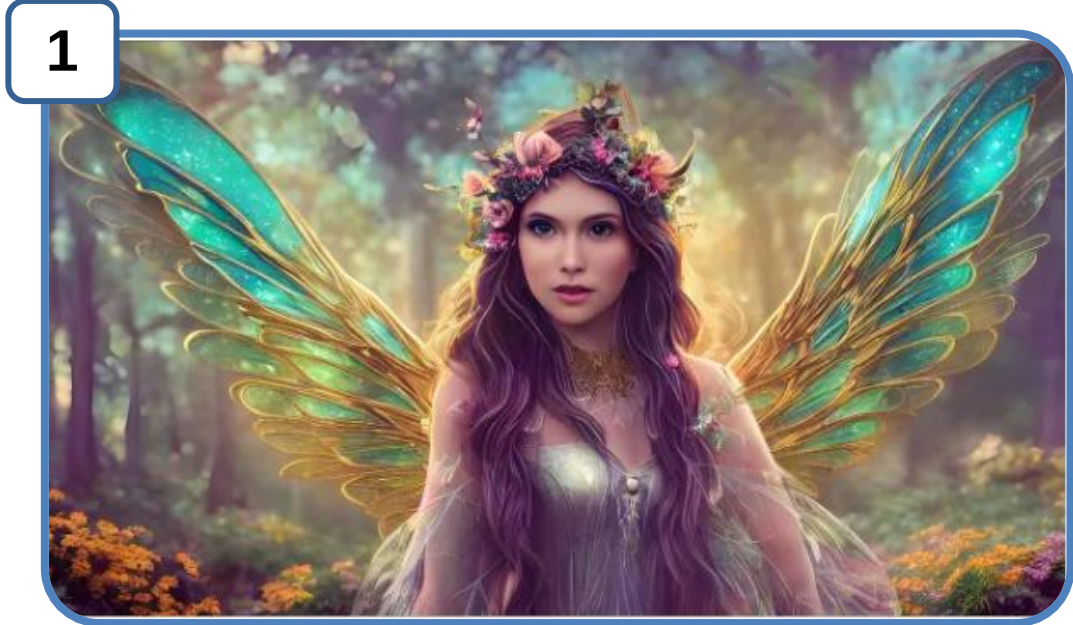
- education
- technology
- medicine
- travelling
- transport
- work

6. What do you think will happen in your country during the next 5 / 10 / 20 years? Choose from the list (*optional*).

- population
- migration
- unemployment
- salaries
- education
- leisure time



1. Do you like art? Can you tell which art was made by a human and which by AI? Explain.



2. Read half of the text. Which questions below can you answer?

1. What did Jason Allen create?
2. How did he make it?
3. How did people react?

Jason Allen from Colorado in the United States, has made something amazing with an artificial intelligence program. He created a series of paintings for the Colorado State Fair. This piece, called "Space Opera", was displayed at the fair. However, there was a lot of criticism because it was created by AI.

Jason used a tool called MidJourney to turn his ideas into images. He says that he uses beauty as a method as creative writing, where he uses beautiful words to create art. He says that he uses his imagination to create art. *paintbrush is a tool, and there must be a creative person behind it.* The debate about AI art is growing. Some people think it's cheating, but others think it's a new **road**, this conversation will likely continue in the future. He says that **in the long run**, technology will change the way we create art. For Jason, the possibilities with AI are endless. With AI, **the sky's the limit** for what can be imagined. It's hard to **predict the outcome** of this new way of creating art.



3. Now read the whole text and answer questions 1-3.

1. What did Jason Allen create?
2. How did he make it?
3. How did people react?

Jason Allen from Colorado in the United States, has made something very special using his computer and an artificial intelligence program. He created a series of artworks, and one of them won first place at the Colorado State Fair. This piece, called "Space Opera Theater," was sold for 1100 Australian dollars. However, there was a lot of criticism because the artwork was made with AI, something quite new in art competitions.

Jason used a tool called MidJourney to turn his vivid imagination into digital paintings. He describes his method as creative writing, where he uses beautiful words like "elegant," "opulent," and "lavish" to guide the AI in creating art. He says that he uses his imagination to create something unique. *'AI is a tool just like a paintbrush is a tool, and there must be a creative force behind the tool'.*

The debate about AI art is growing. Some people question if it's fair to use AI in art competitions. **Down the road**, this conversation will likely continue in the art community. But Jason feels that he hasn't broken any rules. He says that **in the long run**, technology will change the way we create and appreciate art.

