

## 3.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Say how likely something is to happen ■ Write a balanced opinion essay

### Speaking & Listening saying how likely something is to happen

- 1 Work with a partner. Read the predictions and discuss how likely you think it is that these things will happen.

### Life in 2025

- ▶ People won't go on holiday any more but will enjoy virtual reality holidays where they feel as if they are on holiday, but are actually staying at home.
- ▶ When you go out for a meal, the restaurant will print out ice cream or pizza using a special 3D food printer.
- ▶ Because they use so much technology in their work lives, people will stop using technology to relax and instead learn old-fashioned skills, such as gardening.



- 2a 3.8 ))) Listen to two friends, George (G) and Evie (E), discussing the predictions in exercise 1. Write their initials next to a phrase below if they express an opinion on how likely it is to happen.

#### Virtual reality holidays

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 definitely won't | 4 probably will   |
| 2 probably won't   | 5 definitely will |
| 3 possibly will    |                   |

#### Printed food in restaurants

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 6 probably won't | 8 probably will   |
| 7 possibly will  | 9 definitely will |

#### Technology-free leisure

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 10 definitely won't | 13 probably will   |
| 11 probably won't   | 14 definitely will |
| 12 possibly will    |                    |

- b 3.8 ))) Listen again and complete extracts 1–7 from George and Evie's discussion.
- 1 G I wouldn't be \_\_\_\_\_ if it happened.
  - 2 E ... I still \_\_\_\_\_ people would be satisfied with a virtual holiday.
  - 3 E I \_\_\_\_\_ they'll just travel more within their own countries.
  - 4 G ... I think it's \_\_\_\_\_ to happen.
  - 5 E There's no \_\_\_\_\_ of me eating something like that!
  - 6 E Oh, that's \_\_\_\_\_ to happen.
  - 7 G Well, yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ it might happen ...

- c Complete the Language for speaking box with the phrases in exercise 2b.

#### LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING likelihood

- Definitely won't happen  
a \_\_\_\_\_
- Probably won't happen  
b \_\_\_\_\_
- Possibly will happen  
c \_\_\_\_\_
- Probably will happen  
d \_\_\_\_\_  
e \_\_\_\_\_
- Definitely will happen  
f \_\_\_\_\_  
g \_\_\_\_\_

#### PRONUNCIATION intonation – expressing certainty

- 3a 3.9 ))) Listen to the phrases from exercise 2b. Does the intonation make the speaker sound certain (C) or uncertain (U)?
- 1 \_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_

- b 3.9 ))) Listen again and repeat, paying attention to the intonation.

- 4a **TASK** Make at least one prediction about each of the following areas.

- transport
- communication
- food
- home entertainment
- housing

- b Work with a partner. Share your predictions. Respond to each other's predictions using the phrases in the Language for speaking box.



## Reading & Writing a balanced opinion essay

- 5 Look at the following essay question. Work with a partner and make a list of 2–3 arguments or examples to support each view.

Some people believe that, in the future, we will have more and more leisure time as computers replace many of the tasks we do at home and work. Others believe that we will have less leisure time as employers will expect us to be available and connected to the internet at all times.

Discuss both these views and give your opinions.

- 6a Read the essay. How many of your arguments are mentioned?

- 1 **Without doubt**, computers and the internet are becoming more and more important in all our lives. In the future, the development of technology is bound to have an impact on our lives and leisure time. However, it is uncertain whether technology will mean that we have more or less leisure time.
- 2 **Some people argue that** computers will start to do more and more for us in the home and at work. We have already seen examples of this with the invention of cleaning robots **such as** the Roomba, and smart devices which enable us to turn appliances on or off from a distance.
- 3 **Others feel, however, that** although computers may help us with our daily tasks, this will not necessarily mean that we have free time. They argue that employers may simply expect us to have time to do more work. **In addition**, wearable technology may mean that we are expected to be available to our employers at all times.
- 4 **Personally**, I doubt that we will have more leisure time in the future. Back in the 1970s, it was predicted that more technology would mean that people in the future would have a five-day weekend. This has certainly not happened yet, and I don't expect it to happen in years to come. **In fact**, it seems that the more technology we invent, the harder we are expected to work and the more we are expected to produce.
- 5 **In conclusion**, while employers may not expect us to be constantly available in the future, I believe that they will continue to demand more of us.

- b Read the essay again and match paragraphs 1–5 to sections a–e.
- a arguments to support the second belief
  - b introduction (in your own words)
  - c arguments to support the first belief
  - d your opinion
  - e conclusion
- 7 Add the phrases in bold in the essay to the Language for writing box.

### LANGUAGE FOR WRITING writing a balanced opinion essay

#### Introduction

*In recent years, ...*

*These days, ...*

#### Giving both sides of the argument

#### Giving extra details and examples

*For example/instance, ...*

*Additionally, ...*

*Moreover, ...*

#### Giving your own opinion

*In my opinion, ...*

#### Introducing the conclusion

*To conclude, ...*

*To sum up, ...*

- 8a **TASK** You are going to write an essay. Look at the following essay question and plan out what you are going to write in the style of the five paragraphs given in exercise 6a. Try to think of a main idea and some supporting information or examples for each paragraph. Write your essay in about 250 words.

In recent years, the number of people travelling by air for business and pleasure has increased dramatically. Some people believe that air travel will continue to grow and that it will become easier, faster and cheaper. Others, however, believe that due to environmental pressures, flying is likely to become too expensive for most people.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

- b Work with a partner. Read your partner's essay and comment on:
- 1 content – did they have some good ideas for both sides of the argument?
  - 2 organization – did they follow the structure given?
  - 3 language – did they use some of the phrases in bold from the essay?