Classrooms of the Future

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What can you find in a classroom?

2. Would you prefer to study in a classroom or online?

3. How can technology help students?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

_____	1.	outdated	a)	on a screen, not physically real
_____	2.	experiment *(verb)*	b)	living inside a city
_____	3.	virtual	c)	a hole in the ground for soldiers to fight from
_____	4.	rural	d)	to try new things
_____	5.	urban	e)	a negative point
_____	6.	simulator	f)	a machine that recreates an experience
_____	7.	trench	g)	living outside a city
_____	8.	downside	h)	old, not modern

Reading

CLASSROOMS OF THE FUTURE

1. Traditional classrooms with blackboards and textbooks are quickly becoming **outdated**. More and more students are learning online or in classrooms that make use of technology.

2. Many classrooms already have Wi-Fi enabled devices. New and useful educational apps are also being created every day. Some teachers are already **experimenting** with game-based learning, 3D printing, and **virtual** field trips.

3. In the future, technology will allow more teachers to teach from anywhere. Also, students living in **rural** locations will have access to the same learning tools as their **urban** peers.

4. Just like pilots who learn how to fly using flight **simulators**, students will have opportunities to learn new skills with virtual simulation tools. Imagine learning about World War I from a virtual **trench**!

5. The **downside** of this useful technology is that it can be expensive. In order for public schools to benefit from new technology, governments will have to invest a lot of money into education.

Word Forms

The word "experiment" can be a *noun* or a *verb*.

- The **experiment** was a success. *(noun)*
- Leslie is **experimenting** with online learning. *(verb)*

Comprehension

A. Questions

Discuss these questions in pairs and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What kinds of classrooms are becoming outdated?
2. What do many classrooms already have?
3. What are some teachers already experimenting with?
4. How do pilots learn how to fly?
5. What is the downside of this useful technology?

B. Sorting

Look at the topics. Which paragraph in the reading
does each one belong to?

_____   A.   What is the downside to all this useful technology?

_____   B.   Which new technology is being used now?

_____   C.   Can students learn using simulators?

_____   D.   Why are some classrooms outdated?

_____   E.   Will teachers have to be in a classroom in order to teach?

Vocabulary Review

A. Word Choice

Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Raj had to travel 19 miles every day to get to school because he lived in a _____ town.

   a) rural
   b) outdated
   c) urban

2. His great-grandfather came to talk to the class about fighting in the _____ in World War I.

   a) simulator
   b) trenches
   c) downside

3. The expert gave a presentation in my class using _____ reality.

   a) outdated
   b) urban
   c) virtual

4. I try to _____ with different learning tools.

   a) simulate
   b) experiment
   c) invest in

5. Tina is moving to New York City because she wants to live in an _____ area.

   a) urban
   b) rural
   c) experiment

6. Medical students use _____ to practice operations.

   a) downsides
   b) simulators
   c) trenches

B. Opposites

Circle the word or phrase that means the **opposite** of each word from the reading.

1. outdated

   a) unavailable
   b) safe
   c) new

2. downside

   a) upside
   b) backside
   c) frontside

3. simulator

   a) failed experiment
   b) positive point
   c) real experience

4. virtual

   a) unacceptable
   b) risky
   c) real

5. urban

   a) intentional
   b) from the country
   c) in the classroom

6. rural

   a) from a city
   b) expensive
   c) outdated technology

Discussion

1. How are classrooms now different from when your parents were students?

2. Can students still succeed using outdated technology?

3. Which school subjects do you think are outdated?

4. Would you prefer to learn online or in a classroom?

5. If you could plan a virtual field trip, where would you go?

Class Survey

Walk around the class and ask your classmates the questions in the chart. Write their answers in the blank boxes.

How will school be different for students in the future?	How will school be the same for students in the future?	What makes a classroom a classroom?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

CLASSROOMS OF THE FUTURE

1. Traditional classrooms with blackboards and textbooks are
    quickly becoming __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ . More and more students
    are learning __ __ __ __ __ __ or in classrooms that make use
    of technology.

2. Many classrooms already have Wi-Fi enabled __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .
    New and useful educational apps are also being created every day.
    Some teachers are already experimenting with game-based
    learning, 3D printing, and __ __ __ __ __ __ __ field trips.

3. In the future, technology will allow more teachers to teach from
    anywhere. Also, students living in __ __ __ __ __ locations will have
    access to the same learning tools as their __ __ __ __ __ peers.

4. Just like pilots who learn how to fly using flight
    __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ , students will have opportunities to
    learn new skills with virtual simulation tools. Imagine learning about
    World War I from a virtual __ __ __ __ __ __ !

5. The __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ of this useful technology is that
    it can be expensive. In order for public schools to benefit from
    new technology, governments will have to invest a lot of money
    into __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about and discuss classrooms of the future. They review related word forms and survey their classmates about students of the future.

TEACHING TIPS:

See our Discussion Starters Teaching Guide (https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Low Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, classrooms, the future, word forms, technology, learning, school

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Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

1. h	3. a	5. b	7. c
2. d	4. g	6. f	8. e

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 6. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with. Discuss how the word *experiment* has different parts of speech. Ask your students throughout the lesson: *Is this a noun or a verb?*

Comprehension

A. QUESTIONS

1. Traditional classrooms with blackboards and textbooks are becoming outdated.
2. Many classrooms already have Wi-Fi enabled devices.
3. Some teachers are already experimenting with game-based learning, 3D printing, and virtual field trips.
4. Pilots learn to fly using flight simulators.
5. The downside of this useful technology is that it can be expensive.

B. SORTING

A. 5	B. 2	C. 4	D. 1	E. 3

Vocabulary Review

A. WORD CHOICE

1. a	2. b	3. c	4. b	5. a	6. b

B. OPPOSITES

1. c	2. a	3. c	4. c	5. b	6. a

Discussion

Answers will vary.
Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Answer Key cont.

Class Survey

Answers will vary. Encourage your students to give their own opinions and not only repeat what they learned in the reading task. You may need to explain the third question before they begin.

Listening

1. outdated, online
2. devices, virtual
3. rural, urban
4. simulators, trench
5. downside, education

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Practice.* Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Practise* (when used as a verb, *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.