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mm publications

new destinations

LEVEL B2



student's book

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Modern life

5

Discuss:

- How is life nowadays different from what it used to be like 100 years ago?
- What do you think life will be like 100 years from now?

In this module you will...

- talk about various aspects of modern life
- learn how to refer to the future using appropriate tenses
- learn how to express ability, obligation, permission, prohibition and absence of obligation, to make requests and to give opinion or advice using appropriate modal verbs
- expand your vocabulary by learning words easily confused, collocations with *set* and nouns + prepositions
- become aware of differences between British and American English
- learn how to write a semi-formal letter
- acquire skills and strategies that will help you in exams

5 reading

1. PRE-READING

Discuss.

- What do you think cities will be like in the future?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of working or studying at home?

2. READING FOR GIST

The magazine article on the right is about predictions made by a group of scientists about what life will be like in the future. Read the article quickly without paying attention to the missing sentences and compare the information in it with your answers to the questions in the previous activity.

3. RECONSTRUCTING A GAPPED TEXT

Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which best fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A. Think of all the possible benefits of working or studying from home!
- B. Together they set out to discover and predict the future.
- C. There are also several disadvantages that one needs to keep in mind.
- D. Most public services and big businesses are located in or somewhere near the city centre.
- E. One aspect of the future that they focused on was what future cities will look like.
- F. So, you will be able to send one to take notes at your lecture and one to find information for an assignment you need to do while you stay at home to cook dinner.
- G. Think of how much time we could save if we didn't have to move around!

4. GUESSING THE MEANING OF UNKNOWN WORDS

Match the highlighted words in the article with the meanings a-h. There are two extra meanings which you do not need to use.

- 1. extent
- 2. undergo
- 3. radical
- 4. residential
- 5. drawback
- 6. commute

- a. travel regularly
- b. extreme
- c. disadvantage
- d. progress
- e. having private houses
- f. stop
- g. size
- h. go through

...a look

What does the future hold for us? This is a question that has most probably crossed your mind at some point. The reason for this is that most of what we do today is aimed at some kind of benefit or outcome in the future. But is there anyone who can truly tell us what our lives will be like fifty years from now? A group of scientists recently completed a study that aimed to do just that. This group consisted of professionals from different occupations and fields of study. **1** Here are a few ideas based on their predictions to help you imagine the future.



at the... future...

2 Fifty years from now, populations in all countries will have grown to such an **extent** that cities will themselves have to **undergo** a **radical** change to cater for these growing population numbers. Cities, as they are today, will not be able to provide places for all these people to work and live. Although many have spoken about population explosions in cities and the need to get people out of city centres, this may not be the best solution to the problem.

3 Most of the people living on the outskirts of the city are therefore forced to travel long distances to get to work every day, so a more suitable solution has to be found. This seems to be what are now called commercial and **residential** high-rise buildings. They will be similar to today's skyscrapers, but they will be taller and they will combine places of residence with different work environments. The people living in these high-rise buildings will not have to leave the building to go to work, the gym or the supermarket. They will live, work, shop and entertain themselves in the same building without having to travel from one place to another. **4** The only **drawback** will be taking the lift to get from one floor to the next. Imagine how inconvenient it will be if each building consists of one thousand floors!

Those who do decide to live on the outskirts of the city will have an alternative work or study arrangement. They will work or study from home. Technology that exists today has already made this possible, but, by that time, it will be done by a large majority of individuals. **5** For one, you will not have to **commute** to work or to school every day. Furthermore, you will be able to choose a work or study schedule that suits your own personal needs. Needless to say, you will have to be very responsible and pace yourself to meet the deadlines that are set by the company you work for, or the university you are attending. Video conferencing, which is already a reality, will ensure that contact with colleagues or teachers and fellow students is maintained. Some have spoken about virtual reality images of ourselves which we will send off to different locations to get things done for us. **6** How convenient does that sound?

One thing is for sure. The future holds many surprises for us. We can make as many predictions as we like, but no one really knows what lies ahead. What we need to keep in mind is that what we do today affects the future, so we need to take great care to do it well.

5. POST-READING

Discuss.

- Would you like to live in a residential high-rise building like the ones described in the text? Why / Why not?
- How does the idea of having several virtual reality images of yourself sound to you?

