LISTENING

A. Think about your life over the next year. Write one thing you will definitely do / will probably do / aren’t likely to do / definitely won’t do.

1. Work in pairs and compare your answers.
2. Read the programme information. Would you like to receive a letter from your younger self? Why/Why not?

A. 6.3 Listen to a woman reading a letter she wrote to herself four years ago. Is her letter optimistic?

1. Listen again and underline the correct alternative.
   a. sixteen, Laura expected her twenty-year-old self to be...
      unchanged/different,
   b. abroad/in the UK,
   c. with/without a partner,
   d. happy/unhappy,
   e. working/studying.

A. 6.4 Listen to the second part of the programme and answer the questions.

1. How does Laura see her sixteen-year-old self now?
2. Is she happy with the way her life has turned out?

GRAMMAR | future perfect and continuous

4A. Look at sentences a) and b) from Laura’s letter. Which one talks about:
1. things that will be completed before she opens the letter?
2. things that will be in progress at the time that she opens the letter?
   a) I’ll have changed so much.
   b) I bet when I get this, it’ll be raining.

B. Complete the rules.

Rules:
1. To talk about something that will finish before a specific time in the future, use will + ______.
2. To talk about something that will be in progress at or around a specific time in the future, use will + ______.

C. Underline the correct alternative in the sentence and explain your reason.

In ten years’ time, I expect...
1. I’ll be owning/ I’ll own a flat.

5. 6.5 Listen to the sentences in Exercise 4A. Underline the stressed words and mark the weak forms of have / has / and be / is / are. Then listen and repeat.

Letters to myself

The idea is simple: write a letter to yourself and FutureMe.org will keep it and send it back to you at a point in the future — you pick the date. You will get a glimpse of the person you used to be and discover if you have met the expectations and hopes of your younger self. In this BBC radio programme, people read aloud and comment on their letters.

PRACTICE

6A. Complete the questions with the correct form of the future perfect, future continuous or future simple.

1. By the end of the day, do you think ______ (you / receive) more than fifty emails?
2. At 5 p.m. tonight, ______ (you / watch) TV? If so, what?
3. Do you reckon ______ (you / fall) asleep by midnight tonight?
4. Do you think ______ (you / drink) twenty cups of coffee or tea by the end of the week?
5. This time next year, ______ (you / still / study) English?
6. Do you think ______ (you / pass) any English exams by then?
7. Do you reckon ______ (you / still / like) the same kind of music a few years from now?
8. In twenty years’ time, ______ (you / live) in the same town, do you think?

B. Work in pairs and discuss the questions in Exercise 6A. Use words/phrases from the box in your answers.

Possibly That’s pretty unlikely Yes, definitely That’s quite likely I doubt it No, definitely not Perhaps I expect so I don’t suppose so
Glass half full or half empty?

How do you feel about your English?
- a) It's going well.
- b) You have ups and downs.
- c) You're stuck and going nowhere.
- d) You're always taking one step forward, and two steps back.

This weekend, you're going to a party where there will be a lot of people you don't know. How do you feel?
- a) You're looking forward to it.
- b) You have mixed feelings.
- c) You feel neither positive nor negative.
- d) It's the last thing you feel like doing.

Your partner rings you and asks to meet as soon as possible because he/she has something important to tell you. What do you think?
- a) You look on the bright side and think it'll be fantastic news.
- b) You think it'll just be news, nothing particularly positive or negative.
- c) You imagine it'll be terrible news.
- d) You're dreading it because you're sure he/she wants to break off your relationship.

When you think about the next year or two in your life, how do you feel?
- a) Quite upbeat about it
- b) Cautiously hopeful
- c) Rather cynical about things getting any better
- d) Quite gloomy about the prospects

How does the future in general make you feel?
- a) It fills you with great optimism and hope.
- b) It looks promising to you.
- c) It has its fair share of positive and negative prospects.
- d) It fills you with despair.

VOCABULARY optimisim/pessimism

7A Work in pairs and read the quiz. Try to guess the meaning of the words/phrases in bold or check in a dictionary.

B Work in pairs and take turns to complete the quiz questions.

C Read the key on page 160 and work out your partner's score. Do you think the analysis is accurate?

8A Replace the phrases in bold in questions 1-8 with a phrase from the quiz.