For Jason, the possibilities with AI are endless. He sees big changes **on the horizon** for how art is made. With AI, **the sky's the limit** for what can be imagined and created. Looking ahead, **in years to come**, it's hard to **predict the outcome** of this new way of making art, but it's sure to be exciting.



4. Find the phrases in the text that mean:

- a. near future: _____
- b. distant future : _____

5. Complete the sentences with the words below.

- run
- road
- horizon
- sky
- years
- outcome

1. **Down the** _____, we can arrange a trip to meet our new colleagues in the Munich office.
2. It's hard to **predict the** _____ of the project, but if we work efficiently, the _____'s **the limit** to what we can achieve.
3. Holding this event seems a lot of work but I'm sure it will pay off **in the long** _____.
4. New projects are **on the** _____, so we must do our best!
5. **In** _____ **to come**, this will become the greatest innovation.



6. Answer the questions.

1. What projects do you have on the horizon?
2. How will AI impact our lives in the long run?
3. What advancements do you foresee in years to come?
4. What role will automation play in our jobs down the road?
5. Do you believe the sky's the limit with new technologies?

extra writing

Answer the question **(50-70 words)**:

How do you think the smart phone will evolve in future?

extra vocabulary

the days/week(s)/year(s) to come - the following or next days/week(s)/year(s).

E.g. In the years to come, technology will continue to transform the way we live and work.

1. Read the predictions. Which ones are realistic in your opinion? Which are unrealistic?

1. Robots will help us clean our homes and cook meals. It's just around the corner.

2. By 2070, humans will have colonies on Mars.

3. In the not-so-distant future, AI will take 50% of the jobs.

4. In 30 years, 40% of people will have microchips or brain chips in their bodies.

5. 10 years from now, we will use AR lenses instead of the Internet.



Audio
13.2

2. Listen to a futurologist's comments on the predictions above and check your answers. What do you agree / disagree with?

3. Read the sentences from the audio and complete the Language point.

- 1. Robots **will** definitely make our life easier by cleaning and cooking.
- 2. Living on Mars **won't** be possible in the near future, and by 2070, it **may not** be a common reality.
- 3. In 30 years, having microchips in our bodies **might** be more common.

LANGUAGE POINT

Certain	Possible
_____ + verb	_____ + verb
Example: _____	Example: _____
Uncertain	Impossible
_____ + verb	_____ + verb
Example: _____	Example: _____

4. Choose the best option.

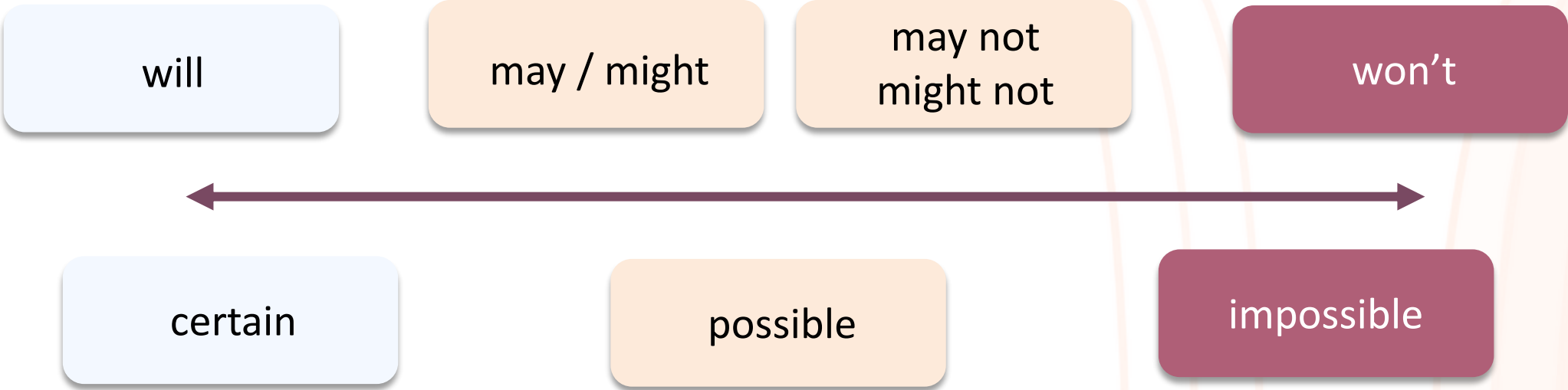
- 1. Our team **will / might** arrange a trip to the mountains next month, but we're not sure.
- 2. Sorry but I **won't / may** be able to attend the meeting tomorrow, I'm sick.
- 3. They **won't / may** join workshops next week if they have time.
- 4. We planned to finish the project by Friday, but it **might not / may** be possible because 3 team members are on sick leave.
- 5. I'm sure that our project **may / will** be very successful in the long run.
- 6. Lucy **may / won't** prepare dishes for the office party next Friday if she's not too busy.
- 7. In years to come, technology **won't / may** change the way we do business, but it's hard to predict.

