

2 Revolutions on the housing market

VocabBoo

A	B
to awake to	1 consumers aware of the possibilities
to get	2 push notifications about the weather
to remind you	3 the item
to switch to	4 an eye on things
to sense	5 smart home appliances
to make	6 which ingredients are about to spoil
to act	7 first-hand what the value of a smart home is
to detect	8 an energy-saving mode
to keep	9 that the home owner is on his / her way back home
to install	10 the sound of your alarm
to have	11 some control over the personal data
to see	12 like a touchscreen



3 Read the article about smart homes. Then answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of 10 words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one has been done for you.



1 In just a few years' time, you will awake in the morning to the sound of your alarm, and the hidden sensors in the room will know you are getting up. The lights will automatically, but gradually turn on and the thermostat will warm the rooms you are about to use – the bathroom, the kitchen and, a few minutes later, your car.

The coffee will start to brew. You will get push notifications about the weather. Your kitchen will remind you which ingredients you will need to pick up on your way home from work and the items you will want to include in dinner that night before they spoil. When you leave the house, you will press a button via an app that will self-drive your car out of the garage. Right then, security measures will then snap into place. House doors will automatically lock. Appliances will switch to an energy-saving mode. When the house senses you are on your way back (using geofencing technology as your smartphone crosses a certain mile radius), it will get ready for your arrival – the thermostat will warm things up, the garage door will open as you pull up, and your favorite music will start to play when you walk in.

"In many ways, all of the technology for this to happen is already there; it is more about making



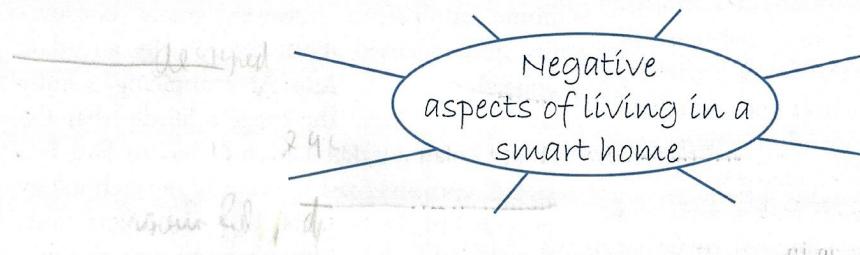
ing consumers aware of those possibilities," Hawkinson, CEO and founder of SmartThings, said. "In the past year alone, more people have been getting interested in having a smart home as prices go down and word-of-mouth spreads. Although the common vision of the future home is a robotic and impersonal one, Hawkinson said the approach will be an extension of home decorating."

Some believe the bedroom, living room, and kitchen will be the most connected rooms in the

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What are negative aspects of living in a smart home? Search the Internet and take notes mind map. Then get into pairs and inform your partner. Take turns.



Listening

Living Tomorrow – the future way of living



Get into pairs. Have a look at the phrases in the VocabBooster and guess their meaning.

VocabBoo

to contribute a vision

to live more efficiently

to have all the comfort and functionality of a modern kitchen

to be the heart of the house

to drag the icon to the television box on your smart board

to set the mood for

to press your finger down onto a smart board

to scan in your personal finger

to observe every corner with built-in cameras

to work by home automation

to have everything at your fin



Track 2

You are going to listen to an interview with the architect of *Living Tomorrow*. While listening complete the sentences (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one has been done for you.

1 The kitchen is not only the place where food is prepared, it is also often referred to as the _____.

heart of the house

2 In the modern kitchen you will find a music player, every piece of equipment you need for cooking, and a _____.

build in LED TV

3 If you notice that you are _____, you can add it to your shopping list.

running out of wine

4 With the help of _____ paying bills also gets much easier.

Smartboard

5 Having built-in cameras installed all over the house gives people the feeling of _____. (Give one answer.)

security

6 Watching the latest news or your favourite music video in the bathroom is made possible by _____.

an intelligent mirror

- 7 Smart homes of the future work by using _____. *home automation*
- 8 In the house of the future home owners have everything _____. *on their finger tips*



3 Discuss the following questions with a partner.

- 1 Could you imagine living in a smart home yourself? Give reasons.
- 2 How would you feel being surveyed by cameras 24/7? Explain.
- 3 Who would benefit the most of living in a smart home? Why?
- 4 To what extent does living in a smart home change family life?



Language in use

Life will be made easier

Trouble-free grammar: Passive constructions

We use passive constructions to put emphasis on the person or object receiving the action.
We use active constructions to put emphasis on the person or object performing the action.

Passive construction: Data was collected.

Active construction: We collected data.

In order to add variety to your pieces of writing, passive constructions need to be used.

- We use passive constructions to describe processes.
Household machines were introduced in the 1920s to make housework easier.
In a smart home, information collected via sensors is sent to your smart phone.
- We use passive constructions when the performer of the action is not known or irrelevant.
Nowadays smart gadgets are used quite often in modern households.
Unique forms of houses have been designed in the last few years.
- We use passive constructions to position important information at the beginning of a sentence.
Data collected in smart homes is sent to the home owner's mobile phone.
Burglars are detected by motion sensors.

- 1 Read the text and fill in the gaps. Use active and passive constructions. Mind the tenses.

The Bill Gates house

1 The 6,100 m² house, located in Medina, Washington, *is known*¹ (know) for its design and its technology. The house has classic features such as a private library with a dome-shaped roof. The house also features an estate-wide server system, an 18m swimming pool with an



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underwater music system, a 230 m² gym, a 93 m² dining room, and heated floors and driveways. The house even has a name, it ^{is named}² (name) Xanadu ²⁰. In 1995, Bill Gates gave some details about his futuristic home in his book *The Road Ahead*.

