

2.06 Lesson 5A, Exercise 2

Are you a computer geek?

1 Have you ever ...

- a downloaded and listened to a podcast?
- b uploaded photos to a social networking site?
- c located a Wi-Fi hotspot?
- d installed an app on your phone?
- e joined a file-sharing network?
- f published a blog?
- g subscribed to a YouTube channel ?
- h used a webcam to video chat?
- i used autocomplete to fill in forms on web pages?

2 Explain these sentences in your own words.

- a Please contact the webmaster if any of the links on this page are broken.
- b Your username and password are case-sensitive.
- c Click on the red button to bookmark this web page.

3 Can you name three different ...

- a companies that make desktop computers?
- b things you could connect to the USB port of a computer?
- c means of data storage?
- d Internet browsers?

2.07 Lesson 5A, Exercises 4 and 5

- Assistant** Hi. Can I help you?
- Customer** Yes, I'm interested in this laptop.
- Assistant** Yes, nice isn't it? It comes in four different colours: red, blue, pink ...
- Customer** I wonder if you could tell me about the technical specifications. How fast is the processor?
- Assistant** Very fast. It's ... let me see ... 1.66 gigahertz.
- Customer** Oh. That isn't particularly fast, actually.
- Assistant** It isn't slow!
- Customer** Hmm. And what about the memory?
- Assistant** It comes with 512 megabytes of RAM included.
- Customer** Is it possible to increase that?
- Assistant** Yes, you can buy extra memory for it.
- Customer** And what about the hard drive?
- Assistant** It's 320 gigabytes.
- Customer** I see.
- Assistant** One of the best features is the display. It's a 17-inch LED display.
- Customer** Not LCD?
- Assistant** No, LED. It gives a brighter, sharper picture. I'll start it up so you can see. *[start-up chimes]*
- Customer** And what other features does it have?
- Assistant** There's a DVD writer.
- Customer** 22x?
- Assistant** No, 16x. But that's fast enough for everyday use.
- Customer** And what's the sound like? Do I need to buy external speakers for it?
- Assistant** Well, the built-in speakers are quite good actually. There are two 3-watt speakers. The sound's excellent.
- Customer** And how much is it?
- Assistant** Four hundred and ninety-five pounds.
- Customer** I see. Can I try it for a moment?
- Assistant** Sure, go ahead.
- Customer** Thanks. *[keyboard sounds]*
- Assistant** Er ... what are you doing?
- Customer** I'm searching online.
- Assistant** What for?
- Customer** The same laptop ... at a cheaper price!

2.08 Lesson 5C, Exercise 3

- 1 alarm clock
- 2 can opener
- 3 tape measure
- 4 toothbrush
- 5 lipstick
- 6 baseball
- 7 light switch
- 8 newsreel

2.09 Lesson 5C, Exercises 5 and 6

Radio

Presenter Good afternoon. I'm standing in a park in New York City in the USA – Flushing Meadows Park, to be precise. And about fifteen metres below my feet – below the ground – is a time capsule. That's a metal container with various interesting things inside. This time capsule was buried in 1939, and to talk about it, I'm joined by Harvard Professor of Linguistics, Henry Wolfson.

Professor Good afternoon.

RP Hi. Thanks for joining us. Now, first of all – who buried this time capsule all those years ago in 1939?

Professor Well, it was a group of engineers from a big company here in New York called the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

RP So why did they bury it? And why did they do it then?

Professor Well, they buried it in 1939 because that year, in New York, there was a World Fair – an international celebration of human achievement and technology. In fact, there was another World Fair in New York in 1964 and they buried a second time capsule that year too – in the same place.

RP So, we're standing above TWO time capsules!

Professor That's right. Well, anyway, the point of a time capsule is that you bury certain things that give a picture of what the world is like, and what life is like for the people who live in it. The idea is, when people in the future dig up the time capsule and look inside, they'll learn a lot about the world of the people who buried it.

RP When will that be?

Professor When will the capsule be opened? Not until the year sixty-nine thirty-nine – that's five thousand years exactly after it was buried! Both the time capsules – the 1939 capsule and the 1964 capsule – will be opened that year.

RP I see. Now, this first time capsule. What did it contain?

