

Read the text about how scientists picture life in the future.

- First decide whether the statements (1–8) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (X) in the correct box.
- Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision.
- Write the first 4 words of this sentence in the space provided.
- There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one.
- The first one (0) has been done for you.

Life in 2100

What will the future look like? This is what we know thus far: one morning in 2100 you, or someone very like you, will be woken by a friendly face projected onto the bedroom wall who will urge you out of bed while reminding you of your day's appointments. While you wash your face, hundreds of hidden DNA and protein sensors in your mirror will check your breath and body for the onset of illness.

Wrapping some wires around your head, you will be able telepathically to control your home, telling the robotic cook in the kitchen to make breakfast while you get dressed and your magnetic car to leave the garage ready to drive you to work. You will pop in your contact lenses to connect to the Internet.

Those contact lenses will also be fitted with a face recognition computer program, which means you will never again forget a name. If a stranger approaches, you will be able to summon up biographical details. If they speak in a foreign language, an inbuilt program will automatically translate.

Oh, really? Those of us raised in the "white heat of technology" of the 1960s can be forgiven for being sceptical about predictions for the future. As children we had the impression that humans would soon live in space and crunch vitamin tablets instead of food: Smash instant mash and Angel Delight were just the start.

Michio Kaku, the American physicist, says that when talking of the future we tend to get muddled up between science fiction and, well, science. Invisibility cloaks, jet packs and flying cars belong to the former; life in 2100 as he describes it in his new book, *Physics of the Future* – based on interviews with 300 top scientists around the world – will be a reality. "They are inventing the future in their laboratories right now. All these predictions are based on prototypes that actually exist," he says.

"Within 10 or so years we'll probably have the Internet in our contact lenses, which will give us augmented reality – not virtual reality but reality accentuated by information. Students taking examinations will be able to blink and see the answers they need in front of them. [...]"

"We will live in a cross between *The Matrix* and real life. We will be able to download any movie, song or piece of information off the Internet directly onto our contact lenses. Tourists will love this since they will be able to see the glory of the Roman Empire resurrected in their contact lens as they walk among the ruins of Rome."

The work with the greatest potential impact which Kaku came across – as he talked to scientists at the forefront of research into medicine, computers, quantum physics and space travel – is that aiming to increase longevity. He believes that within a few years scientists may locate the genes responsible for ageing and our grandchildren may have the ability to stop the ageing process at 30, then live for several decades as 30-year-olds.

"We don't have the fount of eternal youth, but we do know ageing is the accumulation of error in cells and we're tearing apart the genes that govern it," he says. "We may be able to 'cruise' at the age of 30 almost indefinitely by growing new organs as they wear out. We have already been able to grow many organs from cells, like blood vessels, bone, cartilage and ears. The first windpipe was grown recently and the first liver will be grown in about five years' time. So we will be able to repair ourselves."



	Statements
0	Electronic displays of a person will serve as alarm clocks.
1	Orders to electronic household helpers will be transmitted by thought.
2	Accessing information on lives of people you don't know will be prohibited.
3	Some decades ago young people had bold ideas about the future.
4	Michio Kaku's recent publication discusses science fiction.
5	Schools might have to rethink their exam system to account for new technology.
6	The way we get media will change dramatically.
7	Currently experts lack genuine interest in prolonging human life expectancy.
8	Up till now, scientists have been unsuccessful in renewing crucial body parts.

	T	F	First four words
0	X		<i>This is what we</i>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			