5. Complete each sentence about the future.

- I think we will / won't _____
- People might / might not _____
- take part in volunteer projects
- run out of water
- cut down on plastic
- care about the environment
- produce more eco-friendly products
- reduce pollution
- pollute the environment
- recycle more

6. Work with your partner / teacher. Discuss the trends for the next ten years. Use *will / won't, may / may not, might / might not*.

- house prices
- entertainment
- learning languages with ai
- the price of cars
- the world population
- the cost of living
- the number of people going to university
- entertainment



1. Read the piece of news below and answer the questions.

1. Would you like AI to predict how long you will live?
2. What other changes in medicine will the future bring in your opinion?

Danish researchers made an AI model that predicts how long someone might live with 70% to 80% accuracy. To make a prediction AI analyzes:

- Birth date and place
- Education
- Health status
- Occupation
- Salary





Audio
13.3

2. Listen to the podcast about the future of medicine and take notes on the predictions.

• _____
• _____
• _____
• _____



Audio
13.3

3. Listen again and complete the sentences.

1. _____, in the years ahead, medicine will become more precise.
2. _____, each patient will have what's called a 'digital twin.'
3. _____, it's not just about early predictions.
4. _____, healthcare will always be ready for us.
5. _____, with real-time monitoring and online support, patients will have access to care whenever and wherever they need it.
6. _____, these advancements will plant a seed for a future where healthcare has limitless applications.

4. Use the linking words below and the information from the audio to speak about the future of medicine.

How to link ideas

- First of all, ...
- and
- but
- so
- However, ...
- Secondly, ...
- Therefore, ...
- Specifically, ...
- In addition, ...
- in conclusion, ...

The future of medicine

- Digital twin patients
- Faster diagnosis with AI
- 24/7 healthcare access
- Real-time medical support



Audio
13.4

5. Listen to the podcast about Metaverse and summarize it using linking words.

Metaverse

- Office without traveling
- Work from anywhere
- Customizable virtual office
- Quiet workspace
- Easy team collaboration



6. Prepare a short presentation about how your career will develop in the future. Use linking words.

extra writing

Answer the question (50-70 words):

The global life expectancy is around 73 years. Will this increase in the future?

