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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/01/15

## Back to the Future: "Great Scott Marty, it's 2015!"

Back to the Future: "Great Scott Marty, it's 2015!" Movie fans will no doubt remember the cult comedy classic 'Back to the Future II' movie starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd. In it, Marty McFly and his famous sidekick 'Doc' Brown go forward in time to 2015!

In the real world we are now in 2015, so just how much did the movie-makers of 1989 get right in their futuristic vision of 2015? Well, there are flying cars in 2015, including the Slovak AeroMobil 3.0 – prototype and the US Terrafugia. These cars remain for the few and rich and are still extremely limited.

As for hoverboards, once again they do exist in a limited way, using magnetic fields to create the hover. Some things the movie did get right, for example, in the movie Marty McFly speaks to his colleagues on a video call. Today we use Skype and flat screen TVs or tablets.

The characters in the movie answered calls with glasses – a bit like how Google Glass is used today. We also saw a small dehydrated pizza growing into a full sized pizza – possibly from a futuristic microwave. The movie predicted 3D films and a Jaws 19. Popular movies today do tend to have never ending follow-on movies.

The movie did over emphasise fax machines, which are hardly used today. (Some banks do still use them!) The movie also missed what all of us now use – mobile phones and tablets as well as the internet and email.

Fans of the movie are waiting for October 21, 2015. This is the date on the clock in the DeLorean sports car that when it hit 88mph turned it into a time machine that sent Marty and the Doc forward to 2015!

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three characters from the movie Back to the Future. Who are they? Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Name the movie.
- 2) Name the two main characters in the movie.
- 3) Who still uses what?
- 4) What is a hoverboard? Explain.
- 5) What is a flying car? Explain.

#### Student B questions

- 1) What is a microwave meal? Explain.
- 2) What is a fax machine? Explain.
- 3) What is a DeLorean sports car? Explain.
- 4) What happens on October 21 2015?
- 5) Name the actors.

Back to the Future time machine clock:  
<http://www.october212015.com/>

**Category: Film / Back to the Future II / 2015**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

Back to the Future – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with 'Back to the Future'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs / As a class - Back to the Future II' - Briefly, talk about the storyline.*

Now choose three things from this movie that were right and wrong about life in 2015 today. Write them below. Were the movie-makers right in their vision? Talk about them!

**Things they got right... and wrong...**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.*

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 2**

*Student A* is Emmett "Doc" Brown. *Student B* is Marty McFly. The Doc is going to transport you both back to 1955 in his DeLorean sports car. The 'Doc' will explain to you how he and you will do this! Discuss together! *5 mins.*

**DISCUSSION**

**Student A questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you seen the movie 'Back to the Future II'? Explain.
- 3) Would you like to travel forward or backwards in time? Explain.
- 4) Do you visit the cinema a lot?
- 5) What was the last movie you watched at the cinema?
- 6) What was the last movie you watched online?
- 7) When did you last use a fax machine?
- 8) When did you last see a fax machine in use? Where?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1**

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in Hollywood. Today's interview is about: *Back to the Future: "Great Scott Marty, it's 2015!"*

- 1) Emmett "Doc" Brown.
- 2) Marty McFly.
- 3) A flying car owner.
- 4) A movie fan.

*The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.*

**SPEAKING - DISCUSSION 1**

*Allow 10 minutes – As a class.*

*Discuss the following...*

Back to the Future I, II, III

Briefly what happened in each?

*The teacher can moderate the session.*

**SPEAKING – DISCUSSION 2**

*In pairs – As a class – Following on from DISCUSSION 1* choose a year you might like to travel forward or back to in a DeLorean sports car! **1955, 1985, 2015, 2045, 1885?** *Why this year? 3 mins.*

**DISCUSSION**

**Student B questions**

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you like to ride in a flying car?
- 3) Are you any good at hoverboarding?
- 4) Do you eat many microwave meals? Why?
- 5) What do you think of the 'Doc' and Marty McFly?
- 6) Would you like to drive a DeLorean sports car?
- 7) How rare is a DeLorean sports car?
- 8) What was your favourite part of any of the Back to the Future movies?
- 9) Think of three things we do today that we did differently in 1985.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Back to the Future: "Great Scott Marty, it's 2015!"**

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In the real world we are now in 2015, so just how much did the movie-makers of 1989 get right in their futuristic (3)\_\_\_ of 2015? Well, there are flying cars in 2015, including the Slovak AeroMobil 3.0 – (4)\_\_\_ and the US Terrafugia. These cars remain for the few and rich and are still extremely limited.

