

the ARTICLE (for teachers)

The Last Decade

The decade has ended and the world now moves into the second decade of the twenty-first century.

An insatiable appetite for up-to-the-minute news fuels online media, resulting in fads churned out, adopted, and discarded at a breakneck pace. This is perhaps one reason that the English language still lacks a universally adopted term for the years between 2000 and 2009. No single idea has been picked up by enough people to go viral.

The last decade as a whole was quite bland. However, major exceptions include the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the devastated world economy. Yet not much of note has occurred which might adequately define the decade. For better or worse, the 90s had grunge music, the 80s had Reagonomics, and the 70s had disco. What has happened in the 2000s?

The lack of any particularly defining cultural moment also serves as a reason for the absence of a definite term. Some people call the decade the "aughties," which refers to zeros. Others call the decade the "zeroes" and the "2Ks." No single idea has stuck. Experts in the evolution of the English language, as well as other experts in pop culture, anticipate that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted. Which term it will be, though, is anyone's guess.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: **Vocabulary match:** Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	insatiable	q.	leaving out
b.	churn out	r.	produce quickly
c.	breakneck	s.	important
d.	bland	t.	extremely fast
e.	exception	u.	lack
f.	devastate	v.	destroy
g.	of note	w.	wanting
h.	adequate	x.	predict
i.	absence	y.	sufficient
j.	anticipate	z.	boring

2: **Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	breakneck	anticipate	adequately	insatiable	of note
	devastated	churned out	exceptions	absence	bland
a.	There is an () appetite for up-to-the-minute news.				
b.	Online media results in fads that are ().				
c.	The fads are adopted and discarded at a () pace.				
d.	The last decade as a whole was quite ()				
e.	Major () include the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the war in the Middle East.				
f.	There is the () world economy too.				
g.	Not much () has occurred in the last decade.				
h.	No event () defines the decade.				
i.	The lack of a defining moment also serves as a reason for the () of a definite term.				
j.	Experts () that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted.				

3: **Define:** Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	insatiable	c.	breakneck	e.	exception	g.	of note	i.	absence
b.	churn out	d.	bland	f.	devastate	h.	adequate	j.	anticipate

WORD RECOGNITION

1: **Word Search:** Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes, five minutes, or ten minutes.

breakneck	anticipate	adequately	insatiable	of note
devastated	churned out	exceptions	absence	bland
A Q M G U S X A E D P X V F S T N C L A J B B E D E J F R N Z V T G Q S H T S J A F Z S O O T I I E X A K D T D H Q R I B S U N C T Y E X S E C O I T G R C O S I I K I H Q T N A P G E E E D N P B B F U S N Q E F E V A D E T A T S A V E D C L E T U K R N V T T T T C T X D Q Q O I N D R I E E D K K E Y Y A S N I E A U J L N B N M S H Q M R F B C R H Y A R Z D W B G M V L O I K A C L E Q B Q D I F E T O N F F O B A S V O U T C H U R N E D T N K D P				

2: **Target Word Pool:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes, five minutes, or ten minutes.

breakneck	anticipate	adequately	insatiable	of note
devastated	churned out	exceptions	absence	bland
churn aberration notice exceptions instituted necking anticipated neck brace absented insoluble devastated blandly anticipation noted devastate inadequately exceptionally breakfast churned out absently noteworthy insatiable adequately blissful devoured adequate absence broken neck exception expectedly blind anticipate absent devastating sensational churned up devastation bland breakneck antiquated anticipating of note unanticipated expectation note churning up churning out blunt				

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1: Word Association: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3: True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	People in general are very hungry for news and information.	T / F
b.	Fads are perhaps one reason the decade hasn't been given a name.	T / F
c.	According to the article, the decade has been quite exciting	T / F
d.	According to the article, the next decade will be quite boring	T / F
e.	Experts believe they someone knows what the last decade will be called.	T / F

4: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What is one reason that the last decade doesn't have a name?
b.	Although the article calls the decade "bland," what exceptions are given?
c.	According to the article, what did the 80s have?
d.	According to the article, what did the 70s have?
e.	What are some terms used to describe the last decade?

5: Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	insatiable	c.	breakneck	e.	exceptions	g.	of note	i.	absence
b.	churned out	d.	bland	f.	devastated	h.	adequately	j.	anticipate

6: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	The decade has ended and the world now moves into...
b.	No single idea has been picked up...
c.	However, major exceptions include...
d.	Some people call the decade the "aughties," which...
e.	Which term it will be, though, is...

post-COMPREHENSION

1: Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	What do you think is the best term for the last decade?
d.	Is there a word or phrase commonly used in your native language for 2000 to 2009?
e.	Why do you think no term has been decided on yet?
f.	What major events happened in the world but weren't mentioned in the article? Please explain.
g.	What major events happened in your life during the last decade? Please explain.
h.	Because there were few defining cultural moments, will this decade be forgotten? Why/not?
i.	What can you say about past decades, like the 90s, 80s, 70s, or even earlier? Please explain.
j.	What do you predict for the next ten years?