5 vocabulary & grammar

Vocabulary

1. WORDS EASILY CONFUSED

Use the correct form of the words in the boxes to complete the sentences.

forecast expectation prediction

1. His _____ of who would win the football match was accurate.
2. The weather _____ calls for a lot of rain tomorrow.
3. The Smiths have high _____ of their children.

neighbourhood outskirts suburbs zone

4. I prefer living in the city centre, because there isn't anything to do in the _____.
5. My parents live on the _____ of town.
6. This isn't a very good _____ to live in, as there is a lot of crime.
7. When the teacher leaves, the classroom becomes a war _____ because the students go crazy.

habitat home house residence

8. Bob and Jane have just bought their first _____ together.
9. I want to stop and get some dinner before we go _____.
10. Where is the location of your _____, sir?
11. I believe wild animals should live in their natural _____, not in zoos.

block of flats office block skyscraper

12. Willis Tower is one of the tallest _____ in the world.
13. We used to live in a house but we recently moved to a new _____ across the street.
14. I work in an ugly five-storey _____ in the centre of the city.

2. COLLOCATIONS WITH SET

A. Look at the following extract from the text on pages 64-65. Can you think of any other words that collocate with the verb set?

...you will have to be very responsible and pace yourself to meet the **deadlines** that are **set** by the company you work for...

B. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

clock goal task date trap
price standards example

1. Have you set a _____ for your wedding yet?
2. He hasn't set a _____ for his car, has he?
3. It's important to set a _____ for yourself, so you have something to work towards.
4. I forgot to set the _____ when the time changed, so now it is an hour behind.
5. I don't think you set a good _____ for your little sister, you know.
6. I set a _____ for the mouse last night, but it isn't in there yet.
7. The teacher set a tough _____ for the students.
8. We set high _____ and expect a lot from our employees.

3. NOUNS + PREPOSITIONS

A. Complete the sentences below with the missing prepositions. Then, look back at the text on pages 64-65 to check your answers.

The reason _____ this is that most of what we do today is aimed at some kind of benefit or outcome in the future.

...this may not be the best solution _____ the problem.

B. Complete the sentences with the nouns in the box.

description need threat increase
result advantage opinion hope
comparison exception

1. What's the main _____ of studying abroad?
2. There is no way to make a(n) _____ between the two girls, because they are very different.
3. His _____ of the hotel room wasn't very accurate.
4. Most of the members of this family have red hair, but Brad is the _____ to the rule.
5. The doctor said that there is still _____ for a speedy recovery.
6. This year saw a(n) _____ in online shopping by 30%.
7. Because of the high crime rate, there is a(n) _____ for more police officers on the streets.
8. What's your _____ of our new teacher?
9. As a(n) _____ of overspending, the company has gone bankrupt.
10. The destruction of the rainforest is a(n) _____ to the wildlife of the area.

1. FUTURE FORMS

A. Match the rules about the uses of the Future **will** with the examples 1-5.

1. They **will be** similar to today's skyscrapers but they **will be** taller and they **will combine** places of residence with different work environments.
2. Stop making noise or else you **will be** in trouble.
3. I give you my word that I **will never** forget your birthday again.
4. 'It's Joan's birthday tomorrow.'
'Really? I'll buy her some flowers.'
5. 'Will you help me with the housework?'
'Sure! I'll clean the windows.'

The Future **will** is used for:

- spontaneous decisions
- predictions about the future
- promises
- offers and requests
- threats and warnings

B. Look at the extract below taken from the text on pages 64-65 and match the phrases in bold with their meanings 1-3.

For one, **you will not have to commute** to work or to school every day. Furthermore, **you will be able to choose** a work or study schedule that suits your own personal needs. Needless to say, **you will have to be** very responsible...

1. It will be necessary.
2. It won't be necessary.
3. It will be possible.

Go to Grammar Reference

C. Match the rules about the uses of the future forms with the examples 1-7.

1. The plane **is about to land**. Please fasten your seatbelts.
2. I'm **going to buy** Joe a video game. Do you think he will like it?
3. I'm **visiting** my cousin in Bristol next weekend.
4. By the end of this century, life in the city **will have changed radically**.
5. This time tomorrow we **will be lying** on the beach.
6. The basketball final **starts** at 7:00pm.
7. By next June, I **will have been living** in this house for 20 years.

