



# Things Humans Can't Do... Yet (C2)

## A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- 1.If you could add one ability to humans, what would it be-and why?
- 2. Would you consider getting a brain implant in your lifetime?
- 3. Which science-fiction idea feels closest to reality now?
- 4. Is longer life always a good thing? Explain.
- **5.**What 'impossible' skill would change your job the most?

### **B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

Match up as many words and meanings as you can. (Definitions are shuffled.)

1. extrapolate	a.	to improve a natural ability with technology
2. telepathy	b.	to grow back a lost or damaged part
3. bioluminescence	c.	to rise or float in the air
4. hibernate	d.	to make food from sunlight, like plants
5. photosynthesize	e.	to bend or twist (often space or time in fiction)
6. regenerate	f.	the capacity to feel and be conscious
7. levitate	g.	producing light from a living body
8. quantum	h.	communication by directly reading thoughts
9. warp	i.	to predict by extending known information
10. augment	j.	to sleep for a long period to save energy
11. longevity	k.	long life or a long time of good health
12. sentience	l.	relating to the smallest physical levels of energy



# Reading

Edges of the Possible

The future rarely grants miracles; it offers trade-offs that feel like them

- 1. Humans can't photosynthesize, regrow lost limbs, or survive months of deep hibernation—but that doesn't stop science from trying to push the limits. Gene editing is already repairing certain genetic mutations, and researchers are cautiously exploring ways to help the body regenerate damaged tissues. While nature sets boundaries, biology can be surprisingly creative when pressured by need. New technologies, such as human–machine interfaces, aim to expand our abilities without replacing what makes us human. Often, the most meaningful breakthroughs come not from miracles, but from clever tools that work within our limits.
- 2. Connections between the brain and machines once seemed like pure science fiction. Today, small implants allow some people to move a computer cursor simply by thinking about it. While true telepathy is still far away, researchers are working on ways to silently "text" thoughts or detect emotions through subtle brain signals. These innovations could transform communication, especially for people who have lost the ability to speak. Here too, the goal is not to erase our limits entirely, but to design tools that work alongside human biology.
- 3. Physics also sets hard limits, but creative solutions often emerge. We won't be warping space-time in a classroom any time soon, but quantum sensors can detect incredibly tiny changes in the environment. This makes it possible to navigate without GPS satellites or measure shifts in the Earth's magnetic field with stunning accuracy. These advances show that even when rules of nature seem fixed, human ingenuity can find ways to work around them.





## COMPREHENSION

- 1. What are some natural abilities humans don't have but scientists study?
- 2. How is gene editing being used in current research?
- 3. What can brain implants allow users to do today?
- 4. Why might emotion-detecting technology be useful?
- 5. How could quantum sensors help with navigation?

### **VOCABULARY REVIEW**

<b>1.</b> Researchers future outcomes from today's data.		
<b>2.</b> Some deep-sea creatures use to attract prey.		
<b>3.</b> Doctors hope to help patients damaged tissue.		
<b>4.</b> Science fiction imagines ships that space.		
<b>5.</b> Engineers try to human vision with smart lenses.		
<b>6.</b> Bears during winter to save energy.		
<b>7.</b> Debates about AI often center on and rights.		
<b>8.</b> A computer behaves differently from a normal one.		
<b>9.</b> We can't without outside forces-yet.		
<b>10.</b> Plants sunlight to make food.		

## **GRAMMAR REVIEW - ADVANCED CONDITIONALS & INVERSION**

<b>1.</b> Were limb regeneration possible, post-surgery recovery times (drop)
dramatically.
<b>2.</b> Had early trials succeeded, the therapy (reach) patients by now.
3.If quantum sensors (become) affordable, cities would change their infrastructure.
<b>4.</b> Should brain implants (prove) safe, regulation will still lag.
5.If humans (hibernate) safely, how would work and travel change?
<b>6.</b> Had researchers (discover) a simple method, costs would have fallen.
7. Were we to (synthesize) chlorophyll in humans, what ethical issues arise?
8.If society (accept) augmentation widely, who gets access first?
<b>9.</b> Had privacy laws been stronger, data misuse (decrease).
<b>0.</b> Should progress (stall), what abilities remain purely fictional?

### **DISCUSSION**

- 1. Which 'impossible' ability should be researched first, and why?
- 2. Where is the red line for human augmentation?
- **3.**How can we test risky ideas without harming people?
- **4.**Which fiction got closest to predicting real science?





# **CRITICAL THINKING**

Choose one 'impossible' ability. Outline the biology or physics that blocks it, the current research path, and a realistic near-term substitute.

