Smart living

LEVEL
Advanced
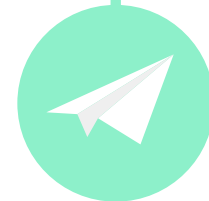
NUMBER
C1_4046S_EN

LANGUAGE
English

Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a complex text on smart living.

- Can discuss the pros and cons of a highly connected home and present my own views on the surge of new smart devices.

As a wave of smart devices floods the market, we are looking at the onset of domestic spaces of the future – **automated homes**.

The **conveniences** offered by such a **dwelling** are unparalleled, giving us more time for the **things that matter**.

How will our **homes of the future** differ from now?

Do you have automated devices
in your home?

Do you find them beneficial?

Why or why not?

Remote control

Discuss what you find attractive about the idea of controlling appliances in your home remotely from your phone?

How could smart devices make these household tasks more efficient?
What do you think is the link between these pictures?

Have you automated your home in any of these ways?

Can you rely on automation?

Smart living

A hoard of connected devices known as the **internet of things** have revolutionised domestic life bringing fully automated and self-regulating systems into the home. In a smart home, appliances like heating, lighting and television are connected to a central computer allowing residents to either control their home remotely, or allow the computer to monitor it for them.

Smart living

With the use of automation, lights can switch on automatically when somebody enters a room, blinds could be drawn at dusk or a television could be switched on and off via a simple voice command. The possibilities granted by automation are endless. As sensors, computer processors, internet speed, accessibility and artificial intelligence become increasingly powerful, a truly futuristic vision of the home becomes closer to reality.

Smart living

Connected homes can offer **tangible** benefits as a result of greater efficiency. Heating systems programmed to a schedule can reduce heating costs, while sensor-based lighting can trim electricity costs in a similar way. For residents concerned about security, cameras can be installed to monitor the home remotely from their phone or tablet. Humidity sensors can identify leaks, shutting them off automatically as a **safeguard** against damp and moisture damage. Systems like these give residents unparalleled control over their home, but is there a price for such convenience? Some critics of this technology are concerned about the drift towards passivity that these devices engender. Could convenient technology be making us more servile?

New words

tangible

Mark's exhilaration was **tangible** after the bungee jump.

safeguard

The committee has been hired as a **safeguard** against ministerial corruption.

infiltration

The **infiltration** of right-wing propaganda onto the platform undermined its success.

embedded

A look of rage was **embedded** on her face.

New words

decadence

The cake was dripping with rich chocolate sauce – never have I seen such **decadence.**

servile

He lost his dignity behaving in such a **servile** way.

agency

Professional success requires a hefty dose of **agency.**

passivity

I fear that the last candidate was let down by hesitation and **passivity**.

Multiple choice

1. Connected devices, known as the _____, are bringing the possibility of automated homes to consumers.

a. Internet of interconnectivity   b. Internet of things   c. Internet of wings   d. Internet of automation

2. With automation, lights can switch on _____ when someone enters a room.

a. automatically   b. autodidact   c. automation   d. automobile

3. In a smart home, appliances are connected by a _____ computer.

a. century   b. solo   c. centenary   d. central

4. There is not yet an _____ standard for security on these devices.

a. interior   b. industry   c. indirect   d. induction

Multiple choice: round two!

1. _____ sensors could identify leaks, and shut them off automatically to prevent moisture damage.

   a. Humidifier b. Humanity c. Humidity d. Hubris

2. _____ the inherent vulnerabilities of these systems can be as easy as obtaining the network's WiFi key.

   a. Expending b. Exploiting c. Extrapolating d. Exacerbating

3. Some critics of this technology are concerned about the drift towards _____ that these devices engender.

   a. passivity b. passionately c. precisely d. profanity

4. Could convenient technology be making us more _____?

   a. sundial b. survival c. surreal d. servile

Internet of things

The **internet of things** refers to the increasingly connectable 'smart' appliances which can be regulated and controlled remotely, often via a central hub.

These smart devices promise a domestic future which is increasingly automated and convenient.

The **internet of things** can refer to a range of useful devices that can communicate together and exchange data.

Explain

Systems like these give residents unparalleled control over their home.

Discuss some of the advantages of having this technology installed in your home.

What are some examples of this in popular culture?

Available technology

Smart devices have flooded the market in recent years. Discuss the different smart devices that are available to the public.

