

# Everyday Use of Smart Home Devices

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

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## Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** In today's world, smart home devices have become a common part of daily life. Many families use these devices to make their homes more comfortable and efficient. For instance, smart thermostats can learn a family's schedule and adjust the temperature automatically. This not only saves energy but also provides a cozy environment. In the kitchen, smart refrigerators can track food items and suggest recipes based on what is available. Sarah, who lives in a busy city, loves her smart home system. She can control her lights, security cameras, and even her coffee maker from her smartphone. This allows her to prepare her home before she arrives each day.
- B** Moreover, smart speakers have gained popularity for their convenience. They can play music, answer questions, and even control other smart devices. John, a father of two, enjoys using his smart speaker to set reminders for his children's activities. He finds it helpful to stay organized without needing to write everything down. As technology continues to advance, smart home devices will likely become even more integrated into our lives, making everyday tasks easier and more enjoyable.

## Vocabulary Glossary

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Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
<b>efficient</b>	working well without wasting time or energy	<i>The new washing machine is very efficient and uses less water.</i>
<b>cozy</b>	comfortable and warm	<i>The small room felt cozy with the soft lights and warm blankets.</i>
<b>schedule</b>	a plan of when things will happen	<i>I have a busy schedule with many meetings today.</i>
<b>integrated</b>	combined into a whole	<i>The new app is integrated with our online store, making shopping easier.</i>
<b>convenience</b>	making things easier and more comfortable	<i>Having a dishwasher is a great convenience in the kitchen.</i>
<b>reminders</b>	something that helps you remember to do something	<i>I set reminders on my phone to take my medicine every day.</i>
<b>automatically</b>	done by itself without human help	<i>The lights turn on automatically when it gets dark.</i>
<b>track</b>	to follow or watch the progress of something	<i>The app helps me track my daily steps and fitness goals.</i>

### Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The new heating system is very \_\_\_\_\_ and saves a lot of energy.
2. The fireplace makes the living room feel very \_\_\_\_\_ in winter.
3. My phone helps me keep my \_\_\_\_\_ organized with all my meetings.
4. Many devices are now \_\_\_\_\_ into a single smart home system.
5. A microwave is a great \_\_\_\_\_ for quickly heating food.
6. I use my phone to set \_\_\_\_\_ so I don't forget important tasks.

## Comprehension Questions

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*These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.*

### Question 1

**What is a key feature of smart thermostats mentioned in the passage?**

- A. They can play music.
- B. They learn a family's schedule.
- C. They control kitchen appliances.
- D. They set reminders for activities.

### Question 2

**Why does John find his smart speaker helpful?**

- A. It helps him save energy.
- B. It assists in cooking meals.
- C. It organizes his children's activities.
- D. It controls the temperature at home.

### Question 3

**What can Sarah do with her smart home system?**

- A. She can water her plants.
- B. She can control her lights and security cameras.
- C. She can adjust her refrigerator temperature.
- D. She can cook meals remotely.

### Question 4

**What does the passage suggest about the future of smart home devices?**

- A. They will become less popular.
- B. They will become more expensive.
- C. They will be more integrated into daily life.
- D. They will replace all household tasks.

### Question 5

#### How do smart refrigerators help in meal preparation?

- A. They cook meals automatically.
- B. They suggest recipes based on available food.
- C. They clean the kitchen.
- D. They order groceries online.

### Discussion & Writing Prompts

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*Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).*

1. Paragraph A describes how smart thermostats save energy by learning a family's schedule. How do you think this feature could impact energy bills and environmental conservation in the long term?

2. The passage mentions that Sarah controls her home devices from her smartphone. Do you think using smartphones for home management is more of a convenience or a security risk, and why?

3. The passage states that smart speakers can answer questions and control other devices. How might this technology evolve in the next 10 years, and what new features would you like to see?

# Answer Key

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 C

Q3 B

Q4 C

Q5 B

## VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 efficient

FIB2 cozy

FIB3 schedule

FIB4 integrated

FIB5 convenience

FIB6 reminders

## Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

### 1. What is a key feature of smart thermostats mentioned in the passage?

- ✓ B — They learn a family's schedule. The passage states that smart thermostats learn a family's schedule to adjust temperatures automatically.
- ✗ A — They can play music. *Playing music is a feature of smart speakers, not thermostats.*
- ✗ C — They control kitchen appliances. *Controlling kitchen appliances is not mentioned as a feature of thermostats.*
- ✗ D — They set reminders for activities. *Setting reminders is a feature of smart speakers, not thermostats.*

### 2. Why does John find his smart speaker helpful?

- ✓ C — It organizes his children's activities. John uses his smart speaker to set reminders for his children's activities, helping him stay organized.
- ✗ A — It helps him save energy. *Energy saving is related to smart thermostats, not speakers.*
- ✗ B — It assists in cooking meals. *The passage does not mention meal assistance as a feature of smart speakers.*
- ✗ D — It controls the temperature at home. *Controlling temperature is a feature of smart thermostats, not speakers.*

### 3. What can Sarah do with her smart home system?

- ✓ B — She can control her lights and security cameras. Sarah can control her lights, security cameras, and coffee maker from her smartphone.
- ✗ A — She can water her plants. *Watering plants is not mentioned as a feature of Sarah's smart home system.*
- ✗ C — She can adjust her refrigerator temperature. *Adjusting refrigerator temperature is not described as part of Sarah's system.*
- ✗ D — She can cook meals remotely. *Cooking meals remotely is not stated as a capability of her system.*

#### 4. What does the passage suggest about the future of smart home devices?

✓ C — They will be more integrated into daily life.

The passage suggests that as technology advances, smart home devices will likely become more integrated into daily life.

✗ A — They will become less popular.

*The passage indicates growing integration, not declining popularity.*

✗ B — They will become more expensive.

*Price changes are not discussed in the context of future expectations.*

✗ D — They will replace all household tasks.

*The passage does not suggest that devices will replace all tasks.*

#### 5. How do smart refrigerators help in meal preparation?

✓ B — They suggest recipes based on available food.

Smart refrigerators track food items and suggest recipes based on what is available.

✗ A — They cook meals automatically.

*Cooking meals automatically is not a feature mentioned for refrigerators.*

✗ C — They clean the kitchen.

*Cleaning the kitchen is not mentioned as a function of smart refrigerators.*

✗ D — They order groceries online.

*Ordering groceries is not stated as a capability of smart refrigerators.*

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