

# HEADS UP ENGLISH

## ----- "The Future of the Human Race" -----

The English activity below is by Chris, who is an English teacher in Japan.

### 1. Read and listen to the text

**True or False:** (What does the text say? Read the text and say if sentences a-e are true or false.)

- a. Humans will become two different species in the future.
- b. Rich and poor will divide the species.
- c. Technology will greatly help us in the future, so we should rely on it.
- d. According to the article, medicine will eventually harm the human race.
- e. People in 100,000 will more or less have the same intelligence.

### 2. Match the vocabulary on the left with the translations on the right

evolutionary theorist	razas	have-nots	de calidad inferior.
hypothesis	color, tono.	millenium	lo que es más.
actually	los ricos.	likely	probable.
instead of	converstirse en.	average	aumentar.
humankind	además	height	recurso.
split into	especies	roughly	compensar, nivelar.
in addition	en vez de.	increase	altura.
species	el género humano.	resource	cirugia.
haves	dividirse en dos.	surgery	aproximadamente.
races	en realidad.	even out	promedio.
hue	teórico evolucionista.	what's more	los pobres.
turn themselves into	hipótesis	substandard	milenio.

disease	piel	over time	más allá.
thus	sin embargo	weak genes	bajo y feo.
empathy	dependencia	spread	afectar
social skills	habilidades sociales	affect	unos con otros.
in other words	empatia	happen	ocurrir
reliance	progresos	further	extender
skin	sistema inmunológico	healthy	a lo largo del tiempo.
mortality rate	enfermedad	to breed	saludable
however	indice de mortalidad.	one another	reproducirse
immune system	de este modo	unhealthy	genes débiles.
slave	esclavo	ruler	no saludable.
advancements	en otras palabras.	short and ugly	gobernante

More:

latte-coloured- color café con leche.

in the face of advancements- ante los progresos.

fight off - combatir (quitarse de encima).

Over the coming period a lo largo del periodo que viene.

### 3. Listen to the text and fill in the gaps with the words

(The words are in the vocabulary activity above.)

#### The Future of the Human Race

Evolutionary theorist Oliver Curry has an interesting and unusual \_\_\_\_\_ on the future of the human race. His idea actually sounds more like science fiction instead of science fact. He suggests that in 100,000 years, humankind will have \_\_\_\_\_ into two species. In addition, one species will be the "haves," and the other the "have-nots."

Over the coming millennium, we will see some small changes. For example, humankind will grow taller, and 6-7 feet (182-213 centimeters) will \_\_\_\_\_ be the average height. Humans will live roughly 120 years, too. Increased access to resources, cosmetic and genetic therapies, and surgeries will \_\_\_\_\_ out the appearance of men and women within each sex. What's more, there won't be different races like today. The races will mix to produce people with a similar, latte-colored \_\_\_\_\_ of skin.

That's the good news. However, our reliance on technology could have negative effects. According to Curry, people will lose social \_\_\_\_\_ and empathy in the face of future technological advancements. Our immune systems won't be as strong as now, because medicines will fight off disease and lower mortality \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, over time, weak genes will spread and affect our whole species. Curry predicts that this will happen 10,000 years from now.

\_\_\_\_\_ into this dark future, in the year 100,000, the genetically healthy will only breed with one another. This will produce a beautiful and intelligent class of people. The genetically \_\_\_\_\_ will become short and ugly, and will also have substandard intelligence levels. These are the "have-nots." In other words, humans will turn themselves into \_\_\_\_\_ and slaves.

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#### **4. Choose the Correct Answers in the Comprehension Quiz**

- A) According to the article, why does the hypothesis sound like science fiction?
1. Because Oliver Curry is a science fiction author/writer?
  2. Because the ideas are similar to ideas you can find in science fiction books.
- B) According to the article, how will the human species be divided in the future?
1. The species will be split in two. One species will be rich and the other will be poor.
  2. Humankind will grow taller, and 8-9 feet will be the average height.
  3. Humans will live roughly 140 years.
  4. There will be two different races.
  5. Men and women will look more similar to each other.
- C) According to the article, what will happen to our genes over the next 10,000 years?
1. Weak genes will spread and affect the entire species because of lower mortality rates.
  2. The immune systems of rich people will be better than our immune systems now.
  3. Medicines will fight off immune systems spreading weak genes over time.
- D) According to the article, what will happen to humankind in 100,000 years?
1. People will lose social skills and empathy in the face of future technological advancements.
  2. The genetically healthy will only breed with one another.
- E) According to the article, what will happen to the genetically unhealthy in 100,000 years?
1. They will become the rulers.
  2. They will be short, ugly, stupid and poor and they will be slaves.

