

READING

A Read the text about efficient homes. For each question (1–5), underline *Do* or *Don't* to complete the sentences. An example (0) has been done for you.

Living in an energy-efficient home is a dream for many people, not just for the savings but also to reduce their impact on the environment. A few examples of how this can be done are:

Installing good insulation in a house is fundamental. The majority of heat loss comes from doors, windows and roofs. These three parts of the house can be modified fairly easily and have a huge impact on the cost of heating or keeping your house warm. Doors and windows are the main places where heat gets out in the winter and comes in during the summer. The best solution is to have quality frames and windows, preferably double glazed. When it comes to doors, the answer is simple; make sure they fit properly.

Using the sun's energy is also essential. Using solar panels to heat your water, and in some cases add to your electricity supply in the winter, is a good idea. You should install blinds so that in the summer you can keep them down and close the windows at the times of most sun to avoid the house heating up. They will also have an impact on heat loss during the winter, meaning you'll spend a little less on heating bills.

The temperatures at which you keep your house in the hot and cold months are also important. In the winter, it is sufficient to program the thermostat within a couple of degrees of 19°C and 25°C in the summer. If you can adjust the temperature of the hot water in the house, the most efficient temperature is thought to be 35°C.

When changing your light bulbs, consider LED bulbs. They are more expensive than traditional light bulbs, but they can last much longer. The amount of electricity they use is much less than traditional bulbs, and the savings will be noticeable within the first year or so. Completely turn off electrical items in the house (televisions, video consoles, etc.) that have a stand-by function because they continue to use a lot of energy in this state.

When buying replacement electrical appliances for the home, look for appliances with the bright yellow EnergyGuide label, which estimates the annual energy consumption for an appliance and provides some information about whether that use is above or below the average for that type of product. The dollar amount at the bottom of the EnergyGuide is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity. The ENERGY STAR logo is often incorporated into the EnergyGuide label for certified products and is the government's symbol for energy efficiency. It helps consumers easily recognize highly efficient products that save energy and money, and help protect the environment.

- 0 Do / *Don't* install good insulation in your home.
- 1 *Do* / *Don't* check that your doors and windows fit properly.
- 2 *Do* / *Don't* keep your windows covered up in the summer.
- 3 *Do* / *Don't* make sure you know if you can adjust the hot water.
- 4 *Do* / *Don't* use the stand-by function on your computer.
- 5 *Do* / *Don't* shop around for replacement appliances.

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Skills Test Units 6–8

B Read the article about social media. For each paragraph (1–5), choose a suitable topic sentence (a–g). There is an extra topic sentence you do not need. An example (0) has been done for you.

0 f

The impact on how, when, why, where and what is communicated has changed so radically there is almost no comparison with life, in terms of communication, at the turn of the century.

1 ____

Designed to allow friends to meet and chat online, and for new friends around the world to be made in a new digital environment, it only took a few years for more than a quarter of the world to use it regularly.

2 ____

From a professional perspective, it's possible to grow your network online by connecting with colleagues, mentors, role models and other professionals. If you use this network well, there is no end of advice and help that is available.

3 ____

Sharing your expertise will attract potential professional and personal connections. By learning how to present your professional experience, achievements and results, you will get more and more opportunities to connect with like-minded people. This can lead to another downside; the bell jar effect is something people suffer from and has been blamed for many social ills because only hearing what you agree with is seen as limiting and misleading.

4 ____

Good content gets shared, so if you consistently post quality content, more people will share it, so more people will see it. This works well with ideas, but in the world of selfies there are more negative connotations. Unfortunately, the selfie craze seems to produce selfish people who feel that 'having' is more important than 'doing'.

5 ____

In reality, the advantage of being able to communicate and connect with anyone instantly outweighs the potential negative. As a tool for education, training, networking and just keeping in touch, it is great. On the flip side, there is research suggesting that unwarranted communication can lead to mild rises in stress hormones. However, you do always have the option to turn off notifications or go all out and go offline.

- a I know some people like to get away from it all, so being in constant contact may sound like a disadvantage.
- b Social media can be used to grow your business and make professional connections.
- c If you manage your social channels well, then you can increase your visibility and even become a 'leader' in your space.
- d Social media has given people the opportunity to share their expert knowledge.
- e Thinking of future developments, it is hard to see at this stage whether the overall impact of social media will be negative or positive.
- f I think the greatest change to the way the world works in the last 50 years was the rise of social media.
- g Although a lot of what you may see is marketing, the original intention of social media was to connect people.

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LISTENING



A Listen to Julien and Teresa ordering a meal in a restaurant. Answer the questions (1–5) by choosing the correct response (a, b or c). An example (0) has been done for you.

- 0 Who had an appetizer?
 a Both Julien and Teresa
 b Only Julien
 c Neither Julien nor Teresa
- 1 What did both Julien and Teresa choose?
 a salad
 b potatoes
 c meat
- 2 What was the problem with the food?
 a It was cold.
 b It was difficult to cut.
 c It was bad.
- 3 What was the message from the chef?
 a He was sorry.
 b The food was fine.
 c He was thankful for the comment.
- 4 When the food arrived a second time,
 a Both dishes were unchanged.
 b One was hot; one was cold.
 c One was fine; one was still tough.
- 5 How did the restaurant apologize for the inconvenience?
 a They did not charge for the meal.
 b They promised it would not happen again.
 c They offered to pay for their next meal.

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B Listen to five conversations in which people are talking about the difficulties of getting new gadgets. Match each speaker (1–5) to a statement (a–g). There is an extra statement you do not need. An example has been done for you.

This person

- a likes to get their gadgets repaired if they can.
 b had a bad experience with a sales clerk.
 c would get a different gadget brand next time.
 d had a bad experience gadget shopping with other people.
 e had a better gadget before this one.
 f knows which color they would choose for themselves.
 g was given the gadget by a family member.

Extract 1 ___
 Extract 2 ___
 Extract 3 ___ and g
 Extract 4 ___
 Extract 5 ___

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WRITING

A Read the forum post below and write a reply suggesting a sport that is easy to learn and why. Write your reply in 150–200 words.

Hi! I just bought a year's membership pass for the local recreation center, and I have ten free sports lessons. I don't like tennis or racquetball, which are the popular classes. Can anyone suggest a different sport I can take up that won't be too difficult to learn? Thanks, Casey

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B Write a biography of someone you admire in your family. Consider the following:

- introduction
- back story
- impact
- conclusion

Write your answer in 150–200 words.

___ / 5

Total: ___ / 30