The Future Progressive is used:

for actions that will be in progress at a specific time in the future

The Future Perfect Simple is used:

for actions that will be completed before a specific time or another action in the future

The Future Perfect Progressive is used:

to show the duration of an action up to a certain point of time in the future The Future **be going to** is used:for plans or decisions that have already been made or predictions based on evidence The expression **be (just) about to + base form** is used:for actions that will happen very soon

The Present Progressive is used:

for personal plans and arrangements

The Present Simple is used:

for official programmes and timetables

2. TIME CLAUSES

Look at the example below. Which tense is used in the main clause and which in the time clause?

You will be able to send a virtual reality image of yourself to take notes at your lecture while you stay at home to cook dinner.

NOTE

After the words *when, while, before, after, until, till, as soon as* and *by the time*, use the Present Simple when referring to the future, **not will**.

3. PRACTICE

Read the dialogues and circle the correct words.

1. A: Where **are you going / do you go** on holiday next summer?

B: I **will probably go / 'm about to go** to Ibiza.

2. A: **Will you move / Do you move** house soon?

B: Yes, I **move / will move** as soon as they **finish / will finish** painting the house.

3. A: By one o'clock I **will drive / will have been driving** for four hours.

B: You should have a break. Let's stop at a restaurant and have some lunch.

4. A: This time tomorrow we **will have flown / will be flying** to Paris.

B: Yes, I know. It's so exciting!

5. A: **Will you have travelled / Will you be travelling** around Europe next month?

B: No, I'm **not leaving / I won't have been leaving** until the end of June.

6. A: In another hour or so it **will have been raining / will rain** non-stop for four hours.

B: Yes I know, I hope it **will have stopped / will stop** soon.

7. A: I **am going to run / will have run** in the New York City Marathon next month.

B: That's great.

