

M5U3 First Impressions

Reading





Free Talk

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What changes do you expect to see in your future life?

(You are supposed to choose two of the following aspects to make a comparison between Present Time and In One Thousand Years' Time.)

	Present Time	In One Thousand Years' Time
Transport		
Work		
Finance and currency		
Languages		
Environment		
Education		
Houses		
Communication		

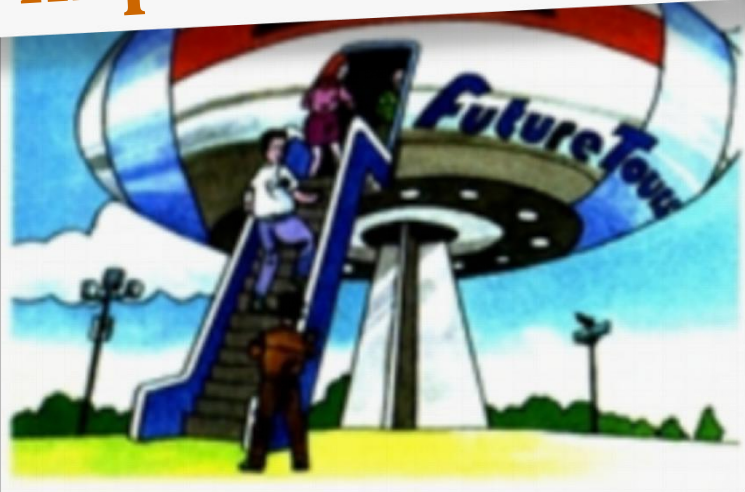
I guess...Maybe...
Perhaps...It is likely that...

Good Changes? or
Bad Changes?

Li Qiang was lucky enough to make a journey to experience the future life. Try to describe the journey with the pictures and the given words.

- capsule; opening; take off; constant flashbacks
- jet; fasten; safety belt; mask
- strange-looking house; surroundings; transparent

What was Li Qiang's journey actually like? What first impressions did he have about the future life? (Good? Or bad?)



Unit 3 Life in the future

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Spacemail: liqiang299A@GreatAdventureSpaceStation.com

15/11/3008 (Earthtime)

Dear Mum and Dad,

I still cannot believe that I am taking up this prize that I won last year. I have to remind myself constantly that I am really in AD 3008. ...

...Exhausted, I slid into bed and fell fast asleep.

More news later from your loving son,

Li Qiang

Li Qiang wrote a spacemail to his parents in AD 3008, telling his first impressions about the future life.



Jigsaw Reading(互补阅读)

Group 1

1. What did he experience on his journey to the future?
2. How did he describe his first impressions about them?

Group 2

1. What difficulties did he meet?
2. How did he overcome them?

Group 3

1. What changes did he see in the future?
2. How did he feel about the changes?

Group 4

1. What was the most significant change of the future house?
2. What bad changes would probably occur?

Group 1

1. What did he experience on his journey to the future?
2. How did he describe his first impressions about them?

His first impression about time travel: unbelievable / amazing

His first impressions	His feelings (descriptive words)
	cannot believe/worried/unsettled for the first few days/suffer from “time leg”/keep getting flashbacks/nervous and uncertain at first/settled with some green tablets from Wang Ping(Para.1)
Time travel (Para.2)	sit in comfortable seats/sleepy after a calming drink/lie relaxed and dreaming in the swinging capsule (Para.2)
Air quality (Para.3)	
Transport (Para.3)	
Towns (Para.3)	
Houses (Para.4)	

Group 2

1. What difficulties did he meet?
2. How did he overcome them?

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His first impression about air quality: intolerant (tolerate).

His first impression about transport: high technological .

His first impression about towns: busy, like markets .

At first my new surroundings were difficult to tolerate. The air seemed thin, as though its combination of gases had little oxygen left. Hit by a lack of fresh air, my head ached. Just as I tried to make the necessary adjustment to this new situation, Wang Ping appeared. "Put on this mask," he advised. "It'll make you feel much better." He handed it to me and immediately hurried me through to a small room nearby for a rest. I felt better in no time. Soon I was back on my feet again and following him to collect a hovering carriage driven by computer. These carriages float above the ground and by bending or pressing down in your seat, you can move swiftly. Wang Ping fastened my safety belt and showed me how to use it. Soon I could fly as fast as him. However, I lost sight of Wang Ping when we reached what looked like a large market because of too many carriages flying by in all directions. He was swept up into the centre of them. Just at that moment I had a "time lag" flashback and saw the area again as it had been in the year AD 2008. I realized that I had been transported into the future of what was still my hometown! Then I caught sight of Wang Ping again and flew after him.

Group 3

1. What changes did he see in the future?
2. How did he feel about the changes?

a *DIFFERENCES* list

1. the poor quality of the air
2. a mask to give him enough oxygen
3. a hovering carriage
4. having a “time lag” experience
5. a strange-looking house that belonged to Wang Ping’s parents
6. trees that acted as walls and provided oxygen for the room
7. tables, chair and a bed that were stored under the floor

**Mixed
feelings.**

Group 4

1. What was the most significant change of the future house?
2. What bad changes would probably occur?

☒ Poor air quality
☒ Short of living space

☒ Disorganized transport
☒ Easy to get lost in towns

His first impression about houses: environmentally friendly (environment).

Arriving at a strange-looking house, he showed me into a large, bright clean room. It had a green wall, a brown floor and soft lighting. Suddenly the wall moved - it was made of trees! I found later that their leaves provided the room with much-needed oxygen. Then Wang Ping flashed a switch on a computer screen, and a table and some chairs rose from under the floor as if by magic. "Why not sit down and eat a little?" he said. "You may find this difficult as it is your first time travel trip. Just relax, since there is nothing planned on the timetable today. Tomorrow you'll be ready for some visits." Having said this, he spread some food on the table, and produced a bed from the floor. After he left, I had a brief meal and a hot bath. Exhausted, I slid into bed and fell fast asleep.



Discussion

1. According to *First Impressions*, what will the future life be like? (Good Changes and Bad changes)
2. How can we achieve a balance between these good and bad changes? Or what preparations can we make to lead a balanced future life?

What preparations can we make to lead a balanced future life?

plant more trees... make full use of... (save energy)
find new energy... live in a green/ low-carbon way
live in an environmentally friendly way (walk/take a bus/ride...)
refuse to buy products causing pollution
set a good example for...
raise people's awareness of protecting...
make ads to call on/ appeal to people to...
reuse/recycle/reconsider...



One small step together can make a huge difference.