Professor Lots of things. Firstly, they put 35 small items inside the capsule – everyday items, to give an idea of life in the twentieth century – for example, they included a pen, an alarm clock, a watch, a doll, a baseball and even a packet of cigarettes. Secondly, they included lots of different materials – glass, rubber, plastic, metal, and so on – to show which materials humans had discovered or invented by 1939.

RP Right. So this isn't a small capsule, then. It's quite big.

Professor The capsule is two hundred and twenty nine centimetres long – and it's long and thin, like a giant pen.

RP Oh, OK. So what else is inside?

Professor Well, there's lots of cultural information – books, magazines, news bulletins, messages from famous people, like Albert Einstein, and so on. They're all on special film – with instructions on how to view them!

RP Yes. I suppose in five thousand years' time, technology will be very different. They might not know what film is!

Professor They probably won't. And in fact, they probably won't understand the books and magazines anyway, because the English language – if it still exists – will be very different.

RP Different in what way?

Professor In every way: vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar. Languages change, even in the space of a few hundred years. Five thousand years is a very long time. So the time capsule contains a complete guide to the grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation of twentieth century English.

- RP I see. But do you know what occurs to me? What happens if everybody just forgets about the capsule?
- Professor That's an excellent question! And the people who buried the time capsule thought of that. So they wrote a special book about the time capsule called the *Book of Record* and sent it to museums and libraries all around the world. In the year sixty-nine thirty-nine somebody, somewhere, will find a copy of the book – probably a digital copy – and learn about the time capsule in Flushing Meadows Park.
- RP Hmm. Interesting. Thank you, Professor.

2.10 Lesson 5E, Exercise 2

Fifty Years On

Sir David King, scientific adviser to the British Government.

If we don't reduce carbon emissions, the Earth will become warmer, polar ice will melt and the oceans will rise. Cities like London and New York will disappear under the water. By 2100, Antarctica could be the only continent that is suitable for human life – the rest of the world will be too hot.

Francis Collins, geneticist.

Fifty years from now, millions of people will live past the age of 100 and remain healthy. This will happen because we'll be able to study each person's genetic code and find the best way to treat illnesses in that individual. In about fifty years' time, the most important question for our society might not be 'How long can humans live?', but 'How long do we want to live?'

J Richard Gott, physicist.

During the next fifty years, our planet might suffer a catastrophe. Humans could disappear, just like the dinosaurs and hundreds of other species. The best way to make humans safe from extinction is to start a colony on Mars. This is not a prediction, but a hope. Will we be smart enough to do it?

Ellen Heber-Katz, biologist.

I believe that soon we will be able to repair the human body in the same way that we can replace damaged parts of a car or a washing machine. Five years from now, we will be able to grow new fingers, and, a few years after that, new arms and legs. Within fifty years, replacing your whole body will be normal.

Peter Norvig, director of research at Google.

Today, people all over the world have access to billions of pages of text on the Internet. At the moment, they use search engines to find information, but fifty years from now, people will simply discuss their needs with their computer, and the computer will make suggestions and provide usable information, not just a list of links.

Eric Horvitz, principal researcher at Microsoft Research.

In fifty years' time, computers will be much more intelligent than today, and this will change people's lives. Computers will help people work, learn, plan and decide. They will help people from different countries to understand each other by automatically translating from one language to another. Intelligent computers will work as scientists, and will start to make important discoveries on their own.

2.11 Lesson 5F, Exercise 1

- Lauren What are you up to at the weekend?
 Blake I'm going skateboarding on Saturday morning.
 Lauren Have you got any plans for the afternoon?
 Blake Yes, I have. I'm going to finish my science project. But maybe we could meet up in the evening?
 Lauren I can't, I'm afraid. I'm having a barbecue.
 Blake That's a shame. Do you fancy doing something on Sunday?
 Lauren Sure! The afternoon is better for me. I might be going for a bike ride with my sister in the morning.
 Blake Actually, I'm going bowling with some friends on Sunday afternoon. But you're welcome to join us.
 Lauren Thanks. I'd love to. What time?
 Blake Four o'clock. And we'll be going for a pizza after.
 Lauren Great idea. Let's speak again on Sunday.
 Blake OK. I'll call you.