1 What's one thing you feel positive and negative about at the same time?
2 What's one experience you're thinking about in the future and feeling good about?
3 What's one relationship or job you have that sometimes goes well and sometimes doesn’t?
4 What's one experience coming up soon that you're really worried about?
5 What's one thing in your life at the moment that you feel positive about?
6 Is there one event in your country recently that makes you feel hopeful?
7 Can you remember an event in your country that made you feel pessimistic?
8 What's one profession you feel suspicious and distrustful about?

B Work in pairs and take turns. Ask and answer the questions in Exercise 6B.

SPRECKING

9A Think about your hopes and plans for the next five years. Make notes on the topics in the box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>work or studies</th>
<th>achievements</th>
<th>travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>relationships</td>
<td>children</td>
<td>living situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B Work in pairs and discuss your ideas.

A: What have you put for 'achievements'?
B: Well, in five years' time, I hope I'll have become fluent in English. I'd like to be working abroad somewhere, maybe Australia. How about you?
Dear Future Me,

1. I'm writing to see how you're doing and because you might appreciate a friendly message from the past.

2. You'll probably be working in your father's business, you might even be managing one of his offices yourself by then. I hope very much you'll be enjoying the work but I also hope you want into it because you wanted to and not because you were expected to. Are you still doing everything because of family pressure to conform?

3. You could have started that band you were always talking about with Sammy and maybe you'll have made a million dollars and will be rich and famous. Yeah, I like the sound of that! But somehow, I doubt it.

4. I hope by now you will have quit smoking and will have found some great person to settle down with. Maybe you'll have some kids - make sure you spend enough time with them so that they'll actually want to spend time with you when you're older.

5. Don't work all hours of the day and night in order to make money. Remember to keep in touch with your old friends so as to have people around you who know what you're really like (and don't paint). Why don't you phone one of them now for a chat?

6. Well, that's another story. I wish I could be there with you to see what it's like. Did they do something to set out the environment? Did the global downturn end up being a good thing for some people, or for the world? Who are the great world powers now?

Look after yourself.
Greg

B. Put sentences a)–e) in the correct places in the letter.

a) Maybe your life will have turned out quite differently.
b) And what about the rest of the world?
c) Here I am in 2010 and there you are in 2020.
d) Here's some advice and good wishes from 'present me':
e) These are the things I expect you'll be doing.

1A Work in pairs. Look at the linkers in bold in the letter and answer the questions.

1. Which linkers are followed by:
   a) an infinitive?
   b) a subject + modal verb?
   c) a noun?

2. Which two linkers are often used in more formal situations?

3. How do you order the underlined linkers to make the sentences negative?

Make sure you keep practicing in order to forget your English.

Send emails and phone your friends as much as to lose touch with them.

B. Join the sentences from other letters using the linkers in brackets.

1. I'm writing to you on my twenty-first birthday. I never want to forget how happy I was. (so that)

   I'm writing to you on my twenty-first birthday so that I never forget how happy I was.

2. I wish I could get a letter back from you. Then I might know what to do next. (because)

   I wish I could get a letter back from you. Then I might know what to do next, (because)

3. I hope you took a year off. You wanted to take a round the world trip. (and)

   I hope you took a year off. You wanted to take a round the world trip. (and)

4. If you haven't found a partner yet, try to do so soon. Otherwise, you might find yourself alone and lonely in your old age. (so / that)

   If you haven't found a partner yet, try to do so soon. Otherwise, you might find yourself alone and lonely in your old age. (so / that)

5. I imagine you're still doing it every day. You always thought you could impress people that way. (as)

   I imagine you're still doing it every day. You always thought you could impress people that way. (as)

6. I guess you have to be optimistic. Otherwise, you wouldn't always dream about being rich and famous in the future. (so)

   I guess you have to be optimistic. Otherwise, you wouldn't always dream about being rich and famous in the future. (so)

7. Make sure you read this every day. You need to remember how you used to be. (in order to)

   Make sure you read this every day. You need to remember how you used to be. (in order to)

8. If you're not happy in your job, try something else. You'll regret wasting years of your life doing something you don't enjoy. (in order not to)

   If you're not happy in your job, try something else. You'll regret wasting years of your life doing something you don't enjoy. (in order not to)

12 Write a letter (120–180 words) to your future self to be opened five years from now. Make sure you mention:

- why you're writing
- what you imagine you'll be doing
- what you hope for your future self
- advice for your future self
- questions about changes that will have happened.