

The 2020s are here - Happy New Decade

2nd January, 2020



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As the clock struck twelve midnight to herald the arrival of the 2020s, people the world over were filled with a mixture of optimism and pessimism at what the new decade might have in store for us. Many hope the New Year will

see an upturn in their fortunes and those of planet Earth. The past decade could be described as having been somewhat tumultuous. Global warming stoked fears of our very existence being in peril; wars and conflict have continued to rage around the world; millions still lack basic things like clean water and education; and hundreds of species became endangered or extinct. There is hope that technology and greater cooperation between nations will make the 2020s a better decade.

The technology website cnet.com predicted that many of us will advance further into the realms of science fiction. It wrote: "The decade beginning in 2020 will take us even further toward a world where far-out ideas like hooking brains up to computers, and even immortality, become topics of serious conversation." Futurologist Vivek Wadhwa wrote about the prospect of flying cars, bionic exoskeleton suits and unlimited clean energy. He told cnet.com that: "Some technologies will take longer to reach the masses than others, but they will be at hand. The 2020s will be when the incredible promises of technology finally happen." Let's get together again in 2030 and compare notes on how things went.

Sources: forbes.com / fortune.com / cnet.com

Writing

The 2020s will be better than the 2010s. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

clock / midnight / 2020 / optimism / pessimism / Earth / global warming / hope / technology / science fiction / far-out ideas / immortality / flying car / promises / notes

True / False

- a) People over the world struck the clock of pessimism at twelve. T / F
- b) The article says the new decade will see more stores closing. T / F
- c) The article suggested the 2010s were somewhat tumultuous. T / F
- d) The article says millions of people cannot get a basic education. T / F
- e) The writer said we are living in science fiction and cannot go further. T / F
- f) A website said our brains could be connected to computers. T / F
- g) A futurologist wrote about the prospect of unlimited clean energy. T / F
- h) The writer asked us to meet in 2030 to discuss the 2020s. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. herald | a. progressed |
| 2. mixture | b. stormy |
| 3. upturn | c. collaboration |
| 4. tumultuous | d. common people |
| 5. cooperation | e. combination |
| 6. predicted | f. inexhaustible |
| 7. far-out | g. forecast |
| 8. unlimited | h. announce |
| 9. the masses | i. unconventional |
| 10. went | j. improvement |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are your predictions for the 2020s?
- c) What parts of the 2020s are like science fiction?
- d) What far-out ideas do you think will come true in the 2020s?
- e) Are you looking forward to traveling in flying cars?
- f) What are your New Year resolutions?
- g) What will we be saying about the 2020s in 2030?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a futurologist?

Phrase Match

- the clock struck twelve midnight to herald
- filled with a mixture of
- what the new decade might have in
- described as having been somewhat
- stoked fears of our very existence
- many of us will advance further into the
- far-out ideas like hooking brains
- take longer to reach
- the incredible promises of technology
- compare notes on
- up to computers
- the masses
- finally happen
- realms of science fiction
- optimism and pessimism
- how things went
- store for us
- tumultuous
- the arrival of the 2020s
- being in peril

Discussion – Student B

- How did you celebrate the arrival of the new decade?
- What are your hopes for the 2020s?
- Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the 2020s?
- What do you think the 2020s have in store for us?
- What were the 2010s like for you?
- How worried are you about global warming?
- How worried are you about species extinction?
- Do you think nations will cooperate in the 2020s?

Spelling

- hlarde the arrival of the 2020s
- filled with a mixture of msmtipio
- having been somewhat uulotstumu
- very existence being in lreip
- became endangered or ctxntie
- greater rpcoaonitoe between nations
- into the meslar of science fiction
- ua-tofr ideas
- gtutusiorflo Vivek Wadhwa
- and even ymlimtotrai
- nibico exoskeleton suits
- take longer to reach the assmse

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. g	7. i	8. f	9. d	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Flying Cars

You think flying cars are the things most likely to happen in the 2020s. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): the end of cancer, nuclear disarmament or space travel.

Role B – The End of Cancer

You think the end of cancer is the most likely to happen in the 2020s. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): flying cars, nuclear disarmament or space travel.

Role C – Nuclear Disarmament

You think nuclear disarmament is the most likely to happen in the 2020s. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): the end of cancer, flying cars or space travel.

Role D – Space Travel

You think space travel is the most likely to happen in the 2020s. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): the end of cancer, nuclear disarmament or flying cars.

Speaking – Science Fiction

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that are most likely to come true in 2030 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- greater equality
- a cleaner environment
- nuclear disarmament
- redistribution of wealth
- flying cars
- space travel
- animal-free diets
- the end of cancer

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.