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Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

**The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**

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## **2011 to be best year ever**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

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1st January, 2011

# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

Futurologists and experts who study New Year's resolutions predict 2011 will be the best year ever for many people. This is welcome news for the billions around the world who hope this year will be better than last year. 2011 will see more people lifted out of poverty and there will be a greater number of people with access to computers. One expert looked forward to new developments that will help the environment. California will open the world's largest solar power plant and several electric cars will go on sale, including the much-awaited Tesla. It's going to be a great year if you study English. There will be more cool websites and applications for students to brush up on spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

It seems more of us will keep our New Year's resolutions this year. According to a New Year's Day poll, the top resolution is to spend more quality time with family and friends. This means talking to them rather than being on the phone or texting messages in front of them. The second most popular thing we will resolve to do is get fitter. Experts say many of us could keep this promise well into February before giving up. We usually forget about this resolution in mid-January. Other top plans include quitting smoking, getting out of debt and helping others. Of course, studying English more featured high on many people's lists. Make 2011 your best ever year and stick to your resolutions.

# WARM-UPS

**1. 2011:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about 2011. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*futurologists / experts / New Year / resolutions / environment / applications / spelling / quality time / texting / get fitter / promises / quitting smoking / helping others*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. RESOLUTIONS:** What are yours? Complete this table and share it with your partner(s). Change partners and share again.

	Why?	Chances of success?
Study		
Family & friends		
Health		
Money		
Habits		
Other		

**4. 2011:** Students A **strongly** believe 2011 will be the best ever year; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. PREDICTIONS:** What are your for this year? Make some about these topics and share them with your partner. Change partners and share your and their predictions again.

- money
- sport
- war
- my English
- technology
- environment
- weather
- my country

**6. BEST:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'best'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. People who study the future predicted this year will be great.           | T / F |
| b. More poor people will no longer be poor.                                 | T / F |
| c. One expert predicted very bad things for the environment.                | T / F |
| d. A new solar-powered car called the Tesla will go on sale.                | T / F |
| e. The most common New Year's resolution is to save more money.             | T / F |
| f. Many of us will try not to text or use mobile phones when with family.   | T / F |
| g. Experts believe many people will keep resolutions to get fit until June. | T / F |
| h. Studying English more is an important resolution for many people.        | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. experts     | a. anticipated  |
| 2. predict     | b. appeared     |
| 3. access to   | c. specialists  |
| 4. awaited     | d. survey       |
| 5. brush up on | e. forecast     |
| 6. poll        | f. instead of   |
| 7. rather than | g. improve      |
| 8. resolve     | h. (the) use of |
| 9. featured    | i. keep         |
| 10. stick to   | j. decide       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. This is welcome                        | a. applications               |
| 2. a greater number of people with access | b. will resolve to do         |
| 3. the world's largest solar              | c. of debt                    |
| 4. cool websites and                      | d. our New Year's resolutions |
| 5. brush up                               | e. to computers               |
| 6. It seems more of us will keep          | f. on spelling                |
| 7. spend more quality                     | g. news                       |
| 8. The second most popular thing we       | h. time with family           |
| 9. many of us could                       | i. power plant                |
| 10. getting out                           | j. keep this promise          |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Futurologists and experts who study New Year's resolutions \_\_\_\_\_ 2011 will be the best year ever for many people. This is \_\_\_\_\_ news for the billions around the world who hope this year will be better than last year. 2011 will see more people \_\_\_\_\_ out of poverty and there will be a greater number of people with \_\_\_\_\_ to computers. One expert \_\_\_\_\_ forward to new developments that will help the environment. California will open the world's largest solar power \_\_\_\_\_ and several electric cars will go on sale, including the much-awaited Tesla. It's going to be a great year if you study English. There will be more \_\_\_\_\_ websites and applications for students to \_\_\_\_\_ up on spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