As for (5)\_\_\_, once again they do exist in a limited way, using magnetic fields to create the (6)\_\_\_ . Some things the (7)\_\_\_ did get right, for example, in the movie Marty McFly speaks to his (8)\_\_\_ on a video call. Today we use Skype and flat screen TVs or tablets.

**colleagues / movie / cult / hover / sidekick / hoverboards / vision / prototype**

The (1)\_\_\_ in the movie answered calls with glasses – a bit like how Google Glass is used today. We also saw a small (2)\_\_\_ pizza growing into a full sized pizza – possibly from a futuristic (3)\_\_\_ . The movie predicted 3D films and a Jaws 19. Popular movies today do tend to have never ending follow-on movies.

The movie did over (4)\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_, which are hardly used today. (Some banks do still use them!) The movie also missed what all of us now use – mobile phones and (6)\_\_\_ as well as the internet and email.

(7)\_\_\_ of the movie are waiting for October 21, 2015. This is the date on the clock in the (8)\_\_\_ sports car that when it hit 88mph turned it into a time machine that sent Marty and the Doc forward to 2015!

**dehydrated / fax machines / fans / tablets / characters / DeLorean / emphasise / microwave**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

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As (5)\_\_\_ hoverboards, once again they do exist in a limited way, using magnetic fields to create the hover. Some things the movie did get right, for example, in the movie Marty McFly speaks to his colleagues (6)\_\_\_ a video call. Today (7)\_\_\_ use Skype and flat screen TVs (8)\_\_\_ tablets.

**we / in / or / for / his / on / it / and**

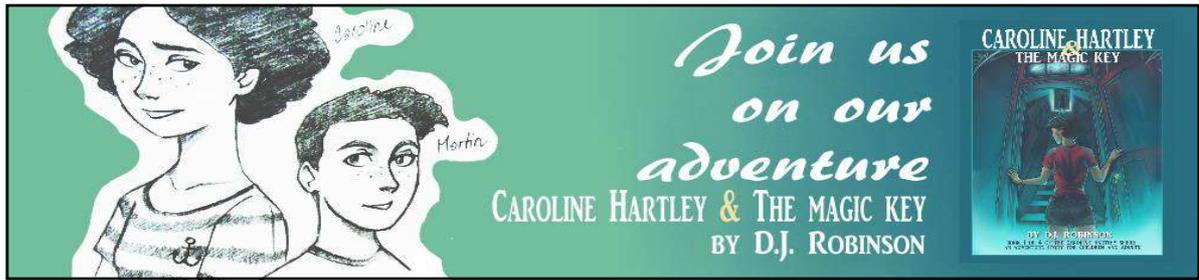
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**when / over / also / into / still / which / that / with**

## Back to the Future – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board – Great Scott! Let's travel forward in time to 2045!** - *In pairs*, list your five predictions about living in 2045. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Back to the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Marty \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) October 21 2015 \_\_\_\_\_

**3) In class** - Write 50 words about: **Back to the Future IV – 2045!** Your work can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Back to the Future IV – 2045!** Your email can be read out in class.

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) hoverboards
- 2) characters
- 3) magnetic
- 4) dehydrated
- 5) microwave
- 6) popular
- 7) emphasise
- 8) which
- 9) tend
- 10) still

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) DeLorean
- 12) futuristic
- 13) cult
- 14) comedy
- 15) classic
- 16) prototype
- 17) colleagues
- 18) hover
- 19) sidekick
- 20) vision

Back to the Future – *10<sup>th</sup> January 2015*