8. A: I think I'll **buy / I'll be buying** the red skirt, not the blue one.

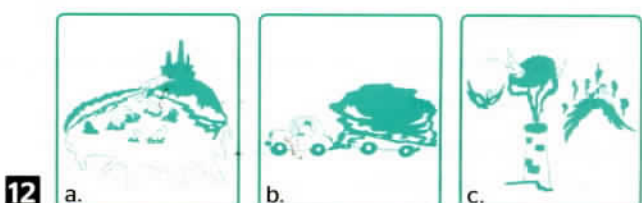
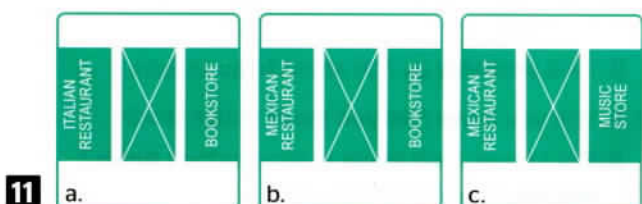
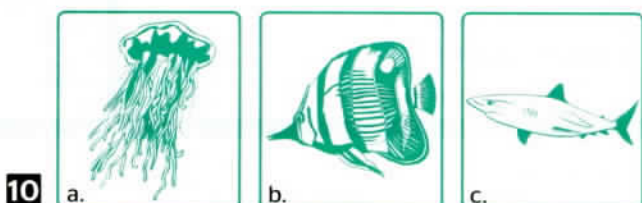
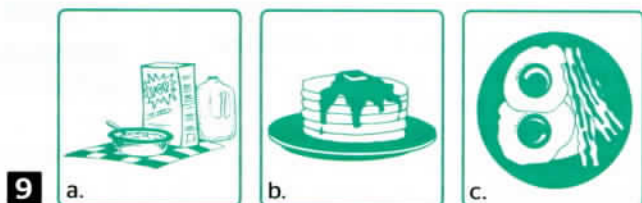
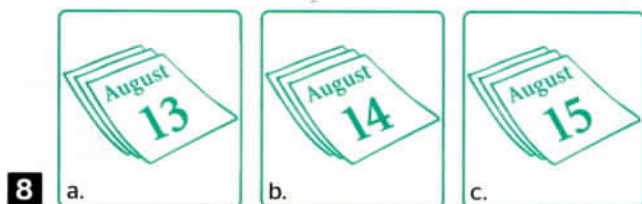
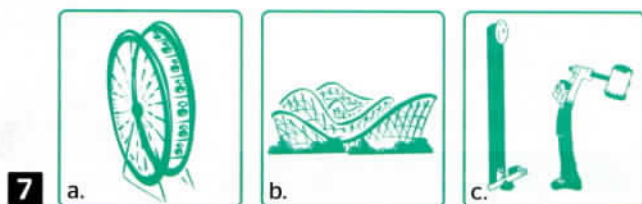
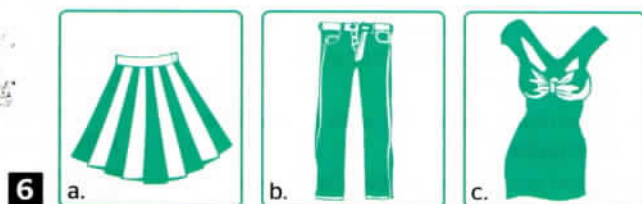
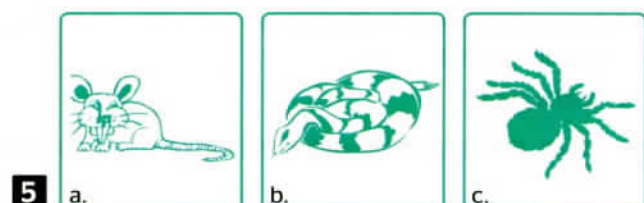
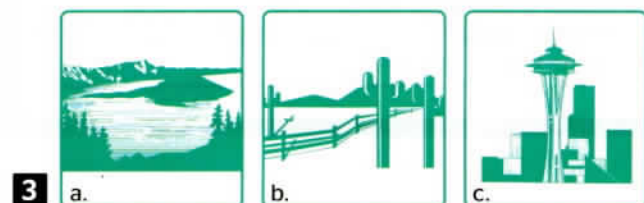
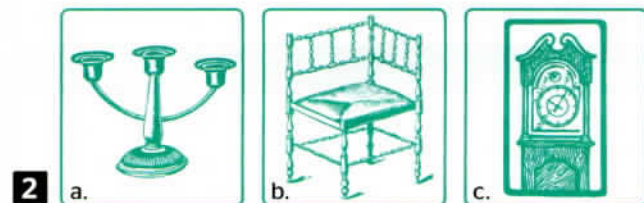
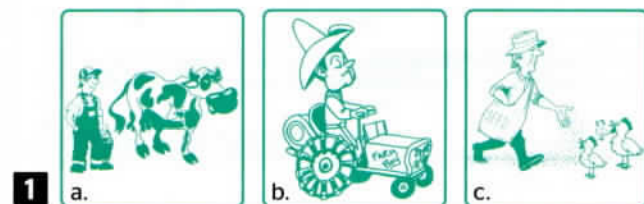
B: Whatever, just make up your mind soon. Our plane **is about to / won't** take off.

5 listening

You will hear short conversations. After you hear each conversation, you will be asked a question about what you heard. Choose the picture which answers the question correctly.

TIP

- Before you start listening, look at the three pictures carefully to get a general idea of what you are going to hear.
- Listen carefully to the dialogue and focus on the question. All three pictures may be referred to in the dialogue. However, only one of them correctly answers the question.



BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

Read the texts below and underline the words/phrases in American English. What are their British English equivalents?



A

I work a lot during the week. That's why I love the weekends so much. On the weekend, I try to do as little as possible.

Sometimes I go downtown and see a movie with my friends, or we grab a burger and fries at the local diner. I prefer to stay at home and watch my favorite TV shows. Actually, I avoid leaving my apartment, if I can!

B



Last week I did the stupidest thing... I lost my cell phone! It was a nice day, so I decided to walk home from work, rather than take the subway. I was almost home, when I realized that my phone was gone. I went to a gas station to use the pay phone, and I called my cell phone to see if someone would answer. A man picked up the phone! He said he had found my phone on the sidewalk in front of the local drugstore. Lucky for me, I guess. Anyway, I'm going to be more careful from now on!

