



THREE EXERCISES ON THE '80s AND '90s. . . AND ONE THAT GOES WAY BACK TO THE '60s

Exercise One

New Products of the 1980s...Where Would We Be Without Them?

New products are always hitting the market. Some never make it; others have such an impact that we can scarcely imagine what life was like without them.

The editors of Time-Life Books compiled a list of 30 new products that came on the market in the 1980s. We'll start you off by telling you three of them: cordless telephones, microwave pizza, and Rollerblades. How many of the 27 others can you come up with? (The complete list is on the back cover.)

Exercise Two

Just hit "Enter."

Back in 1980, the phrase "dot.com" would have sounded like random nonsense. There was no context for it. No one knew what a DVD or an e-trade was either.

A host of new words and phrases have come into everyday use since 1980. See if you can come up with 20 of them.

Exercise Three

It's an Eighties Thing . . . Or Maybe a Nineties Thing.

Mention the 1980s and certain things immediately come to mind: Running shoes or maybe MTV. And if we're talking about the 1990s, you might think "Internet" or "stock market."

As part of its "Celebrate the Century" series, the United States Postal Service issued two sets of stamps: one featured the public's picks for 15 memories of the 1980s; the other did the same for the 1990s.

Try to come up with your own list of commemorative images and events for the 1980s and 1990s – fifteen for each decade. Then compare your choices to the list of USPS stamps on the back cover.

Exercise Four

Way Back

For those of you interested in journeying even further back in time than 1980, the Newseum has developed a lesson plan called "1968: The Media and the Messages," which looks at many of the changes that have occurred since 1968. Although it's designed for middle school students, anyone can enjoy it.

<http://www.newseum.org/educationcenter/teachingtools/lessonplans.htm>