extra vocabulary

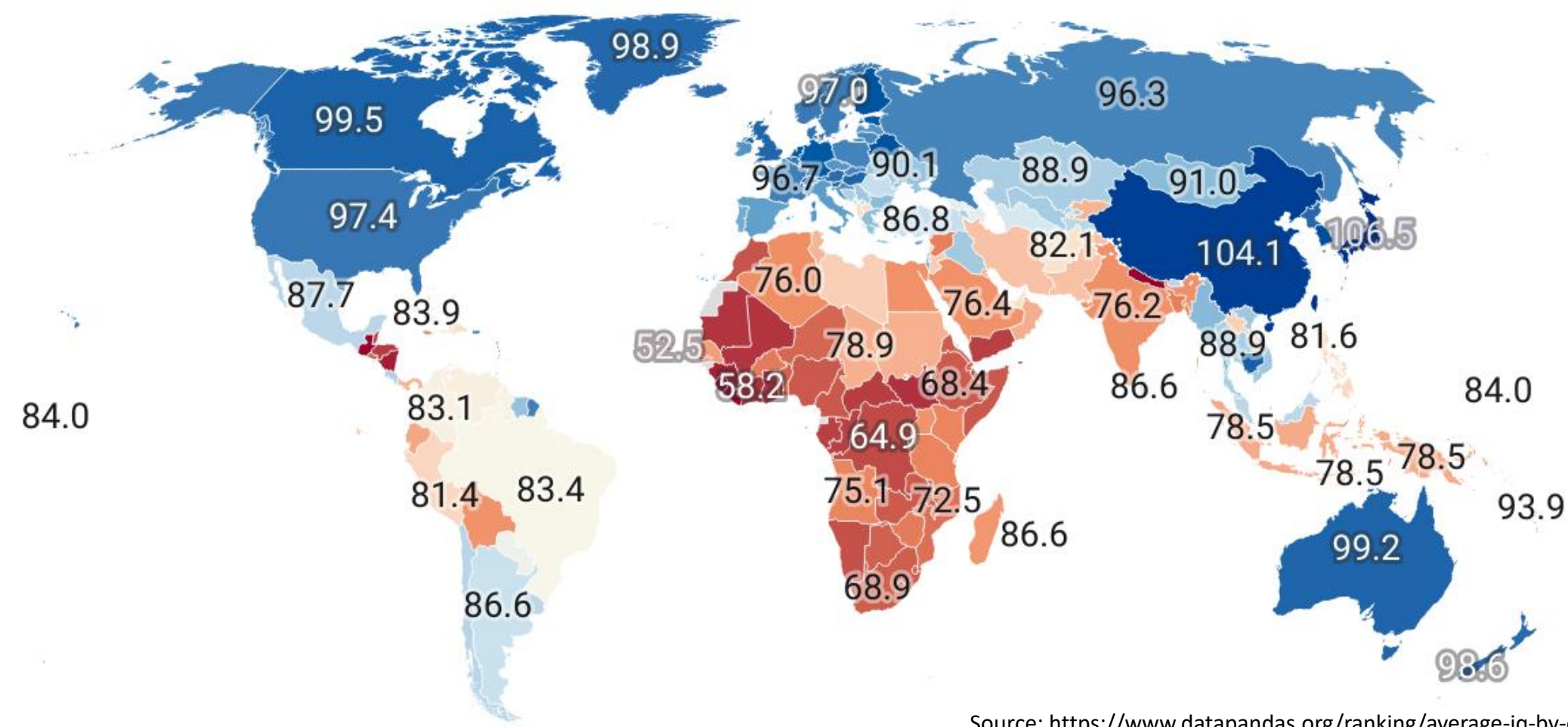
like there's no tomorrow - when you do something enthusiastically or energetically as if it's your last chance to do it

E.g. The minute he got paid, he started spending money like there's no tomorrow.

1. Look at the information below and answer the questions.

- 1. Do you agree with the statistics? Why / why not?
- 2. Do you think brain implants will be used to make people smarter? Will you have one?

