

Unit 5

Listening script [1.06]

Radio presenter Inspired by ten of the predictions made by engineer John Elfreth Watkins in 1900, we asked our listeners for their predictions about life in 100 years' time. Many of you wrote in with your thoughts of the world in 2115. With us today, we have expert Ian Tucker to see what he thinks of your ideas. Welcome to the show, Ian.

Ian Tucker Thanks, Adriana.

Radio Presenter The first prediction is from Jim who says that we will be able to talk to each other with our minds.

Ian Tucker It sounds like something from a film, but it's absolutely possible. It'll be just as easy as our other brain processes now. However, the communication would be as electronic signals rather than words.

Radio presenter That's interesting! ... and Sara has written to say that we will be living longer lives and that, eventually, we won't die.

Ian Tucker Well, there's a good chance that we will be able to increase the number of years we live, but it will be a long time until this type of technology is available at a reasonable cost. You'll have to earn a lot of money if you want to live longer than most other people.

Radio presenter Another listener has predicted that we'll be able to control the weather.

Ian Tucker Well, we will certainly try to. Scientists in the US support a programme to explore ways to change the Earth's climate. These methods aim to protect our planet against climate change.

Radio presenter And finally, Luke suggests we will all be wired to computers to make our brains work faster.

Ian Tucker I predict that some people who live until 2050 are likely to experience this. However, by 2075, I believe most people will use machines of some sort to increase the power of their brains, and by the end of the century, I think almost everyone will.

Radio presenter Well, I'm afraid time is up. Ian, thank you for joining us today. Listeners can continue to contribute their ideas on Twitter or our Facebook page.