

English in Mind Second edition

Level 4 Unit 3

Worksheet

Tomorrow's world today: How far are we from the invisibility cloak?



Lead-in

- 1 Discuss with your partner which inventions of the last fifty years you consider to be the most important. Choose one that you agree on and justify its significance to the group.
- 2 Pre-reading task. Look at the title. What do you think an 'invisibility cloak' could be used for?

Vocabulary (1): words in context

3 Read the first five paragraphs:

- a Who does the author suggest invisibility would be useful to?
- b Find the expressions in the first five paragraphs that have similar meanings to the following:
 - 1 to achieve (para 1) _____
 - 2 written (para 1) _____
 - 3 stimulated (para 1) _____
 - 4 to make or cause (paras 2 & 3) _____
 - 5 hidden (para 3) _____
 - 6 item of clothing (para 3) _____
 - 7 difficult to understand (para 5) _____
 - 8 a small part of something bigger (para 5) _____

Reading comprehension (1): expressing opinion

- 4 Read to the end of the article. What does the author think of the inventions listed in the table below? Put a tick (✓) in the appropriate columns. You may need to insert more than one tick for each invention.

	Thinks it has a serious application	Is already in existence	Exists in science fiction only
X-ray Specs			
Robot Servants			
Rocket Boots			
Videophones			
Tractor Beam			
Food Pills			

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THE INDEPENDENT

Vocabulary (2): literal and idiomatic expressions of movement

5 The article contains several expressions describing movement. Some are used idiomatically, others are literal in their meaning. Find these expressions and match them with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a pounced upon | 1 jumping energetically |
| b prowled around | 2 started |
| c flowing around | 3 walking with long steps |
| d move beyond | 4 turned aside |
| e grabs headlines | 5 seized something quickly |
| f launched | 6 commercial sales |
| g striding | 7 move about secretly or stealthily |
| h leaping about | 8 moving like a liquid or gas |
| i take the gold medal | 9 cause many people to buy |
| j take-up | 10 causes press interest |
| k get customers flocking | 11 win the competition |
| l deflected | 12 are not nearly as terrible |
| m don't approach the horror | 13 go further |

Now categorise them below.

Literal	Idiomatic
e.g. <i>prowled around</i> = move about secretly or stealthily	e.g. <i>pounced upon</i> = seized something quickly

Reading comprehension (2): true or false?

6 Decide if the following statements are true or false. Compare your answers in pairs and give evidence from the text.

- The author thinks that science fiction novels encourage inventiveness.
- Scientists want to make a robot that looks like a person.
- The Russian army killed the enemy with their special boots.
- Now that they are cheaper, people prefer to make video calls.
- The invention of food pills suggests a pessimistic view of the future.

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Worksheet**Tomorrow's world today: How far are we from the invisibility cloak?****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Discussion**

7 (i) In pairs or small groups discuss the importance of the following inventions and use the expressions below (or others that you know) to give your opinions.

(a) the Internet**(b)** the petrol engine**(c)** television**(d)** anaesthesia**(e)** the wheel**(f)** the violinTo
my mind ...That's a
very good
point.I go
along with
that.I
think you're
wrong because...In
my view/
opinion ...I
think/believe
that....As
far as I'm
concerned...I
totally agree/
disagree!

(ii) Order the inventions in terms of their importance and compare your order with those of other groups.

Further work

8 Choose one of the inventions (or think of another) and prepare a short presentation in support of it as 'The Greatest Invention of All Time'.

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