

Pre-Intermediate 1
Unit 6, Reading:
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A Day in Your Life - in the Year 2020

People used to know more or less how their children would live. Now things are changing so quickly that we don't even know what our own lives will be like in a few years. What follows is not science fiction. It's how experts see the future.

Habits in the Past:

Tom **used to** smoke cigarettes. = He smoked cigarettes in the past, but now he doesn't.

People **used to** know = People knew in the past, but now they don't.

more or less = almost

will ⇒ **would**

life + s = lives /ai/

what follows = the following sentences

science fiction = a story about life and technology in the future

expert = a person with a lot of knowledge in a particular area

You're daydreaming behind the wheel of your car, but that's OK. You have it on automatic pilot, and with its high-tech computers and cameras, your car "knows" how to get you home safely.

daydream (verb) = be lost in a thought; dream while you are awake

wheel = steering wheel

high-tech ≠ low-tech

You're hungry, so you head for the kitchen as soon as you get home. You ordered groceries by computer an hour ago, and you know that by now they've arrived. Your kitchen has a two-way refrigerator, which opens to the outside to accept deliveries. You've already paid for the food by having the money subtracted from your bank account. Nobody uses cash anymore.

head for = go to

as soon as = when

grocery = food stuff that you need every day

by now = before this time

refrigerator (American) = **fridge** (British)

cash = money in coins or bills

➤ *Are you going to pay in cash?*

subtract = take away (a number or amount) from another to calculate the difference

➤ *The teacher asked the students to subtract 43 from 69.*

What's for lunch? In the old days, you used to stop off to buy a hamburger or pizza. Now you use your diagnostic machine to find out which foods your body needs. You find out you need more vegetables and less fat. Your food-preparation machine makes you a salad.

diagnostic = related to diagnosis

fat = an oily substance in the body of animals and human beings

fatty = full of fat

After lunch, you go down the hall to your home office. Here you have everything you need for doing your work. Thanks to your information screen and your new computer, you almost never go into the office anymore.

hall = hallway, corridor

home office = the office at home

thanks to = because of

telecommute = work at home for a distant office

The information screen shows an urgent message from a co-worker in Brazil. You set the screen to translate Portuguese into English. As you wait, you think about later, when you'll have a movie transmitted. What movie should you order tonight?

urgent = requiring immediate attention, very important

co-worker = workmate, colleague

set = adjust

as = when, while

Full Text:

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Sample Summary:

In the future, life is very different and technology is everywhere. Your car drives itself, and you order groceries online that get delivered straight to your fridge. You use machines to check what foods are best for you and to prepare your meals. You work from home using advanced computers and screens that can translate messages from other languages. Everything is automated and connected, making daily tasks easier and more efficient.

Main Ideas:

People knew about the future of their children many years ago. But now the world is changing fast. It is difficult to guess the future life of the people.

The Changes in 2020:

- **Smart Cars** ⇒ Cars will become fully automatic and they won't need drivers.
- **E-Shopping** ⇒ People will buy things online and they won't use cash any more.
- **Automatic Cooking** ⇒ People will use diagnostic machines and food-preparation machines. The diagnostic machine tells a person what food his body needs and the food-preparation machine cooks the food for that person.
- **Telecommuting** ⇒ People won't go to the office anymore and they will work at home by using their computers.
- **Machine Translation** ⇒ Computers can translate foreign languages for people.
- **Connectivity** ⇒ People can download a lot of data from the Internet very fast.

Source:

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