*access*

*cool*

*lifted*

*brush*

*predict*

*plant*

*looked*

*welcome*

It \_\_\_\_\_ more of us will keep our New Year's resolutions this year. According to a New Year's Day \_\_\_\_\_, the top resolution is to spend more \_\_\_\_\_ time with family and friends. This means talking to them rather than being on the phone or texting messages in \_\_\_\_\_ of them. The second most popular thing we will resolve to do is \_\_\_\_\_ fitter. Experts say many of us could keep this promise well into February before \_\_\_\_\_ up. We usually forget about this resolution in mid-January. Other top plans include quitting smoking, getting out of \_\_\_\_\_ and helping others. Of course, studying English more featured high on many people's lists. Make 2011 your best ever year and \_\_\_\_\_ to your resolutions.

*quality*

*debt*

*seems*

*get*

*stick*

*poll*

*giving*

*front*

## **LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

Futurologists and experts who study New Year's \_\_\_\_\_  
be the best year ever for many people. This \_\_\_\_\_ the  
billions around the world who hope this year will be better than last year.  
2011 will see more people \_\_\_\_\_ and there will be a  
greater number of people with access to computers. One expert looked  
forward to new developments that will help the environment. California will  
open the world's largest solar power \_\_\_\_\_ cars will go  
on sale, \_\_\_\_\_ Tesla. It's going to be a great year if  
you study English. There will be more cool websites and applications for  
\_\_\_\_\_ spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

It \_\_\_\_\_ keep our New Year's resolutions this year.  
According to a New Year's Day poll, the top resolution is to spend  
\_\_\_\_\_ family and friends. This means talking to them  
rather than being on the phone or texting messages in front of them. The  
second most popular thing \_\_\_\_\_ is get fitter. Experts  
say many of us could keep \_\_\_\_\_ February before  
giving up. We usually forget about this resolution in mid-January. Other top  
plans include quitting smoking, \_\_\_\_\_ and helping  
others. Of course, studying English more featured high on many people's  
lists. Make 2011 your best ever \_\_\_\_\_ resolutions.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'best' and 'year'.

<b>best</b>	<b>year</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• predict</li><li>• billions</li><li>• lifted</li><li>• help</li><li>• sale</li><li>• brush</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• seems</li><li>• quality</li><li>• second</li><li>• get</li><li>• top</li><li>• stick</li></ul>
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# STUDENT 2011 SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

Write five GOOD questions about 2011 in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## 2011 DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the year '2011'?
- c) What do you think 2011 will be like?
- d) Do you like the New Year period?
- e) How do you usually celebrate a new year arriving?
- f) Do you make / keep New Year's resolutions?
- g) How could 2011 be the best year ever?
- h) Do you think more people will be lifted from poverty?
- i) What's your prediction for the environment for 2011?
- j) Are you going to study English more this year? How?

*2011 to be best year ever - 1st January, 2011*  
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## 2011 DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Are you going to try and spend more quality time with family and friends?
- c) Does your mobile phone get in the way of being with family and friends?
- d) Do you need to get fitter?
- e) Why do so many of us not keep our New Year's resolutions?
- f) What resolutions should your country make?
- g) What will you do to make 2011 a great year?
- h) Do we need mid-year resolutions too?
- i) How was 2010 for you?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the futurologists?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

Futurologists and experts who study New Year's resolutions predict 2011 will be the best year ever for many people. This is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ news for the billions around the world who hope this year will be better than last year. 2011 will see more people lifted (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of poverty and there will be a greater number of people with access (3) \_\_\_\_\_ computers. One expert looked forward to new developments that will help the environment. California will open the world's largest solar power (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and several electric cars will go (5) \_\_\_\_\_ sale, including the much-awaited Tesla. It's going to be a great year if you study English. There will be more cool websites and applications for students to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ up on spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

