UNIT 08. The Future is Now (Lesson2)

- Idioms about the future & tech
- Certainly about the future
- Discussion questions
- Review

1. Idioms about the future & tech

(1) behind the times

- My friend is **behind the times**. He was using the same phone for twelve years. He needs to **get with the times.**
- Companies that fall **behind the times** usually don't last very long.

(2) cutting edge

- I heard she got a job with a really **cutting edge** tech company.
- I got new laptop that's on the **cutting edge**. It's really powerful.

(3) bells and whistles

- The laptop has got all the **bells and whistles**, a DVD player, widescreen and the latest software.
- I prefer to get something without all the **bells and whistles**, the final cost is much cheaper.

(4) pull the plug

- The company **pulled the plug** on the deal. They couldn't accept the new conditions.
- We decided to **pull the plug** on buying the new house, there was no way we could afford the repayments.

(5) Kick the bucket

- Before I **kick the bucket** I would like to go on a world tour.
- He **kicked the bucket** before he could really achieve what he wanted to achieve.
- Going skydiving is **on my bucket list.**

2. Certainty about the future

(1) Degrees of certainty

- Less certain
- More certain
- Very certain

- I **might** hang out with friends.
- I **could** hang out with friends.
- I **should** hang out with friends.
- I **will / am going to** hang out with friends.

* Remember present progressive can describe future situations.

(2) Practice

- The class starts in 10 minutes. Who is coming?

  - Josie texted that she's on the way.
  - Josie **should** come. / should be coming.

  -Nancy never misses classes.
  -Nancy **will** come. / will be coming.

  -Andy comes about half the time.
  -Andy **might** come / might be coming.

(3) Discussing future goals

- What **milestones** are you looking forward to in the future?
  - Get my first pet
  - Learn to swim
  - Get married
  - Big trip abroad
  - Buy a house
  - Have child
  - Be a grandparent

- I **should** have children in the next 5 years.
- I **might** buy a house in the next 10 years.
- I **could** go on a trip abroad in the next year.
- It's **on my bucket list.**
- I'm **looking forward** to getting my first pet.
- I'm **expecting** that buying a house will **be good.**
- I'm **anticipating** that I will have a child.

3. Discussion questions

Q: What future event are you most looking forward to?

I was really **looking forward** to a trip to Malta & Italy. But we decided to **pull the plug** on the trip to Malta because my Dad said he can't come. I'm worried though because I really want to take him back to his hometown in Malta before he **kicks the bucket**. He **should** be coming with me to Malta next year though.

Q: Do you know anyone who is behind the times?

My best friend from my high school days, still drives a car from the 1970's. He also had a mobile phone for more than 10 years. Needless to say he is **behind the times.** But to be honest he's quite happy not to **get with the times**. He's happy the way he is so he **might** get a new phone if the phone he has now breaks.

Q: If you could have some of the latest cutting edge technology, which products would you choose?

If I could have the latest **cutting edge** tech, I would choose a really light laptop with all the **bells and whistles.** I use it for work all the time so for me that would be perfect. I **should be getting** a new laptop in the next 6 months or so anyway.