

Bill Gates would rather buy vaccines than to go to Mars



Exercise 1

Vocabulary

subsidize

VERB

to support something by providing it with money or other resources

If the government won't **subsidize** me, I will close down.

aforementioned

VERB

previously mentioned

I confess to having broken the rules in the two **aforementioned** cases.

"Thanks also to the **aforementioned** merchants, the vaccine will be distributed.

dissociate

VERB

to separate from association or union with another

I **dissociate** myself from my children and in-laws.

I'm troubled by their vertigo that **dissociates** live flesh from artificial flesh.

colleague

NOUN

the people someone work with, especially in a professional job

Some of his former **colleagues** have been convicted of securities fraud.

Exercise 2

Article

Bill Gates would rather buy vaccines than to go to Mars

The co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, admitted that he prefers to use his money to subsidize vaccines and save lives than to travel to Mars, in an interview that the BBC previews this Friday and that will be broadcast this afternoon in its entirety by the public broadcaster.

In a brief preview of the aforementioned interview with the American billionaire published by the British website, the philanthropist dissociates himself from the interest in the “space race” expressed by other billionaire colleagues, such as Tesla founder Elon Musk or Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

“The truth is that it is quite expensive to go to Mars. You can buy measles vaccines and save lives for 1,000 dollars (910 euros) per life saved. So this puts your feet on the ground. Don’t go to Mars,” Gates muses on that issue.

His observation contrasts, for example, with his colleague Musk, who has admitted that he wants to “colonize” the Red Planet with his company SpaceX, founded in 2002, or with the founder of Amazon, Jeff Bezos, responsible for Blue Origin and who has already made a brief trip to space in 2021. In the same interview with the BBC, Gates also notes that artificial intelligence will transform humanity “quite significantly”.

“It will help us to look at medical and scientific issues. It’s not just robots, it’s helping with reading and writing too. In fact, there has been more progress there than in robotics. Both will give us much higher productivity” he says.

He also alludes to the fact that during the coronavirus pandemic his name went viral by becoming the center of numerous and bizarre conspiracy theories in which he was accused of having “created” the virus and of putting microchips in vaccines.

“I didn’t expect it (to be accused of profiting from the virus),” he admits, while recalling that during that time of pandemic “there were tens of millions of messages that said - remember - that I had caused it (the virus) intentionally, or that I was tracking people (through the alleged chips).”

"It's true that I'm involved with vaccines, but I'm involved with vaccines to save lives," he clarifies.

Exercise 3

Question

1. To whom did Bill Gates disassociate himself regarding space racing?
2. What was his explanation of withstanding the program to be held on Mars?
3. In what way artificial intelligence can help humanity according to Gates?

Exercise 4

Discussion

1. Was Gates' decision beneficial or impractical?
2. Which one should the government prioritize? Medication or alternative habitat?
3. Will Bill Gates really give such money for medical support against viruses?

Exercise 4

Discussion

1. Is Mars a good place for humans to live in?
2. Are there any living creatures on Mars? If yes, would there be a conflict if humans trespass the planet? If not, how can humans adapt to the new nature?
3. Can billions of people really transfer the planet?