

What are your predictions for the year 2020?

Europe

- 1 The European Union will have expanded to include more than 25 countries
- 2 Everyone in the European Union will be using the same currency
- 3 More than one Eastern European country will have returned to communism
- 4 _____

America

- 1 Quebec will have become independent
- 2 Brazil will have either paid off its national debt or re-negotiated it out of existence
- 3 More people will be using Spanish than English in California
- 4 _____

Asia

- 1 The average Chinese will have become as rich as the average European
- 2 Japan's economy will be declining, and unemployment will be a serious problem
- 3 China will have converted to some form of democracy
- 4 _____

Business and society

- 1 So many TV channels will have opened that television will be a cheap advertising medium
- 2 Most people will have switched to telephone banking; there will be very few bank offices in towns
- 3 Few people will be using cash for small purchases: it will have been replaced by rechargeable electronic wallets
- 4 Laws will have been passed to ensure that virtually all packaging is recycled
- 5 Japanese will have replaced English as the language of business
- 6 More women than men will be working in the professions and in management
- 7 A feasible electric car will have been developed and will be in production
- 8 _____

Futurology

 Worksheet **18a****ACTIVITY**

Pairwork and groupwork: reading, speaking

AIM

To discuss a set of predictions for the future.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Future simple, perfect and continuous

Expressing opinions

Degrees of probability

VOCABULARY

currency, debt, re-negotiate, decline, unemployment, advertising medium, rechargeable

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair.

TIME

15-25 minutes

PROCEDURE

- 1 Tell the students they are going to talk about the future.
- 2 Divide the class into pairs.
- 3 Give out copies of the worksheet: one to each pair.
- 4 Ask them to discuss each prediction in turn, to make notes about their opinion(s) in the space on the right of the worksheets, and to add one prediction to each section. Tell them to write *no idea* when they have no opinion.
- 5 Combine the pairs into groups of four, or bring the whole class together, and ask them to go through the worksheet again to compare and discuss their opinions.

FOLLOW-UP

Each student writes one prediction at the top of a sheet of paper. They then pass the sheets around and each person writes their comment under the prediction. (For example: *I agree; No, it'll never happen...*) Finally, put the predictions on the wall so that students can wander round and discuss them.