#### **5. Discuss these questions with your teacher, colleague or friend**

##### **Related to the article:**

- a. Did you like this article?
- b. What was your general impression after reading this article?
- c. What do you think life will be like in the 31st century? Please explain.
- d. Do you think technology will harm us, as explained in the article? Why/not?
- e. Do you think the human race will make it to the 31st century, let alone the year 100,000? Why/not?
- f. Would you want to live in the 31st century? How about the year 100,000? Why/not?
- g. Does the theory sound more like science fiction or science fact? Why?
- h. Are there any flaws with Oliver Curry's theory? Why do you think so?
- i. Does the theory sound more like science fiction or science fact? Why?
- j. What do you think the future of the human race will be? Please explain.
- k. Some people say that science fiction unwittingly predicts the future. What might this mean, and do you agree?

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**More general questions written by James Farmer for HeadsUpEnglish.com:**

If you had a time machine, would you want to travel into the future? Why/not?  
Do you agree or disagree? In the future there will be a common language? If yes, which language do you think it will be?

Do you agree or disagree? In the future, there will be only one nation with one government? If yes, why?

Do you believe that some people can see into the future? Why/not?

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about your future? How about the world's future? Why/not?

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If your life goes as planned, where will you be in 5 years? 10 years? 30 years?

If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, what would you do tonight?

If you could speak to a psychic, what questions would you ask about your future?

Would you like to know when and how you are going to die? Why/not?

If you could have seen your future as a child, what would you have done differently? Why?

What are your hopes and dreams for the future? Please explain.

Many people do things that they later regret. Have you ever done something, and regretted it at a later date?

By the time you die, what do you want to accomplish?

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Will humans live all over the universe in the future? Why/not?

World peace will happen in our lifetime. Do you agree or disagree? Why/not?

Are you the kind of person who tries to plan out your future (life, vacation, or schoolwork, for example) in great detail? Why/not?

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What major advancements will the human race make this century? Please explain.

What do you think the future will be like 100 years from now? Please explain.

Have you seen any movies that deal with time travel into the future? What happened? Were they believable?

In the future, our children will look back at what we did to the world. What parts of our history do you think they will admire? What parts will they look down on? Why do you think so?

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## ----- "The Future of the Human Race" -----

The English activity below is by Chris, who is an English teacher in Japan.

### 1. Correct answers

**True or False:** (What does the text say? Read the text and say if sentences a-e are true or false.)

**Answers to the questions in number 1 in the text:**

**True or False:** (What does the text say?)

- a. Humans will become two different species in the future. True ("He suggests that in 100,000 years, humankind will have split into two species.")
- b. Rich and poor will divide the species. True ("In addition, one species will be the haves, and the other the have nots.")
- c. Technology will greatly help us in the future, so we should rely on it. False (The key word is "rely." There are some good things and bad things, but the text says that our "reliance on technology could have negative effects.")
- d. According to the article, medicine will eventually harm the human race. True ("Our immune systems won't be as strong as now, because medicines will fight off disease and lower mortality rates. Thus, over time, weak genes will spread and affect our whole species.")
- e. People in 100,000 will more or less have the same intelligence. False ("The genetically unhealthy will become short and ugly, and will also have substandard intelligence levels.")

