UNIT 11 A

READING AND GRAMMAR

4 Look at pictures a–c. What do they show? Read the text and match them with descriptions 1–3.

WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

a

b

c

Our houses are full of technology, but how much do we have in our closets? You might think you don't have any, but get ready for that to change. Experts predict that the amount of money we spend on wearable technology will reach $74 billion a year by 2025. You're probably already familiar with smart watches and fitness bracelets, but what are some of the other things coming our way?

1 MATERIAL THAT CAN COMMUNICATE

In the U.S., Google and Levi's® are developing a new kind of material that is touch sensitive, like the screen on a smartphone. The material is made by running thin metal wires through cotton, denim, or silk. Designers can then use this material to create interactive areas on clothes and furniture. Soon people will be able to control machines just by touching their pants legs!

2 ACCESSORIES THAT CONTROL YOUR TEMPERATURE

Have you ever been in a place where half the people are complaining about the cold, and the other half are too hot? The solution is *Wristify*, a bracelet that can heat or cool your skin at the touch of a button. It's perfect for a trip to the gym, a day at the beach, or for keeping you warm at home. In fact, the bracelet could also save you money on energy bills. The design isn't finished yet, but here's what the final product might look like.

3 CLOTHES THAT CHARGE YOUR PHONE

Pauline van Dongen is an exciting new designer who specializes in wearable technology, and uses both traditional and new materials to create amazing clothes. Her stylish T-shirts and jackets have solar panels that can charge a cell phone in just a few hours ... when the sun is shining, of course.

Complete the sentences with the articles *a*, *an*, *the*, or – (no article). Check your answers in the text.

1 The amount of money we spend on wearable technology will reach $74 billion ____ year.
2 People will be able to control ____ machines just by touching their pants legs!
3 The solution is *Wristify*, ____ bracelet that can heat or cool your skin.
4 Perfect for a trip to ____ gym...
5 ... or for keeping you warm at ____ home.
6 ____ bracelet could also save you money on energy bills.
7 Pauline van Dongen is ____ exciting new designer.
8 ... when ____ sun is shining, of course.

Match sentences 1–8 in exercise 6 with rules a–h. Then read the Grammar box.

a We use *a/an* to talk about a person or thing for the first time. ____
b We use *the* when we have already mentioned the person or thing before. ____
c We don't use an article to talk about things in general (plural or uncountable nouns). ____
d We use *a/an* to talk about a person's job. ____
e We use *a/an* in some measurement expressions. ____
f We use *the* if there is only one of the thing. ____
g We use *the* with specific places in a town. ____
h We don't use an article with some places we go to regularly. ____

Grammar articles

a/an	*the*	No article
*I live in **a** tall apartment building.*	*I live in a modern apartment. **The** apartment is in...*	*They're interested in sports cars.*
*Eric is **an** architect.*	*The address is on **the** Internet.*	*I leave for work at about 9:00 a.m.*
*We go sailing twice **a** month.*	*I'll meet you in **the** park.*	*We go on vacation every summer.*