It seems more of us will (7) \_\_\_\_\_ our New Year's resolutions this year. According to a New Year's Day poll, the top resolution is to spend more quality time with family and friends. This means talking to them (8) \_\_\_\_\_ than being on the phone or texting messages in front of them. The second most popular thing we will resolve to do is get fitter. Experts say many of us could keep this promise (9) \_\_\_\_\_ into February before (10) \_\_\_\_\_ up. We usually forget about this resolution in mid-January. Other top plans include quitting smoking, getting (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of debt and helping others. Of course, studying English more featured high on many people's lists. Make 2011 your best ever year and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to your resolutions.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |            |                |             |
|-----|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) greetings | (b) hello  | (c) salutation | (d) welcome |
| 2.  | (a) up        | (b) out    | (c) into       | (d) away    |
| 3.  | (a) to        | (b) at     | (c) of         | (d) from    |
| 4.  | (a) flower    | (b) tree   | (c) plant      | (d) shrub   |
| 5.  | (a) in        | (b) at     | (c) on         | (d) of      |
| 6.  | (a) vacuum    | (b) brush  | (c) sweep      | (d) clean   |
| 7.  | (a) keep      | (b) be     | (c) depend     | (d) drive   |
| 8.  | (a) instead   | (b) prefer | (c) over       | (d) rather  |
| 9.  | (a) good      | (b) well   | (c) fine       | (d) OK      |
| 10. | (a) taking    | (b) saving | (c) getting    | (d) giving  |
| 11. | (a) in        | (b) up     | (c) out        | (d) over    |
| 12. | (a) stick     | (b) glue   | (c) bond       | (d) tape    |

# WRITING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110101-happy_new_year.html)

Write about **2011** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about how the world celebrated the arrival of 2011. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. 2011:** Make a poster about your hopes and fears for 2011. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. BEST EVER:** Write a magazine article about 2011. Include imaginary interviews with futurologists.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to a futurologist. Ask him/her three questions about 2011. Give him/her three of your predictions for this year. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. T      c. F      d. F      e. F      f. T      g. F      h. T

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. experts     | a. specialists  |
| 2. predict     | b. forecast     |
| 3. access to   | c. (the) use of |
| 4. awaited     | d. anticipated  |
| 5. brush up on | e. improve      |
| 6. poll        | f. survey       |
| 7. rather than | g. instead of   |
| 8. resolve     | h. decide       |
| 9. featured    | i. appeared     |
| 10. stick to   | j. keep         |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. This is welcome                        | a. news                       |
| 2. a greater number of people with access | b. to computers               |
| 3. the world's largest solar              | c. power plant                |
| 4. cool websites and                      | d. applications               |
| 5. brush up                               | e. on spelling                |
| 6. It seems more of us will keep          | f. our New Year's resolutions |
| 7. spend more quality                     | g. time with family           |
| 8. The second most popular thing we       | h. will resolve to do         |
| 9. many of us could                       | i. keep this promise          |
| 10. getting out                           | j. of debt                    |

## GAP FILL:

### 2011 to be best year ever

Futurologists and experts who study New Year's resolutions **predict** 2011 will be the best year ever for many people. This is **welcome** news for the billions around the world who hope this year will be better than last year. 2011 will see more people **lifted** out of poverty and there will be a greater number of people with **access** to computers. One expert **looked** forward to new developments that will help the environment. California will open the world's largest solar power **plant** and several electric cars will go on sale, including the much-awaited Tesla. It's going to be a great year if you study English. There will be more **cool** websites and applications for students to **brush** up on spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

It **seems** more of us will keep our New Year's resolutions this year. According to a New Year's Day **poll**, the top resolution is to spend more **quality** time with family and friends. This means talking to them rather than being on the phone or texting messages in **front** of them. The second most popular thing we will resolve to do is **get** fitter. Experts say many of us could keep this promise well into February before **giving** up. We usually forget about this resolution in mid-January. Other top plans include quitting smoking, getting out of **debt** and helping others. Of course, studying English more featured high on many people's lists. Make 2011 your best ever year and **stick** to your resolutions.

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d    2 - b    3 - a    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - a    8 - d    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a

2011 to be best year ever – 1st January, 2011