Countries by Average IQ



Source: <https://www.datapandas.org/ranking/average-iq-by-country>

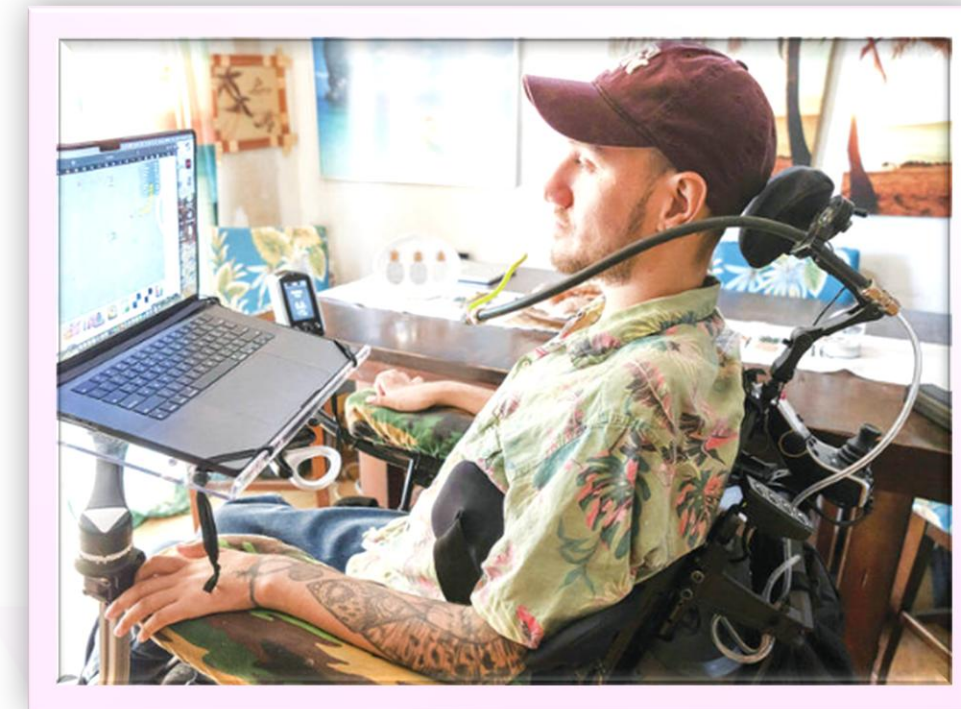
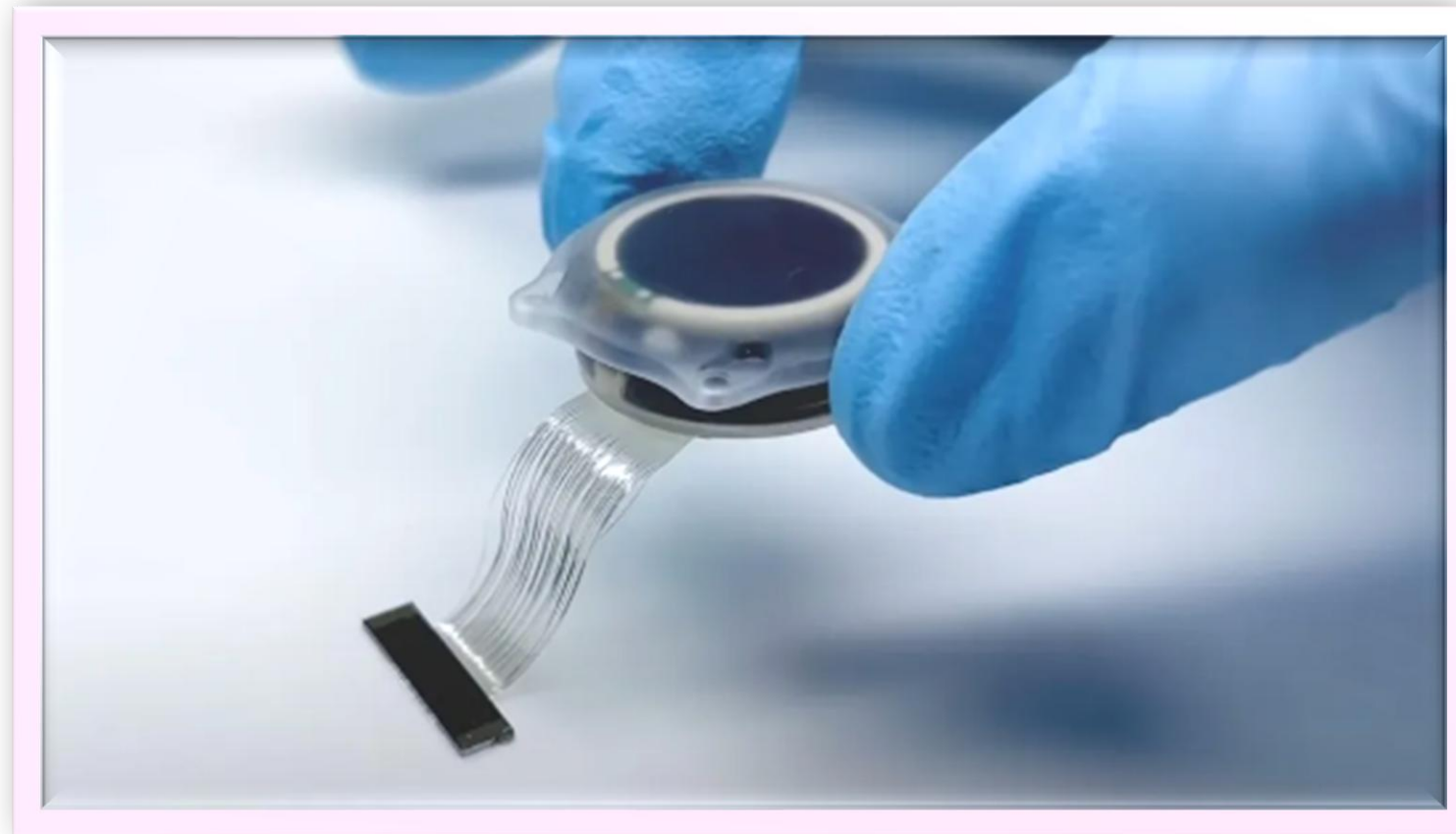
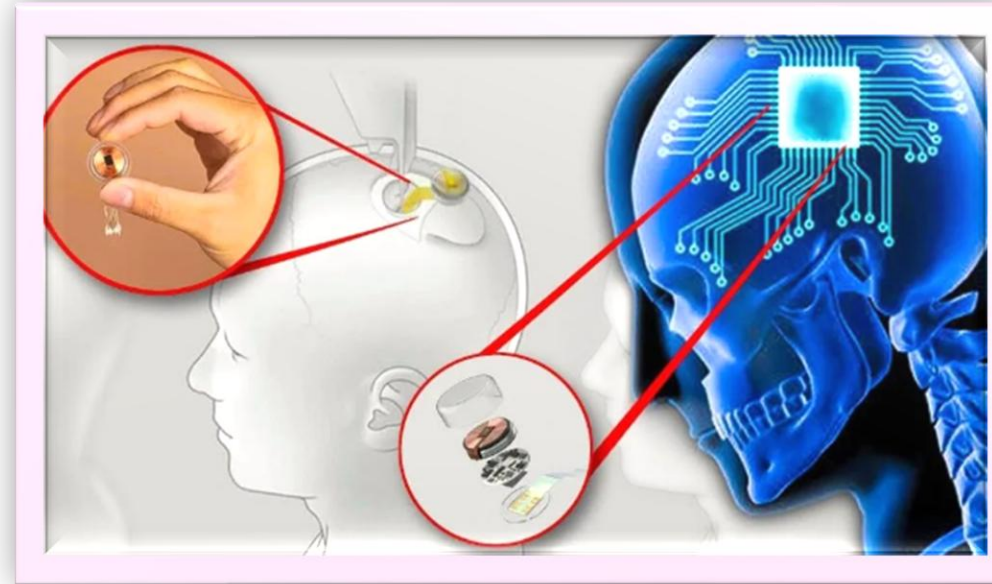




