

The Smartest Home



1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

MEDINA, WASH., USA ¹Bill Gates, one of the world's richest people, lives near Seattle in the world's "smartest" home. More than 100 computers **control** everything in this fantastic mansion*.

²As Gates is driving home, he can **fill** his bath with water at the perfect **temperature**. ³When he gets near the **entrance**, the big **gate** opens just before his **arrival**. ⁴Sensors** under the floor follow his steps inside the house. When Gates **enters** a room, the lights turn on by themselves. He doesn't need to turn them off because they darken **automatically** as he leaves. ⁵His favorite

music plays in each room as he walks through the house, and it can even follow him outside. ⁶When he jumps into the **pool** for a swim, the same music plays underwater. ⁷Gates has a lot of art on his walls, but he never gets tired of it. The pictures change automatically because they are digital***.

⁸A "smart home" is expensive now, but we can all **look forward to** living in **one** in the future. "It's going to happen very quickly," **promises** Dave Farber of the University of Pennsylvania.

* mansion: a very large house

** sensors: small machines that can find movement

*** digital: stored as electronic signals

NEW WORDS

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| control <i>v</i> | temperature <i>n</i> | gate <i>n</i> | enter <i>v</i> | pool <i>n</i> | one <i>pron</i> |
| fill <i>v</i> | entrance <i>n</i> | arrival <i>n</i> | automatically <i>adv</i> | look forward to <i>v</i> | promise <i>v</i> |

>> See Glossary on page 96. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



3. Check your comprehension

Check (✓) the endings that are true.

a. Bill Gates

- ___ lives in New York.
- ___ is very rich.
- ___ has many computers in his home.
- ___ can fill his bath while in the car.
- ___ lives in a mansion.

b. His house has

- ___ a large gate.
- ___ sensors under the floors.
- ___ automatic doors.
- ___ digital art on the floors.
- ___ a pool.

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- a. When Bill Gates is in his car, he can f___ his bath with water and con_____ the temperature.
- b. When he gets near the entrance to his house, the g___ opens just before his arr_____.
- c. When Gates en___s his swimming p___, music plays underwater.
- d. Dave Farber pr_____s that we will all live in a smart house soon.

5. Listen to the story track 36

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- What controls Gates' smart house?
- What happens as Gates walks around his house?
- How is Gates' house different from yours?
- In your opinion, what is the best thing about Gates' house?

About you...

- Would you like to live in a smart house? Why or why not?
- What other things do you know about Bill Gates?
- What extraordinary changes do you think we will see in the future?
- Are you looking forward to them? Why or why not?

8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

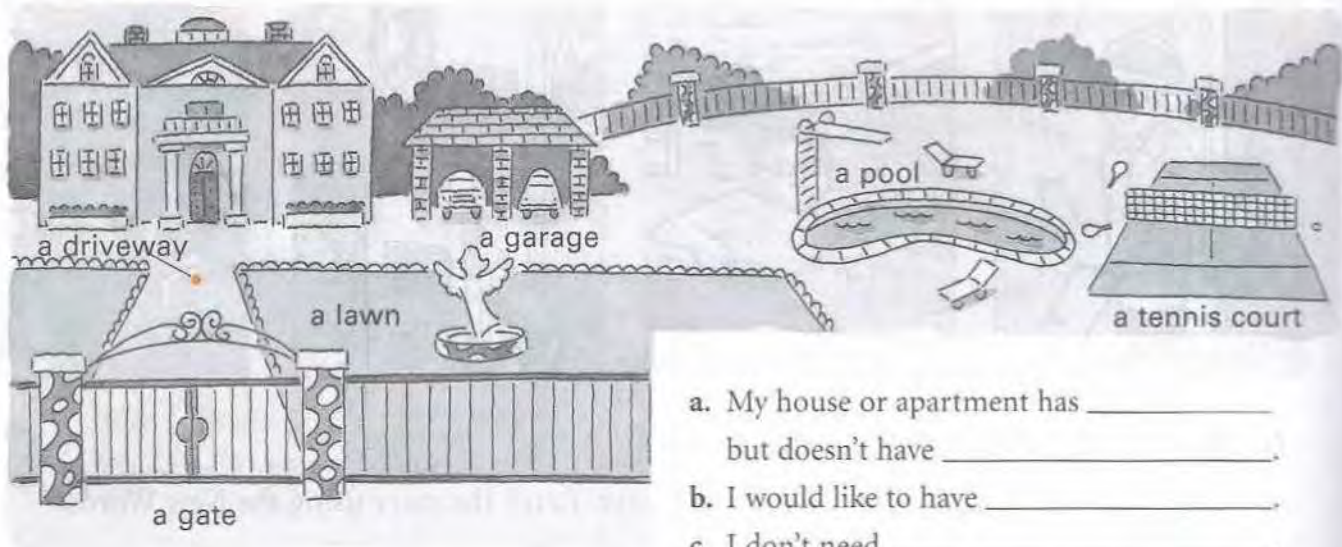
| LOOK FORWARD TO | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| look forward to | doing something | We can all look forward to living in a smart house. <i>I look forward to meeting you.</i> <i>I'm looking forward to starting college next year.</i> <i>She's looking forward to her trip.</i> <i>We're really looking forward to the party!</i> <i>I always look forward to the weekend.</i> |
| | something | |

- I always look forward to going _____.
- I _____ looking forward to _____ next weekend.
- I'm not looking forward _____.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the picture.

A MANSION



- My house or apartment has _____ but doesn't have _____.
- I would like to have _____.
- I don't need _____.

10. Take a dictation track 37

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

arrival controls entrance temperature
garage automatically lawn

A FUN HOME

PALOS HILLS, ILL., USA Ben Skora, 69, is an extraordinary inventor*. He has built himself a “house of the future.” Although the house is not large, it is fantastic. Everything in it works by itself—the doors, the toilets, the music, the room (1) _____, and the furniture. Skora (2) _____ everything with his cell phone. “I can work everything in the house even when I’m in Tokyo,” he says.

On your (3) _____ the first fantastic thing you see is the (4) _____ to Skora’s house. It looks like something from the next century. A small, round door opens (5) _____, and a talking robot**, Arok, is there to say hello and bring you a drink.

Skora can move his walls with his cell phone. His chairs can speed around the room. In the bathroom, an arm comes out of the wall to give you soap***.



Arok the robot cleans Skora’s carpet and waters his (6) _____.

Skora builds everything in his (7) _____. People say that he is a genius. “But my family,” says Skora, “thinks I’m crazy.”

* inventor: a person who makes or thinks of something new

** robot: a machine that can work like a person

*** soap: something that you use with water for washing



Talk about the stories

How are the houses of Bill Gates and Ben Skora similar? How are they different? Which one would you like to live in? Why?