- Do you think there are major differences between brands?
- What would be some concerns you might have about cheaper models?
- Have you had experience using any of these products?

Potential downsides

What are some potential downsides to full home automation? Discuss the questions below.

Deference to our technology rather than ourselves?

Security?

Potential for technology to quickly become superseded?

autonomy

Autonomy is independence or freedom and the condition of having free will.

He showed a great deal of **autonomy** on his electrical apprenticeship.

Loss of autonomy

Many social scientists have decried the loss of autonomy in the wake of technology.

Explain how these technologies either increased or limited human autonomy.

Use the pictures to help with your ideas.

Do you think humans are less autonomous than they were 100 years ago?

books

television

microwaves

internet

Get ready to listen

The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension

What might some drawbacks be to human's complete reliance and subservience to machines?

Is there the potential to lose some of our autonomy?

True or false?

		TRUE	FALSE
1.	Smart devices can potentially save owners a lot of money on their energy bills.	☐	☐
2.	The technology could potentially be superseded very quickly.	☐	☐
3.	Companies that produce these products have made them extremely secure.	☐	☐
4.	Many of these systems are vulnerable to exploitation.	☐	☐
5.	It is unwise to allow a system to store so much of your data.	☐	☐
6.	Smart devices will make everybody lazy.	☐	☐

Debate

What are some of the potential downsides to full home automation?

Your teacher is a door-to-door smart device salesperson. Time for a debate at the front door. Convince them that you are not interested.

Spend some time thinking through your position and points of argument.

There are substantial security flaws in these products!

In two years, could my system be out-of-date?

I can do these things myself – I don't need my phone to do it for me!

Are we **relinquishing** too much of our independence to machines?

Could our devices end up **controlling us?**

Is this a **legitimate** fear?
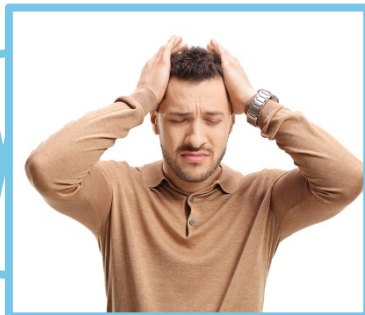
Opinions on smart homes

The market for smart devices is growing dramatically, but a smart home is still a thing of the future to most. Discuss the opinions of the people below. Do you agree or disagree?

These gadgets can potentially cut energy and heating bills dramatically. It's a great investment!

These devices are expensive and the technology will be quickly superseded. Not for me!

Rhonda

Fred

Spend a few seconds considering how easy it would be for a cyber-criminal to break into your home. These devices are far too vulnerable to security breaches.

Doesn't it feel weird to have a sentient machine bent on data collection? Seems a little too dystopian for me.

William

Josh

Security flaws

You are a criminal and have managed to hack the automated system of a home in a wealthy district. All it took was figuring out their WiFi password.

- ◼ Write about what you could potentially learn about the habits of the residents from their system.
- ◼ How you could profit from your knowledge?

Predict the future

Present a speech about the dangers of having everything linked to your phone. Prepare some notes using the points below.

Consider how you will structure your speech.
Feel free to use your own ideas!

All of your eggs in one basket? What if it is stolen or hacked?	Do we spend enough time in front of screens already?	Loss of agency? Will we need our phones to do the most basic of things?

Taking into consideration the activities from today's lesson.

Has your attitude towards smart homes and the internet of things changed?

Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary**, **phrases**, **language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