2.12 Lesson 5F, Exercises 4 and 5

1

- Katie Hey, Joe. What are you doing this weekend?
 Joe Er ... I'm quite busy actually.
 Katie Oh, right. It's just that I'm going ice skating with some friends on Saturday afternoon, and I was wondering if you'd like to join us.
 Joe Saturday afternoon? Er ... No, actually, I can't. I've already got plans. I'll be helping my dad at the shop on Saturday afternoon.
 Katie Oh. Can't your sister do that?
 Joe We'll both be helping. It's the busiest time of the week.
 Katie Well, maybe we could go out on Saturday evening?
 Joe I'll be too tired ... after a busy day at the shop! I reckon I'll be going to bed early.
 Katie That's a shame. Because I'm having some friends round for the evening. We're going to watch a DVD.
 Joe Oh well. Next time maybe.
 Katie How about Sunday morning? What are you up to then?

- Joe I'm going shopping with my mum. I need to buy a new jacket.
 Katie Really? I'm going shopping on Sunday morning too! Let's meet for a coffee.
 Joe Er ... OK. Why not?
 Katie I'll call you on Sunday around 11 o'clock.
 Joe Fine. I'll speak to you then. Great.
 Katie Bye, Joe. See you on Sunday!

2

- Jack Hi, Olivia!
 Olivia Oh, hi Jack.
 Jack How are you?
 Olivia I'm all right, Jack. You?
 Jack Yes, I'm fine. Do you fancy getting together this evening? It's Friday night!
 Olivia Actually, I'm not up for it. I've got a bit of a headache. I'm planning to go to bed early.
 Jack Oh, OK. Well, how about tomorrow?
 Olivia I'm doing schoolwork tomorrow.
 Jack But it's Saturday!
 Olivia I know, but I need to revise for an exam. Grace is coming over and we're going to revise together.
 Jack What, all day?
 Olivia Er ... no.
 Jack Well, why don't we do something in the afternoon?
 Olivia What have you got in mind?
 Jack I don't know. What do you fancy doing? We could go ice skating, perhaps.
 Olivia No, thanks. I'm not very keen on ice skating.
 Jack What about going swimming at the Lido? You know, the one next to the golf course.
 Olivia Oh, yes. I love it there – but it's too far away. We'd have to go by bus and then walk.
 Jack We could go by car.
 Olivia You can't drive, Jack.
 Jack No, but my older brother George can. He can come with us ... and give us a lift.
 Olivia Oh, that's a good idea. OK, what time?
 Jack I'm not sure. I'll ask George about it. Then I'll call you.
 Olivia Great. Speak to you soon then.

2.13 Get Ready for your Exam 3, Listening, Exercise 9

- Speaker 1** For the low price of \$194,000, you can be the proud owner of the very latest invention – a flying car. The car, called Transition, can fly for a distance of 460 miles. On the ground, the wings fold up and it can drive at average highway speeds. The producers already have orders for 70 of these futuristic-looking cars.
- Speaker 2** An incredibly realistic robot is being built at the University of Hertfordshire. The robot is supposed to look like a child and will even have artificial skin. It is designed to be used in therapy for children with social problems. Playing with the robot, they will learn how to interact better with their classmates.
- Speaker 3** A new form of driverless car will be launched by Toyota. The car has a special detector on the roof that works like an ‘eye’. These cars use an artificial intelligence computer that copies the decisions made by a human driver. The aim is to prevent traffic accidents, and to free up people’s time as well. Seven of these robot cars have already driven 140,000 miles with very little human control.
- Speaker 4** Toshiba wants to take over the home entertainment industry. They are releasing ever bigger TV screens that show 3D TV without us needing to wear 3D glasses. The TVs work by showing several pictures from various positions at the same time. This means that our left and right eyes see different pictures, which creates a 3D effect.
- Speaker 5** Having trouble concentrating? BodyWave technology will keep your busy mind on track. BodyWave tells you when you are at your best, and when you are not paying attention! This little machine attaches to your arm or leg and monitors your brainwaves through the movements of your body. It is designed to help people perform at their best whatever they are doing.