10 ^{look} "He wished the technology to be as invisible as possible," said architect Peter Bohlin, ^{who} ³ (take) seven years to build it and cost \$63.2 million.

^{designed} ⁴ (design) the house. "He intended to make it high-tech, but by magic."

The house ^{is equipped}⁵ (equip) with fiber optic cables and each room ^{has} its own touch pad to control lighting, music, and temperature. "When you enter the house, an electronic pin ^{is clipped}⁶ (clip) to your clothes. This pin will connect you to the electronic services of the house. The electronic pin you wear ^{tells} ¹¹ (tell) the house who and where you are, and the house will use this information to try to meet your needs." Gates speculated that the pins ^{will be replaced}⁸ (replace) by cameras ^{one day}.

15 20 as they would be able to do facial recognition. He ^{explained}⁹ (explain) that the house would learn your preferences and adjust to your needs. "A decade from now," Gates ^{wrote}¹⁰ (write) in his book, "the millions of images and all the other entertainment opportunities will be available in many homes. My house will just be getting some of the smart devices and appliances a bit earlier." We are ^{finally} ²⁵ playing catch up, but since Gates ^{has not said}¹¹ (not say) much about the current state of his home, who knows how many decades he is ahead of us all by now.

Trouble-free grammar: Passive constructions with modal verbs

Passive construction with modal verbs:
modal verb + form of *to be* + past participle (3rd form of the verb)

A house can easily be equipped with smart home technology.

The remote control may be replaced by touch pads.

This house must have been designed by a well-known architect.

Smart cities need to be built around the world.

2

Complete the sentences using passive constructions with modal verbs.

- 1 The famous Voglreiter house ^{must have been designed} (must / design) by the famous architect Marc Voglreiter.
- 2 Technical problems ^{need to be solved} (need / solve) by experts.
- 3 The building ^{should be renovated} (should / renovate) in order to meet the latest building standards.
- 4 Building eco-friendly homes is a popular choice with many people, since their energy running costs ^{can be cut} (can / cut).
- 5 Smart home know-how ^{can be applied} (can / apply) to new private and social housing schemes.
- 6 Not only ^{can} ^{be reduced} (can / reduce) energy costs ^{be} drastically by energy-efficient construction methods, but day-to-day comfort also increases.

- 7 Smart home appliances *need to be installed* (need / install) by electricians and IT specialists.
- 8 The hybrid vehicle *may/may not be tested* (may / trial) on a test track.

Listening

The city of the future – Abu Dhabi's *Masdar* plan



Track 3

Listen to the news report on *Masdar* city and tick whether the statements (1–8) are true (T) or false (F). Provide the correct answers for the wrong statements and write them down.

- 1 Nowadays more and more people associate sustainability with the United Arab Emirates.
- 2 *Masdar* is supposed to serve as a model for future city building.
- 3 *Masdar* aims to be home to 14,000 residents by 2030.
- 4 The architects of *Masdar* have implemented traditional design to cool down the city.
- 5 It will not be possible to stroll around in the city as it will be too hot.
- 6 Driverless electric cars in the underground will enable people to travel around in the city.
- 7 Even though the world economic crisis has slowed the building progress in *Masdar*, Alan Frost focuses on the positive aspects of this building project.
- 8 The *Beam Down Project* makes use of photovoltaic panels to generate power.

	T	F	Correct statement
1		X	they don't associate sustainability with the Emirals,
2	X		
3	X		30.000 residents
4	X		
5	X		The streets will be shaded
6	X		Within the city/not the underground. (not clean)
7	X		
8	X		Uses mirrors to concentrate sun rays

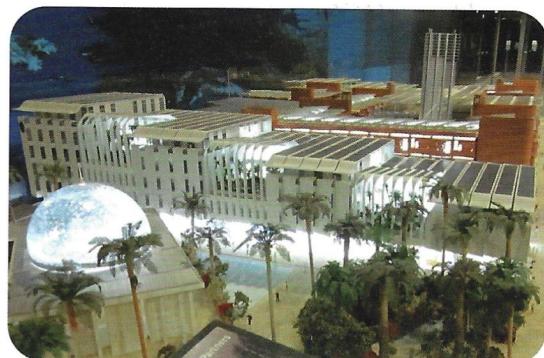


Do some research on the Internet to find out more about Abu Dhabi's *Masdar* plan. Then prepare a presentation which you give in class.

In your presentation you should

- say what the current status of the building project is
- point out what the city planned to do in order to be the world's first carbon-free city
- explain why there is some criticism of the realisation of *Masdar* city.

Use the phrases from the LanguageBox on page 26. Talk for about four minutes.



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Review

- 1 Fill in the appropriate passive constructions. Use a model verb from the box and the verbs in brackets. Use the correct tense. Then get into pairs and compare your results. Sometimes there is more than one possibility.

could ■ should ■ must ■ can ■ have to ■ may ■ need to

- 1 The roof of the house has to be replaced (replace) because it is leaking.
- 2 Her work needs to be done (do) by tomorrow or she will get in trouble with her boss.
- 3 The entire valley can be seen (see) from the top of the mountain home.
- 4 This building must have been designed (design) by an innovative architect.
- 5 In my opinion, the idea of building a clay house needs to be spread (spread) among potential home builders.
- 6 National building regulations must be obeyed (obey) at all times.
- 7 Resources can be saved (save) during the building process.
- 8 The filters of the ventilation system have to be replaced (replace) regularly.



- 2 Get into pairs. Have a look at the unusual houses and describe them in your own words using the words from the VocabBooster on page 17. Take turns.