Audio
13.5

2. Listen to the interview about brain chips and answer the questions.

1. What is the brain chip expected to do?
2. What are the potential problems?
3. How might brain chips change us?



3. Match the questions (1-4) and the answers (a-d).

1. Do you think brain chips will change things for everyone with injuries?
2. What are brain chips likely to do?
3. Could there be problems with brain chips?
4. Looking forward, what's next for this technology?

- a. We might see amazing things. Brain chips are unlikely to stop at simple tasks.
- b. It will probably not help everyone right away, but we expect it will definitely help more people down the road.
- c. They have limitless applications, from helping people move again to improving how they communicate.
- d. Yes, there will definitely be challenges, like making sure the technology is safe and available to everyone who needs it.

4. Answer the questions in exercise 3. Express your opinion.

extra vocabulary

Brainiac – a very intelligent person.

E.g. James is a real brainiac when it comes to history; he knows all the facts and dates.

5. Read the Key expressions. Ask your teacher if you don't understand any of them.

6. Work with your partner / teacher. Take turns to ask for and make predictions about the future. Use these ideas to help you.

Example:

A: Do you think people will continue working from home in the future?

B: I think we will probably work in the Metaverse.

1. work from home
2. work in the Metaverse
3. use desktop computers
4. shop in-store
5. study with human teachers
6. go to the cinema / theater / opera
7. watch TV
8. use AR lenses
9. go to museums

Asking for predictions

- Is ... likely to ... ?
- Are ... likely to ... ?
- Do you think ... will ... ?
- Do you expect ... ?

