

ProTalk

Discussion Files

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Language Center

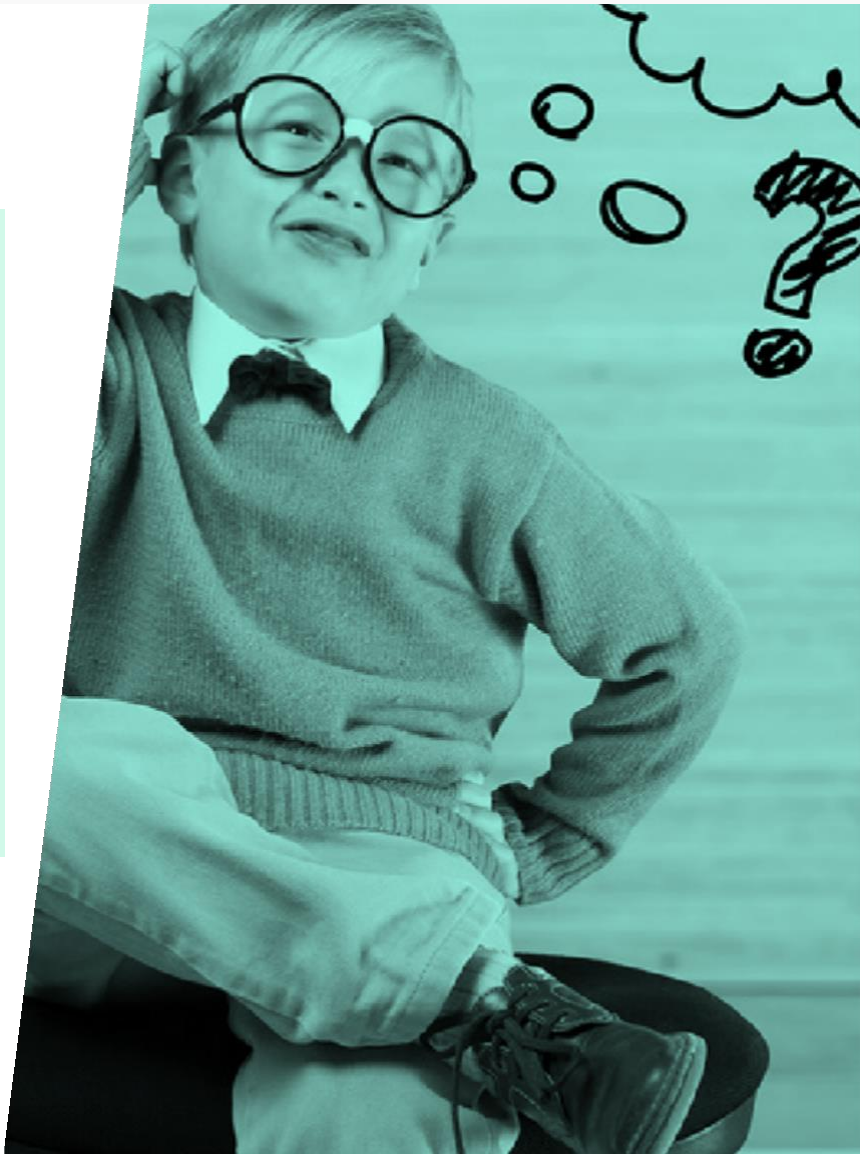
C2. Smart living

Afaq Language Center

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Goals

- Can read 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**.

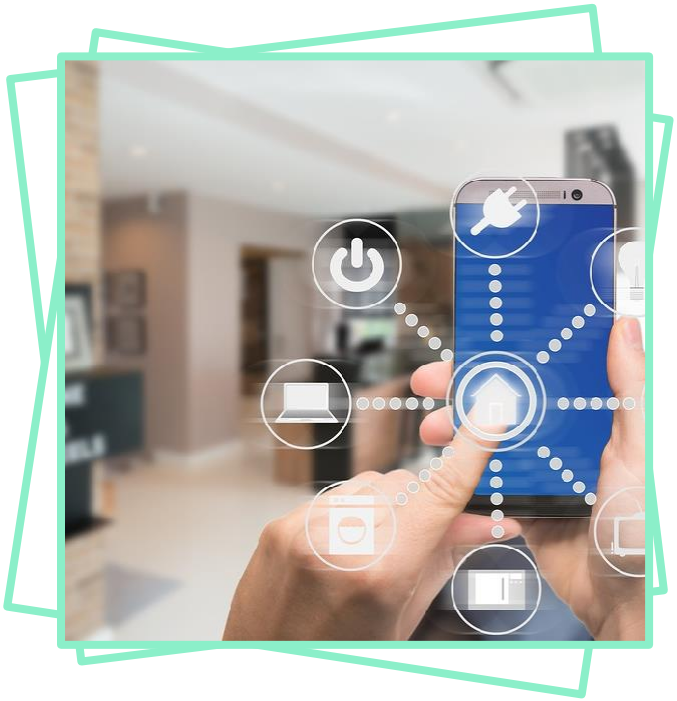
How will our **homes of the future** differ from now?

Smart living

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?



Efficiency?

How could smart devices make these household tasks more efficient?

What do you think is the link between these pictures?







