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**Activity Sheet**

## Life is getting better!

### Lead in – pre-article discussion

#### *The present*

Do you think life is better now than in the past?  
When do you think was the most dangerous time in history?  
What are the major obstacles that we have 'overcome' in recent years?  
If you could live at any moment in history when would you choose and why?

#### *The future*

Do you feel optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Why?  
Choose a category and make a prediction:  
Politics | Technology | Society | Economics | Transport | Fashion | Your own idea  
What could we do differently in the future that we aren't doing now?

| *Now read the article* |

### Post-article – Comprehension

How has the 21<sup>st</sup> century changed the way we are informed?  
What happened at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?  
On a daily basis, how many people rise above the poverty line?  
Where has there been an increase in the Global Hunger Index?  
What has been introduced in recent years to prevent the number of children born per woman?  
Why do you think we are living longer?  
Has does the guinea worm infect people?  
Where is the place with the second highest number of average school years?

### Vocabulary

Foreboding (n/adj) – a feeling that something bad will happen. "Those clouds look foreboding, I think it will rain." "  
By and large (exp) – largely, mostly, mainly, everything considered, on the whole  
What's more (det) – in addition, supplementary, alternative, to a greater extent  
GDP – Gross Domestic Product – the total value of goods produced and services provided in a country during one year  
Undernutrition (n) – insufficient vitamins and minerals to maintain health, whereas *malnutrition* can refer to both undernutrition and overnutrition  
Coax (v) – gently and persistently persuade (someone/thing) to do something "he coaxed the cat out of the tree with a piece of fish."



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## Grammar

Keeping with the theme of 'positivity,' it is common with native speakers to express or exaggerate a response to something. For example, your weekend might have been 'Fantastic' or 'absolutely amazing' in place of 'good.' This mode of expression can make a second language speaker sound much more comfortable and fluent with English. How can you achieve this? Two simple areas to focus on would be: extreme adjectives and modifiers.

- Brainstorm some extreme adjectives

What is a modifier? A modifier changes, clarifies, qualifies or limits a particular word in order to add emphasis, explanation or detail. Modifiers tend to be descriptive words, such as adjectives and adverbs.

- Brainstorm some modifiers

Describe the following scenarios with a partner and try to use the above language to build your description

Your weekend | A personal hero | a good place to eat/drink | a holiday | your own idea

## Writing

Write a short article/story/blog post detailing the changes from your Grandparents generation to your own and how you think the world will change in the future.

## Project

Create your own infographics using the free tool at <https://adioma.com/> then present to your group. You can research statistics and data at [www.ourworldindata.org](http://www.ourworldindata.org) , [www.world-statistics.org](http://www.world-statistics.org) , with a simple google search or by asking friends and family questions. Think of a comparative topic in the following:

Men and women | Young and old | Technology | Alcohol consumption | How we spend our free time  
Your own idea