Making predictions

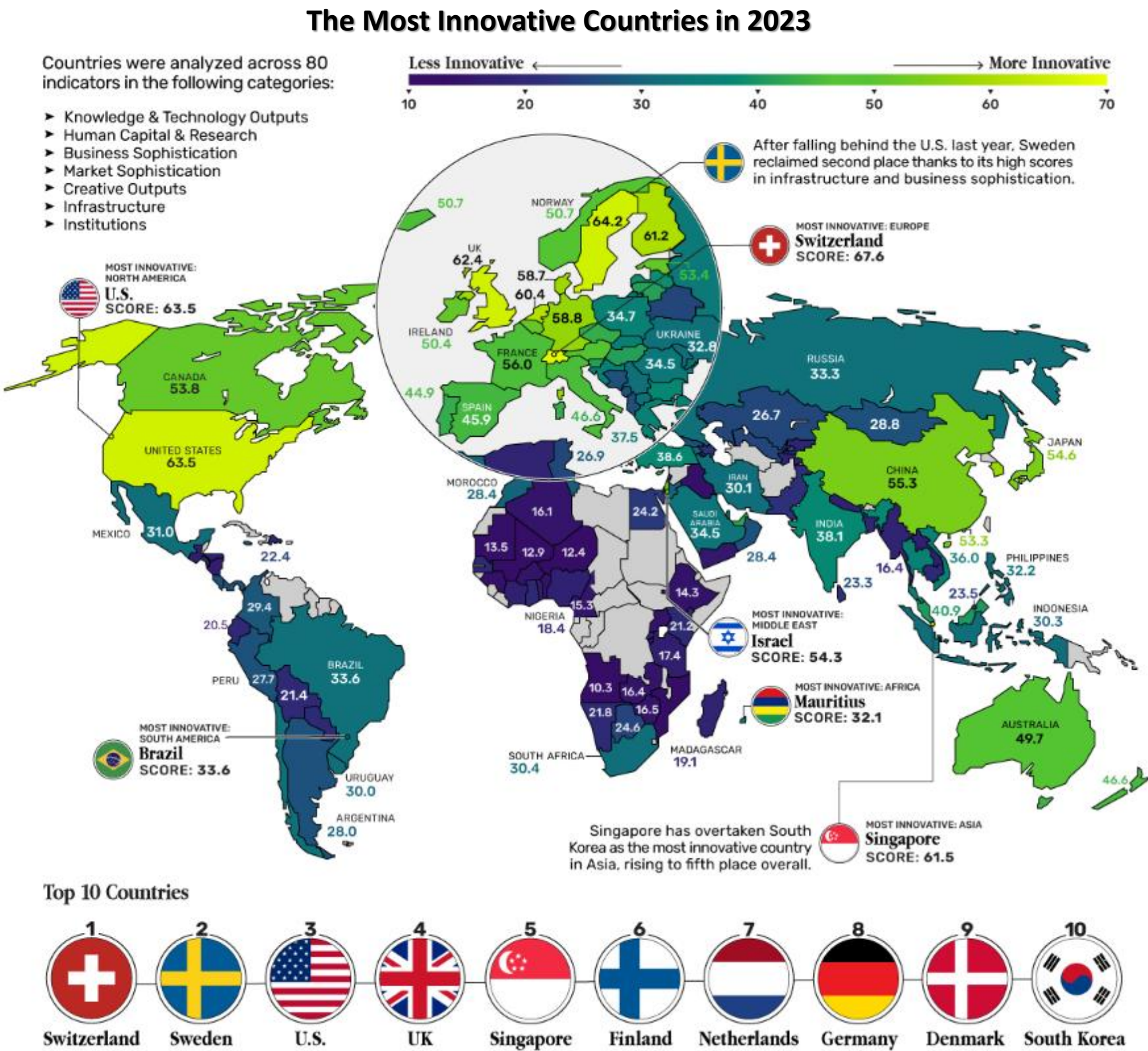
- ... will probably / definitely ...
- ... probably / definitely won't ...
- ... is likely / unlikely to ...

Expressing hope

- I hope ... will / won't ...
- Hopefully, ... will / won't ...

1. Look at the map and answer the questions.

- 1. What are the top 3 most innovative countries in the world?
- 2. What's the rating of your country? Do you agree with it?



2. You are going to watch a video about an innovative technology. Before you watch, match phrases (1-9) from the video to definitions (a-i).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. to get through the day | a. very modern |
| 2. hidden | b. a bad society |
| 3. embedded | c. a small amount of food eaten between meals |
| 4. to get around the building | d. not visible |
| 5. a snack | e. combine |
| 6. dystopian | f. placed inside something else |
| 7. cutting edge | g. only just; almost not |
| 8. merge | h. to move inside a building |
| 9. barely | i. to manage daily activities |

3. Read the sentences below and try to explain the meaning of the underlined words.

1. So, what I need to do is, I need to first blip my chip, and it will log me in.
2. This has made cash pretty much obsolete in Sweden. No cash.
3. The process is simple and swift. A pinch of the skin, and in a matter of seconds, the chip is inserted.