C



Tom Fry is your typical high school student with a very busy schedule. He's on his school's soccer team, and he loves going out with his friends. They usually go to the mall or play a game of soccer together.

He gets good grades in his classes, especially History and English, but he hates Math! He also works part-time in the evenings when he doesn't have soccer practice. He's going to start college in the fall, and he wants to major in Art History.

For differences between British and American English in spelling, words/phrases and grammar and usage, see Appendix II. >>

Grammar

MODAL VERBS I

A. Read the examples below and complete the boxes with the missing modal verbs.

- Will you help me with the washing-up?
- I'm sorry sir, but you can't smoke here.
- I think you ought to apologise to your sister for your behaviour.
- I could swim when I was four years old.
- I really have to study hard for my Maths exam.
- You don't have to shout, I'm not deaf.
- Excuse me madam, may I use your pen?

Ability	
Present	Past
can	_____

Obligation / Opinion	
Present	Past
must / _____ / need to	had to

Permission
can / could / _____ / might

Requests
may / can / could / _____ / would

Advice / Opinion
should / _____ / had better

Prohibition
mustn't / _____

Absence of Obligation
needn't / _____ / don't need to

NOTE

- *Could* expresses general ability in the past. *Was/Were able* to express ability in a particular situation in the past.
- *Might, may and could* are more formal than *can* when used for asking for permission.
- *Would* and *could* are more formal than *will* and *can* when used for making requests.
- *Had better* is stronger than *should* and *ought to*.
- *Must* expresses obligation coming from how the speaker feels, while *have to* expresses obligation coming from external factors.

Go to Grammar Reference

B. Read the sentences and circle the correct answer.

1. **Must / May** I interrupt you?
'Sure.'
2. They **should / might** make their reservations soon; otherwise the hotel will be full.
3. 'I've got really bad toothache.'
'You **should / need** go to the dentist.'
4. You **mustn't / don't have to** wear a suit and tie; the dinner party is not formal.
5. I can't see the floor anymore; you really **ought to / might** clean this room.
6. **Could / Should** you please turn down the volume? I am trying to concentrate on my homework.
7. You **mustn't / needn't** use your mobile phone during the examinations; it's against the rules.
8. I **ought to / had to** go to the bank yesterday to cash a cheque.
9. I was so far away from the stage that I **wouldn't / couldn't** see very well.
10. You **had better not / don't have to** wake up late again or you will lose your job.

5 speaking

1. WARM-UP

- What types of public transportation exist where you live? How often do you use them?

2. HELP SOLVE A PROBLEM

Work in pairs. Student A, read the situation, look at the pictures and ask the questions. Student B, go to page 175, read the information and answer Student A's questions.

Situation:

I am your friend and I have a problem. Find out what my problem is and offer me some good advice.

First:

You should look at the pictures below and ask:

- Who is this person?
- What is the problem?
- What are the options?

Then:

When you have all the information you need, you should offer some advice to help solve the problem. You can choose one of the options or create your own solution to the problem. Remember to use information you learn from asking questions to explain your final choice.

Finally:

After you have shared your decision, you will be asked more questions about the topic.

I think he should...

I don't think he should...

If I were him, I would...

Buying a...might not be a very good idea because...

It would be a good idea to...

The best solution would be...

accommodate passenger
convenient/inconvenient
weather conditions commute
harmful to the environment
cost of gas dangerous traffic



3. FURTHER DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions. You can use some of the words and expressions in the box.

- Why do you think many people prefer to drive to school/work rather than use public transportation?
- In your opinion, what can be done to encourage people to use public transportation?
- What do you think vehicles will be like in the future?
- Is it possible to have a form of transportation that is not harmful to the environment?

comfort time-consuming
improve frequent
computerised complicated
necessity obligation

Writing a semi-formal letter

writing

5

1. DISCUSS

- Do you think that your lifestyle is as healthy as it should be? Why / Why not?
- What things would you change in your life if you wanted to have a healthier lifestyle?

2. FOCUS ON CONTENT

Read the newspaper article, the rubric below and the response a student has written. Is Amelia's response appropriate?