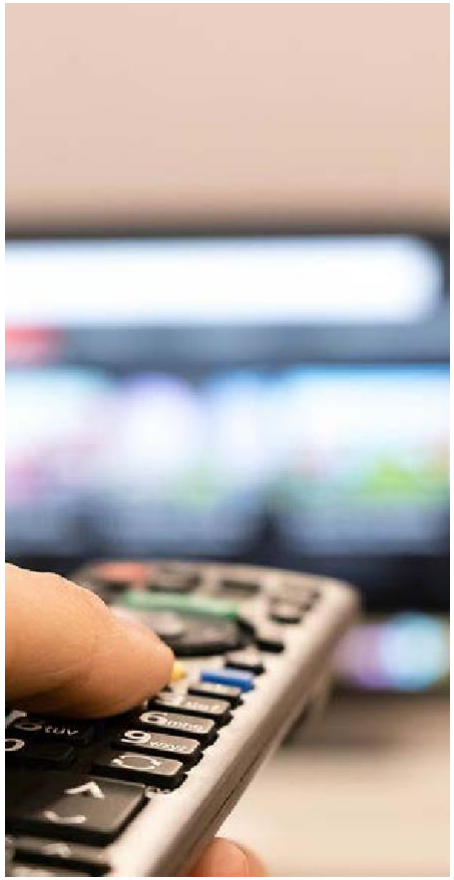


Have you automated your home in any of these ways?

Can you rely on automation?

Read the text and summarize it.

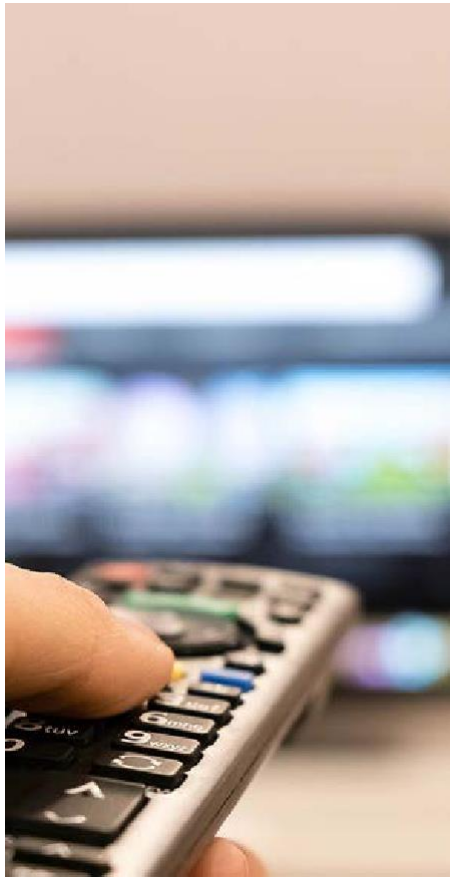
Smart living



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.

Read the text and summarize it.

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.

Read the text and summarize it.

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?



Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

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.

Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

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**.

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.

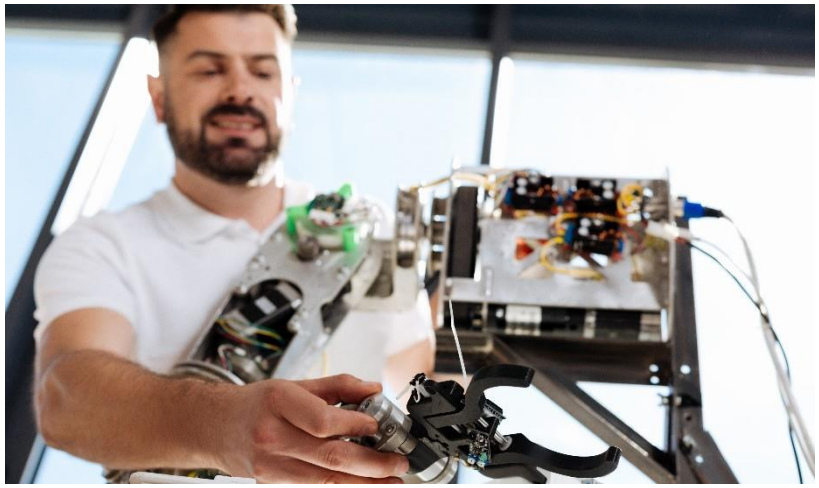
Deference to our technology rather than ourselves?

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

Describe the pictures and discuss

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

Is there the potential to lose some of our autonomy?





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!

Discussion

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!



Rhonda

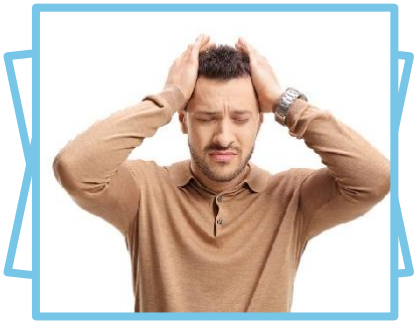


These devices are expensive and the technology will be quickly superseded.

Not for me!

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.



William



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

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?

Attitudes

Taking into consideration the activities from today's lesson.

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

Activity P. 12 1B, 2A, 3D, 4B
Activity P. 13 1C, 2B, 3A, 4D

Presentation

Prepare a two-minute presentation about the pros and cons of a home dominated by smart appliances using the information you have explored in today's lesson.
Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

Pros

Cons