4. Watch the video and choose the best option.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ksw-arKvMPk&t=5s&ab_channel=NBCNews

1. What does Elias Brotberger use instead of ID and money?

a) wristband

b) a microchip in his hand

c) a smartphone app
2. How does Elias access the fridge at work?

a) by entering a code

b) by using a key

c) by blipping his chip
3. How many people have microchips in Sweden?

a) 5,000 to 10,000

b) 1,000 to 3,000

c) 20,000 to 30,000

5. What do you think about microchip implants? Complete the table.

Microchips	
Advantages	Disadvantages

6. Work with your teacher / partner and discuss three possible applications of microchips.

7. Answer the questions.

1. Should people get microchip implants for convenience?
2. Are microchip implants safe?
3. Do microchip implants invade privacy?
4. Can microchip implants be hacked?
5. Should children get microchip implants?
6. Will microchip implants make us less human?
7. Are microchip implants the future of technology?
8. Are microchip implants ethical?
9. Should the government regulate microchip implants?
10. Are microchip implants a good idea for pets?
11. What has been the most significant new technology over the past 5 years?

extra writing

Answer the question **(50-70 words)**:

What is the greatest invention in history? Why do you think so?

extra vocabulary

an early adopter of new technology - a person or company that starts to use a new product or service

E.g. Some businesses are adopters of cutting-edge technology.

1. Match (1-6) to (a-f) to make phrases.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. predict | a. the limit |
| 2. limitless | b. future |
| 3. time | c. a seed |
| 4. a bright | d. will tell |
| 5. plant | e. the outcome |
| 6. the sky's | f. applications |

3. Match the sentences halves.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A big event is on the horizon, | a. will improve greatly. |
| 2. In years to come, our technology | b. around the corner. |
| 3. In the long run, our efforts | c. timely information to lead well. |
| 4. The big project is just | d. will bring success. |
| 5. Managers must have access to | e. will see major changes. |
| 6. In the not-so-distant future, we | f. we need to arrange catering. |

2. Complete the sentences with the phrases from exercise 1.

1. This new technology has _____ in medicine.
2. She's very smart. I'm sure she has _____ ahead of her.
3. Only _____ if the new policy will work.
4. This technology will _____ for a new way to see the world!
5. With hard work, the _____ for your success.
6. We can't _____ of the experiment. There isn't enough data.

4. Choose the best option.

1. ____ years to come, this software will be very popular.
a) on b) in c) after
2. Better tools will be available ____ the road.
a) down b) up c) beyond
3. ____ the long run, investing in technology will save money.
a) on b) after c) in
4. New innovations are ____ the horizon.
a) behind b) on c) under
5. A major breakthrough is just ____ the corner.
a) around b) at c) behind
6. Employees need to have access ____ timely information for better decisions.
a) on b) in c) to
7. ____ the not-so-distant future, we will use AI daily.
a) after b) in c) during

5. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1. future / cars / in / fly / might / the
2. people / in / speak / will / more / English / countries
3. robots / might / jobs / take / our / not
4. will / smartphones / even / be / smarter
5. schools / online / might / classes / have
6. space / to / travel / will / common / be
7. work / future / from / most / home / people / may / the / in
8. might / humans / not / Mars / live / on

6. Use the prompts below to make predictions about the future. Use *will / won't*, *may / may not*, *might / might not*.

1. more leisure time
2. no full-time jobs
3. no cash
4. people live and work in space
5. water is more expensive than oil

7. Complete the text with the linking words (a-f).

- a. In conclusion
- b. so
- c. In addition
- d. First of all
- e. Secondly
- f. However

_____ ¹, technology has limitless applications in our daily lives. It helps us work faster and smarter.
_____ ², it allows us to network with colleagues easily.
_____ ³ sometimes, it can be hard to keep up with new technology, _____ ⁴ we must learn how to use these tools. _____ ⁵, using new tools can help us predict the outcome of our projects.
In the long run, investing in technology will save us time and money. _____ ⁶, technology makes our lives better and more efficient.

8. Complete the sentences with the expressions below.

- unlikely to
 - Hopefully, ...
 - definitely won't
 - is likely
 - will definitely
1. People _____ stop using disposable products. I have no doubt about that.
 2. It _____ be cheaper to hire freelancers for the project. I'm sure of it.
 3. It's _____ rain today. It's such a clear blue sky!
 4. _____, we will launch the new product by summer.
 5. It _____ that there will not be enough money to pay for any training next month. We're broke.