As of yet there are no industry standards for security on these devices and they all come with security flaws. Were a cyber-criminal to successfully hack into a home's automated system they would gain access to a raft of data which could reveal patterns of behaviour. The surrender of personal data in the wrong hands could lead to identity theft. Exploiting these vulnerabilities can, depending on the installed system, be as easy as cracking the password of the home's WiFi network. Many feel the **infiltration** of smart gadgets into our homes may have other consequences for how we live our lives.
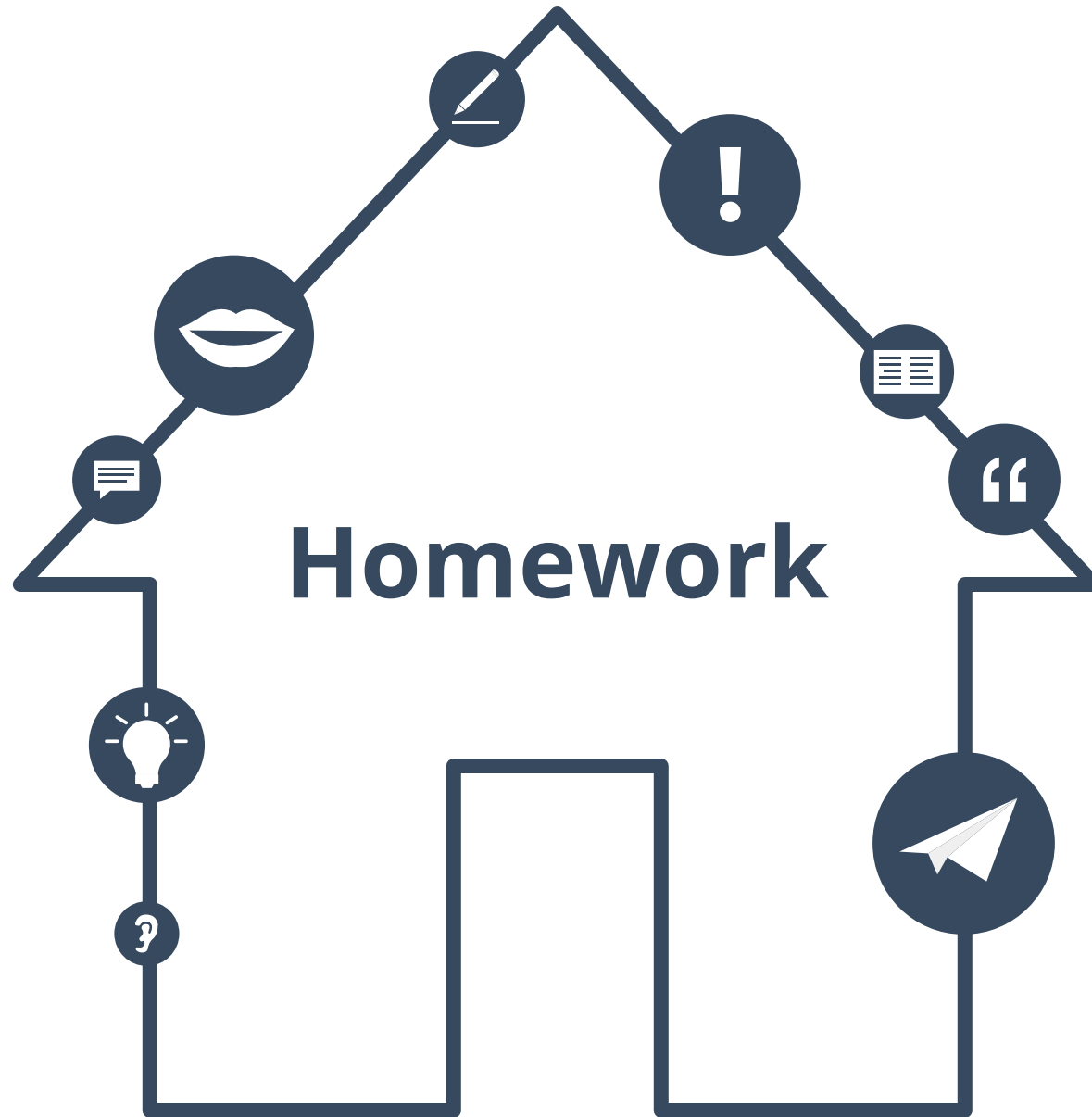
As we come to rely more and more on the technology **embedded** in our lives, voices have expressed concern about the **decadence** of some of these systems. Is it really so difficult to get up from the sofa to flick a light switch? Are we sacrificing the last vestiges of our **agency** to intelligent machines? This school of thought expresses plain caution that we are voluntarily embracing a new form of **passivity**, one more encounter with the real world delegated from behind a screen. If we are surrendering anything for this new level of convenience it is our own empowerment. The very technology we built to serve us, some say, has made us **servile.**

Homework

Smart homes – pros and cons

Write a list of the pros and cons of a home dominated by smart appliances using the information you have explored in today's lesson.

Pros	Cons

Summarise

Use vocabulary from the lesson to write a summary of what you learned about smart homes in today's lesson.

passivity	infiltration
agency	servile
embedded	tangible

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