

# 18a How wrong can you be?

Jon Hird

1 The experts don't always get it right when it comes to predicting the future. Add *will* and one of the verbs in the box to the incomplete predictions.

not be able    be used    be (x3)    get  
reach    prove    work    go

1 'There is no reason why anyone would want a computer in their home.'

2 'The bomb \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ off. I speak as an expert in explosives.'

4 'The radio has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?'

5 'A jet engine, you say? Very interesting, my boy, but it \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_.'

7 'The telephone \_\_\_\_\_ to inform people that a telegram has been sent.'

9 'The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty.'

11 'There \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ a bigger plane built.'

13 'The abdomen, the chest, and the brain \_\_\_\_\_ forever \_\_\_\_\_ shut from the intrusion of the surgeon.'

3 'Television \_\_\_\_\_ to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People \_\_\_\_\_ soon \_\_\_\_\_ tired of staring at a wooden box every night.'

6 'We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.'

8 'There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy \_\_\_\_\_ ever \_\_\_\_\_ obtainable.'

10 'X-rays \_\_\_\_\_ to be a hoax.'

12 'Everything that can be invented has been invented.'

14 'Man \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, regardless of all future scientific advances.'

2 Can you match the predictions to who said them?

- a  Sir John Eric Ericksen, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria, 1873
- b  Decca Records rejecting the Beatles, 1962
- c  Admiral William Leahy, US Atomic Bomb Project, 1945
- d  David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urging investment in the radio, 1920
- e  The president of Michigan Savings Bank advising Horace Rachham (Henry Ford's lawyer) not to invest in the Ford Motor Co., 1903
- f  Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-born US scientist and inventor, 1877
- g  Ken Olson, president of Digital Equipment Corporation, 1977
- h  A Boeing engineer, after the first flight of the 247, a twin-engine plane that carried ten people
- i  Dr Lee de forest, inventor, 1967 (two years before man landed on the moon)
- j  Darryl F Zanuck, head of 20th Century Fox, 1946
- k  Albert Einstein, German-born US Physicist, 1932
- l  William Thomson, Lord Kelvin English scientist, 1899
- m  Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Cambridge, after being shown Frank Whittle's plan for the jet engine, 1930
- n  Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899