5: Discuss: Discuss these major events of the last decade. Where were you at the time? What was your reaction? What has happened as a result since then? Be sure to support your answers.

9/11:
The War in Afghanistan and Iraq:
China's Economic Growth:
???:

6: Google Search: Type "decade" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

The Last Decade

The decade has ended and the world now moves into the second decade of the twenty-first century. An insatiable appetite for up-to-the-minute news fuels online media, resulting in fads churned out, adopted, and discarded at a breakneck pace. This is perhaps one reason that the English language still lacks a universally adopted term for the years between 2000 and 2009. No single idea has been picked up by enough people to go viral.

The last decade as a whole was quite bland. However, major exceptions include the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the devastated world economy. Yet not much of note has occurred which might adequately define the decade. For better or worse, the 90s had grunge music, the 80s had Reagonomics, and the 70s had disco. What has happened in the 2000s?

The lack of any particularly defining cultural moment also serves as a reason for the absence of a definite term. Some people call the decade the "aughties," which refers to zeros. Others call the decade the "zeroes" and the "2Ks." No single idea has stuck. Experts in the evolution of the English language, as well as other experts in pop culture, anticipate that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted. Which term it will be, though, is anyone's guess.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

worse	of note	particularly	breakneck	churned out
bland	anticipate	devastated	absence	evolution
adequately	insatiable	guess	century	exceptions

The Last Decade

The decade has ended and the world now moves into the second decade of the twenty-first (a. _____). An (b. _____) appetite for up-to-the-minute news fuels online media, resulting in fads (c. _____), adopted, and discarded at a (d. _____) pace. This is perhaps one reason that the English language still lacks a universally adopted term for the years between 2000 and 2009. No single idea has been picked up by enough people to go viral.

The last decade as a whole was quite (e. _____). However, major (f. _____) include the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the (g. _____) world economy. Yet not much (h. _____) has occurred which might (i. _____) define the decade. For better or (j. _____), the 90s had grunge music, the 80s had Reaganomics, and the 70s had disco. What has happened in the 2000s?

The lack of any (k. _____) defining cultural moment also serves as a reason for the (l. _____) of a definite term. Some people call the decade the "aughties," which refers to zeros. Others call the decade the "zeroes" and the "2Ks." No single idea has stuck. Experts in the (m. _____) of the English language, as well as other experts in pop culture, (n. _____) that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted. Which term it will be, though, is anyone's (o. _____).

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

The Last Decade

a) _____ . b) _____
_____, resulting in fads churned out, adopted, and discarded at a breakneck pace. This is perhaps one reason that the English language still lacks a universally adopted term for the years between 2000 and 2009. No single idea has been picked up by enough people to go viral.

The last decade as a whole was quite bland. However, major exceptions include the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the devastated world economy. c) _____
_____. For better or worse, the 90s had grunge music, the 80s had Reagonomics, and the 70s had disco. What has happened in the 2000s?

d) _____ . Some people call the decade the "aughties," which refers to zeros. Others call the decade the "zeroes" and the "2Ks." e) _____
_____. Experts in the evolution of the English language, as well as other experts in pop culture, anticipate that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted. Which term it will be, though, is anyone's guess.

STUDENT HANDOUT (notes)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	w	f.	v
b.	r	g.	s
c.	t	h.	y
d.	z	i.	u
e.	q	j.	x

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	insatiable	f.	devastated
b.	churned out	g.	of note
c.	breakneck	h.	adequately
d.	bland	i.	absence
e.	exceptions	j.	anticipate

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	T
b.	T
c.	F
d.	F
e.	F

2. Fragments:

a.	the second decade of the twenty-first century.
b.	by enough people to go viral.
c.	the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the devastated world economy.
d.	refers to zeros.
e.	anyone's guess.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	century	i.	adequately
b.	insatiable	j.	worse
c.	churned out	k.	particularly
d.	breakneck	l.	absence
e.	bland	m.	evolution
f.	exceptions	n.	anticipate
g.	devastated	o.	guess
h.	of note		

2. Extended Listening

a.	The decade has ended and the world now moves into the second decade of the twenty-first century
b.	An insatiable appetite for up-to-the-minute news fuels online media
c.	Yet not much of note has occurred which might adequately define the decade
d.	The lack of any particularly defining cultural moment also serves as a reason for the absence of a definite term
e.	No single idea has stuck