### 2. The vocabulary on the left is correctly matched with the translations on the right

evolutionary theorist hypothesis actually instead of humankind split into in addition species haves races hue turn themselves into	teórico evolucionista. hipótesis en realidad. en vez de. el género humano. dividirse en dos. además especies los ricos. razas color, tono. convertirse en.	have-nots millenium likely average height roughly increase resource surgery even out what's more substandard	los pobres. milenio. probable. promedio. altura. aproximadamente. aumentar. recurso. cirugia. compensar, nivelar. lo que es más. de calidad inferior.
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skin however reliance social skills	piel sin embargo dependencia habilidades sociales	over time weak genes spread affect	a lo largo del tiempo. genes débiles. extender afectar
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empathy	empatia	happen	ocurrir
advancements	progresos	further	más allá.
immune system	sistema inmunológico	healthy	saludable
disease	enfermedad	to breed	reproducirse
mortality rate	índice de mortalidad.	one another	unos con otros.
thus	de este modo	unhealthy	no saludable.
slave	esclavo	ruler	gobernante
in other words	en otras palabras.	short and ugly	bajo y feo.

### 3. Listen to the text and fill in the gaps with the words

#### The Future of the Human Race

Evolutionary theorist Oliver Curry has an interesting and unusual **hypothesis** on the future of the human race. His idea actually sounds more like science fiction instead of science fact. He suggests that in 100,000 years, humankind will have **split** into two species. In addition, one species will be the "haves," and the other the "have-nots."

Over the coming millennium, we will see some small changes. For example, humankind will grow taller, and 6-7 feet (182-213 centimeters) will **likely** be the average height. Humans will live roughly 120 years, too. Increased access to resources, cosmetic and genetic therapies, and surgeries will **even** out the appearance of men and women within each sex. What's more, there won't be different races like today. The races will mix to produce people with a similar, latte-colored **hue** of skin.

That's the good news. However, our reliance on technology could have negative effects. According to Curry, people will lose social **skills** and empathy in the face of future technological advancements. Our immune systems won't be as strong as now, because medicines will fight off disease and lower mortality **rates**. Thus, over time, weak genes will spread and affect our whole species. Curry predicts that this will happen 10,000 years from now.

**Further** into this dark future, in the year 100,000, the genetically healthy will only breed with one another. This will produce a beautiful and intelligent class of people. The genetically **unhealthy** will become short and ugly, and will also have substandard intelligence levels. These are the "have-nots." In other words, humans will turn themselves into **rulers** and slaves.

#### **4. Answers to the comprehension quiz in number 4.**

A) According to the article, why does the hypothesis sound like science fiction?

1. Because Oliver Curry is a science fiction author/writer? Incorrect.
2. Because the ideas are similar to ideas you can find in science fiction books. Correct.

B) According to the article, how will the human species be divided in the future?

1. The species will be split in two. One species will be rich and the other will be poor. Correct. - "One species will be the haves, and the other the have nots."
2. Humankind will grow taller, and 8-9 feet will be the average height. Incorrect. - "Humankind will grow taller, and 6-7 feet (182-213 centimeters) will likely be the average height."
3. Humans will live roughly 140 years. Incorrect. - "Humans will live roughly 120 years, too."
4. There will be two different races. Incorrect. "The races will mix to produce people with a similar, latte-colored hue of skin."
5. Men and women will look more similar to each other. Incorrect. - Men will look more similar to other men and women will look similar to other women.

C) According to the article, what will happen to our genes over the next 10,000 years?

1. Weak genes will spread and affect the entire species because of lower mortality rates. - "Our immune systems won't be as strong as now, because medicines will fight off disease and lower mortality rates. Thus, over time, weak genes will spread and affect our whole species."
2. The immune systems of rich people will be better than our immune systems now. Incorrect - "Our immune systems won't be as strong as now, because medicines will fight off disease and lower mortality rates."
3. Medicines will fight off immune systems spreading weak genes over time. Incorrect - this is nonsense.

D) According to the article, what will happen to humankind in 100,000 years?

1. People will lose social skills and empathy in the face of future technological advancements. Incorrect - This will happen in 10,000 years.
2. The genetically healthy will only breed with one another. Correct - "Further into this dark future, in the year 100,000, the genetically healthy will only breed with one another."

E) According to the article, what will happen to the genetically unhealthy in 100,000 years?

1. They will become the rulers. Incorrect - "The genetically unhealthy will become short and ugly, and will also have substandard intelligence levels. These are the have nots. In other words, humans will turn themselves into rulers and slaves."
2. They will be short, ugly, stupid and poor and they will be slaves. Correct - "The genetically unhealthy will become short and ugly, and will also have substandard intelligence levels. These are the have nots. In other words, humans will turn themselves into rulers and slaves."