Board of Education promotes healthy lifestyle changes in schools

Recently, the Board of Education has recommended removing all vending machines with soft drinks and snacks from school grounds. They announced that this recommendation is a part of a larger campaign to promote a healthier lifestyle in schools around the country.

In response to this recommendation, the president of the Lexington Parent Teacher Association, Bob Garland has asked students to express their opinion on the recommendation and to suggest other ideas for healthy lifestyle changes in schools. In addition, they are looking for volunteers to help promote healthy lifestyle changes in schools. Begin your letter, 'Dear Mr Garland.'

Dear Mr Garland,

I am writing to express my opinion on the recommendation made by the Board of Education. I would also like to make a suggestion concerning the healthy lifestyle changes in schools.

I entirely agree with the recommendation made by the Board of Education to remove all vending machines that sell soft drinks and snacks. I believe it is a step in the right direction in order to make schools more health conscious.

I would also like to suggest that school cafeterias should have a healthier menu than they presently have. By offering students a healthy alternative that also tastes good, we could change their eating habits and contribute to a healthier lifestyle.

With regards to promoting the healthy lifestyle changes, I have spoken to some of the students in my class and we would like to volunteer to help.

I hope that my suggestion will be taken into consideration and I look forward to hearing what changes will be made.

Yours sincerely,
Amelia Huntington

3. FOCUS ON STYLE AND REGISTER

A. What aspects of the letter indicate that it is semi-formal? Think about the following:

greeting

language

closing

B. How would these aspects have been different if this were an informal letter to a friend or relative?



4. FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION FUNCTIONS

Read the phrases in the table and the prompts 1-6. Respond to each prompt using some of the phrases given and your own ideas. Don't forget to give reasons to justify your opinion.

MAKING SUGGESTIONS

- One thing you should / could / ought to do is...
- It would be a good idea to...
- In my opinion, the best idea would be to...
- Why don't you...?
- How/What about...?
- Why not consider...?
- The way I see it, you can/could...
- I would definitely recommend...

AGREEING

- I think it is a great idea to...
- I entirely agree with/about...
- You are absolutely right about...

DISAGREEING

- You have a point about... but...
- I'm afraid I don't agree with/about...
- I don't think it's a good idea to...

1 Is spring a good time to organise a school trip to the waterfalls?

2 We are thinking about holding the annual bazaar in July.

3 What kind of food should we serve in the school cafeteria?

4 I'm not sure about which foreign languages to include in the programme. Any ideas?

5 We are considering banning mobile phones in all areas on the university campus.

6 How can we persuade the members of our club to recycle more?

5. WRITING TASK

A. Read the newspaper article and the rubric below. What should be included in a reply to Ms Meadows?

B. Copy and complete the outline below for your letter.

Opening paragraph:

Main part

- Paragraph 1:
- Paragraph 2:
- Paragraph 3:

Closing paragraph:

C. Write your letter to Ms Meadows based on the outline you have made.

TIP

When writing a semi-formal letter, remember:

- to write in an appropriate style (not too formal nor too informal)
- to include all the information required.
- to check your spelling and grammar.

NEWS

page 6

2nd Annual Cultural Diversity Fair

Bridgetown Cultural Centre is getting ready to host the 2nd Annual Cultural Diversity Fair. This year the organizers want to have stands from as many different countries as possible. In order to achieve this goal, they are requesting that members of foreign communities in Bridgetown volunteer to set up a stand representing their country. The stand can exhibit anything relevant to the culture of the country, especially traditional cuisine, representative photos and music.

Sandy Meadows, coordinator of the Fair, has asked members of foreign communities to express their opinion concerning the organisation of the Fair and to suggest any other ideas they may have. In addition, she is looking for people to volunteer to help in any way they can. Begin your letter, 'Dear Ms Meadows.'



A. Circle the correct words.

- Have you heard the weather **prediction** / **forecast** for tomorrow?
- We live in a house on the **suburbs** / **outskirts** of the city.
- The teacher had high **expectations** / **exceptions** from her students, but they let her down.
- Students have to mark their answers on a **computerised** / **complicated** answer sheet.
- While in Tanzania, we had the opportunity to see wild animals in their natural **residence** / **habitat**.
- Parents should **set a task** / **set an example** for their children.

C. Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

- This time next week we _____ to Jamaica.
a. will have flown b. will fly c. will be flying d. will have been flying
- I'm _____ until the end of next month.
a. moving b. not moving c. to be moving d. not move
- _____ going to the Red Hot Chili Peppers concert tomorrow?
a. Are you about b. Will you have c. Will you d. Are you
- I'll call you before I _____.
a. come b. will come c. am coming d. have come
- _____ you please change the channel? This show really annoys me.
a. Might b. Should c. Could d. Must

D. Complete the following table.

American English	British English
downtown	1.
2.	film
apartment	3.
fries	4.
5.	mobile phone
6.	underground
gas station	7.
sidewalk	8.
9.	chemist's
10.	secondary school
soccer	11.
mall	12.
13.	autumn
14.	university

B. Complete the sentences with the adjectives in the box.

complicated inconvenient harmful radical time-consuming

- Having to commute such a long distance to work every day must be terribly _____.
- In the past, when most electrical appliances had not been invented, household chores were very _____.
- Acid rain is _____ to the environment.
- _____ changes should be made to the educational system in order for it to work for the students' benefit.
- Can you help me with this exercise? I find it too _____.

E. Complete the sentences with the Future *will*, the Future Progressive, the Future Perfect Simple or the Future Perfect Progressive of the verbs in brackets.

- Kathy can't come shopping with us tomorrow morning. She _____ (have) a French lesson.
- Jenny, Ms Kingsley _____ (contact) you as soon as the documents are ready.
_____ you _____ (let) me know when she does?
- At lunchtime tomorrow you _____ (entertain) your friends from Mexico, so I _____ (ring) you later on in the evening.
- _____ you _____ (go) to the city centre by car? I'd really appreciate a lift.
- I _____ (paint) the living room by the time Dad comes home. He'll be so surprised!
- I hope I _____ (interview) all the applicants by the time the manager arrives.
- Do you think that they _____ (complete) the construction of the tunnel by the end of this year?
- Call Dan. He _____ (arrive) home by now.
- By the time we reach Gstaad, we _____ (drive) for twelve hours.
- I _____ (study) for three hours by 8:00 pm.

5 examination practice

A. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words including the word given.

- As the meeting is tomorrow, this ought to be finished before I go home.
As the meeting is tomorrow, I _____ I go home.
- This time tomorrow we'll be on the plane to Argentina.
We _____ this time tomorrow.
- Do you think Joe will have to stay in hospital for long?
Is _____ in hospital for long?
- The stage lights must be fixed by the time the concert begins.
The stage lights _____ by the time the concert begins.
- Are you inviting Claire to your wedding?
Are _____ to your wedding?
- An eye-test is compulsory before you can become a pilot.
You _____ before becoming a pilot.

better

flying

likely

to

going

must

B. Read the text below and complete the gaps. Use only one word in each gap.

RUN for a better life

Doctors insist that we had (1) _____ become more effective in dealing with stress, otherwise more and more of us (2) _____ develop stress-related health problems, such as high blood pressure, sleeplessness or heart disease. One particularly effective way (3) _____ fight stress is to take up long-distance running. Lifestyle analysts believe that before long this type of running will achieve a cult status as one of (4) _____ best ways of both dealing with stress and of providing the opportunity to be alone and to let whatever thoughts appear to simply go (5) _____ and out of the head. The point of long-distance running should (6) _____ be about how fast you can run or whether you might break a record, but ought to (7) _____ about personal growth. Enthusiasts claim that once you start long distance running, you will soon see (8) _____ benefits.

Now I can...

VOCABULARY

- distinguish the difference in meaning of words easily confused
- use collocations with the verb *set*
- use nouns + prepositions
- differentiate between British and American English

GRAMMAR

- use future tenses and other future forms appropriately
- use *must*, *have to* and *need to* to express obligation, prohibition and absence of necessity
- use *can* and *could* to express ability, ask for or give permission and make requests
- use *may* and *might* to express permission and possibility
- use *should*, *ought to* and *had better* to give opinion or advice

WRITING SPEAKING LISTENING READING

- understand text organisation and reconstruct a gapped text
- understand specific information in a short conversation and identify the picture that corresponds to the information
- talk about various aspects of modern life
- write a semi-formal letter