THE METAVERSE

"When virtual reality gets cheaper than dating, society is doomed."

Scott Adams, American cartoonist

1. The Metaverse Discussion

1. What is the metaverse? What benefits will it bring? How will it change the way we communicate? Will it change our lives for the better or worse?

2. How will the metaverse change the way we work? How will it change the way companies conduct business? How about the way we shop?

3. How will the metaverse affect tourism? How do you imagine a virtual vacation would be? Where would you go? What would you do?

4. What regulations should there be for the metaverse? Who should be responsible for setting these regulations? Is it a good idea for a small number of private companies to have so much control over the metaverse?

5. In what ways might the metaverse be considered dangerous? Will the metaverse lead to a technological dystopian future?

6. How will the metaverse affect our perception of reality? How does social media already shape our reality today?

7. Are we already living fake lives today? Have humans already lost their grip on reality?

8. Will the metaverse lead to the creation of a new social class system based on our social media popularity?

2. The Metaverse Vocabulary

- **the metaverse** (noun) – *a virtual-reality space on the internet in which people interact with each other.*
- **virtual reality / VR** (noun) – *a computer-generated simulated experience that can be interacted with by a person using special equipment.*
- **augmented reality / AR** (noun) – *a computer-generated image superimposed on real-world objects to provide user interaction.*
- **avatar** (noun) – *the computer-generated representation of a user.*
- **virtual world** (noun) – *a computer-simulated world where people can enter as avatars and interact with each other.*
- **the real world** (noun) – *the world as it is, as opposed to a theoretical, simulated or idealistic world.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. In **the real world**, Gareth is a middle-aged accountant with a wife and two children, but in Second Life, he's a 21-year-old female rockstar.
2. Pokémon Go uses **augmented reality** technology so people can see Pokémon on the street through their mobile phone.
3. Thanks to the popularity of social media as a form of communication and doing business, we are, to a large extent, already living in **the metaverse** today.
4. Today, **virtual worlds** can be found in computer games; in the future, we may decide we would prefer to live in one instead of this world.
5. With nothing more than a **virtual reality** headset, you fly an F1 fighter jet or have a wild-west-style shootout with cowboys.
6. Your **avatar** can be whatever your imagination wants it to be. If you are short, it can be tall. If you are a man, it can be a woman. If you have blonde hair, it can have red hair.

The Metaverse vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Will humans live in the metaverse in the future? How would that work? To what extent are we already living in the metaverse?
2. Have you ever experienced virtual reality? How was it? What are the different ways we could use virtual reality, either today or in the future?
3. How could augmented reality be used to help in education, at work, or as entertainment?
4. Will avatars replace face-to-face human interaction in the future?
5. What kind of virtual world would you like to live in? How would you describe it? What would you do there?
6. Which people are not living in the real world?

3. Video: What Is The Metaverse?

You are going to watch a video by Reuters called "What is the 'metaverse'?"

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-metaverse/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Where are young people meeting each other in virtual worlds?

    a) South Korea   b) Milan   c) Germany

2. The metaverse refers to online spaces that allow people to interact better than in what?

    a) traditional parties   b) traditional meetings   **c) traditional websites**

3. What would you call a little cartoon of yourself in the metaverse?

    a) a character   **b) an avatar**   c) a mebot

4. The metaverse is the next stage in the development of what?

    a) social media   b) society   **c) the Internet**

Sentence completion

5. Facebook will employ **10,000** people in Europe to develop their metaverse plans.
6. Many companies and investors are **(getting) excited** about the potential of the metaverse.
7. Because of the global pandemic, people working at home or attending school remotely have been missing out on **human interaction**.
8. There is a demand for online spaces where people's interactions can be more multi-dimensional and **life-like**.

Short answer

9. Which cryptocurrency uses blockchain technology? **Bitcoin**
10. What kind of digital assets can people buy in Decentraland? **Clothes and land**
11. What are fashion brands experimenting with? **Virtual clothing**
12. At the moment, most online spaces look like the inside of what? **Video games**

4. The Metaverse Conversation Questions

1. Would you prefer to live in a virtual world rather than this one? Which people do you think would prefer to live in a virtual world?

2. What kind of jobs would we do in a virtual world?

3. How would humans act differently to each other in a virtual world? Would there be more or less violence, for example?

4. Should people be punished if they commit a crime or act in an unethical way in a virtual world?

5. How could virtual worlds be used to punish criminals?

6. Is there just one reality or many? How do the different world views that exist today determine which reality we live in?

7. Do poor people and rich people live in different realities? How are they different? Which reality is the most 'real'?

8. How do you know we are not already living in a simulated reality like in *The Matrix*? How would you be able to tell the difference? How do we know if anything is real?

5. The Metaverse Writing Task

Write about your opinion of the metaverse. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- The benefits of the metaverse.

- How the metaverse will change human interaction.

- The extent to which we are already living in the metaverse today.

Alternative exam practice question:

Technological advances mean that the creation of the metaverse is a matter of when, not if. Some people think this will bring untold benefits to society, while others warn it will have an adverse effect on the way humans interact with each other and on society in general. Which side do you agree with?