Lesson 35: Our Future

Hi! Welcome to the Article Discussion lesson!
Today’s topic is about “Our Future”
Have fun learning English!

Activity 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

Vocabulary

- **unpredictable** – that cannot be predicted
- **captivate** – to attract and hold the attention of (someone) by being interesting, pretty, etc.
- **fathom** – understand something after much thought
- **predestination** – the belief that everything that will happen has already been decided by God or fate and cannot be changed
- **theology** – the study of religious faith, practice, and experience
- **burden** – a heavy load that you carry
Directions: Read the article aloud with your teacher.

Our Future

Since time immemorial, human beings have been enthralled with the notion of future and what it has in store for us. The unpredictable outcomes of our decisions captivate the human mind in an everlasting attempt to figure out what the future will bring.

The evolution altered the quality of human life dramatically, and we can hardly fathom where it will take us down the line. The domino effect of our decisions can be both devastating and astonishing. It is a foregone conclusion that obsessing over possible ramifications of every single action can have a destructive effect on us.

There is also a widespread belief that our life trajectory is predestined, and that all our actions will lead to one single outcome. Predestination, in theology, is extremely controversial, since on the one hand God has everything planned out for you, but on the other hand you were granted with free will, which allows you to be the master of your own destiny.

Whatever the case, future is unpredictable, and the best thing we can do is live in the here and now. We must bear in mind that our cultural heritage, our stories, and our tradition is what we bequeath to those who will come after us, and we can only hope that it will not be too great of a burden for them to carry.
Activity 3 | Question and Answer

**Directions**: Answer these questions about the article.

1. Why are people trying to find out what the future will bring?

2. What is domino effect?

3. How can thinking about the future be destructive?

4. What is predestination?

5. What should be our attitude towards the future according to this article?
Activity 4 | Summary

**Directions:** Make a summary of this article, focusing on the main topic. After that, your teacher will give you an example of the summary.
Activity 5 | Thoughts

Directions: Check the following quote and share your opinion with your teacher:

“The future is not yours to see.”

1. How do you understand this quote? Do you agree with the writer? Why?

2. What would our lives look like if we could predict the future?

3. Do you believe some people, such as clairvoyants, can do that?
Activity 6 | Free Conversation

Directions: Answer these questions related to the topic of the article. Have a free conversation about it with your teacher.

1. How do you want your future to be?

2. How do you make decisions for the betterment of your future?

3. Have you ever gone to a fortuneteller?

4. Do you believe in fortunetellers?

5. Do you think your past will influence your future?

6. What is your opinion on the topic of predestination? What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a belief?

7. What are the pros and cons of living in the moment?

8. "Just remember - when you think all is lost, the future remains." What is your opinion about this statement? How important are our expectations for the future? Is it possible to be grateful for being alive, no matter what happens?

9. The idea of time travel has existed for centuries. How do you think such a discovery would change the world? If you could time travel, where would you go?

10. "The past is only an imaginary time or experience that is used to teach us lessons for the future. The future is where you apply the lessons of the past." How often do you think human beings learn from their mistakes? Is it possible for us to perceive time as an imaginary time or experience that is used to teach us lessons for the future?