

READING: TECHNOLOGY THROUGH THE YEARS

1 A When do you think most people in the U.S. first had these things in their homes?
Write 1930s, 1960s, or 1990s.

washing machine _____ black-and-white TV _____ telephone _____ CD player _____
radio _____ vacuum cleaner _____ the Internet _____ freezer _____

B Read the text. When did Ethel, George, and Jessica have these things in their homes?

The 1930s

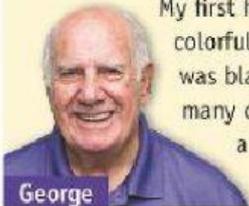


Ethel

In the 1930s, life at home wasn't easy. There was a lot of housework to do, and we didn't have a lot of things to help us like we do now. There wasn't a vacuum cleaner, an electric iron, or a washing machine in our home. We didn't have a private telephone, but there was a phone that we shared with other families. We didn't make many telephone calls! We had a radio, but we didn't have a TV. In my free time (we were always busy, so there wasn't much free time!), I read a lot of books.



The 1960s



George

My first house was very different from my parents' house. The furniture was very colorful, and there was a lot of technology. We had a telephone and a TV. The TV was black and white, and there were a lot of different programs, but there weren't many channels. We had some modern appliances in our kitchen – a fridge, a freezer, an electric stove, a toaster, and a washing machine, and we always had a vacuum cleaner.



The 1990s



Jessica

In the 1990s, a lot of my friends had TVs in their bedrooms. TVs and other electrical items weren't expensive, and I had a TV and a video player in my room. I had both a cassette player and a CD player to listen to music. In 1997, I bought my first cell phone. There was a computer in our house. I didn't use it much, but in 1998, we got the Internet at home. We were so excited! I can't imagine life without the Internet now. Can you?



2 A Complete the sentences from the text with the correct form of *be*.

- 1 My first house _____ very different from my parents' house.
- 2 In the 1930s, life at home _____ easy.
- 3 We _____ so excited!
- 4 TVs and other electrical items _____ expensive.
- 5 There _____ a lot of technology.
- 6 There _____ many channels.



WRITING:

Think about your house when you were a child. Write about the gadgets and inventions you had.

DO NOT FORGET: USE THE PAST SIMPLE AND TIME EXPRESSIONS. (60 WORDS)

The writing area consists of a large rectangular space with a vertical red margin line on the left side. The rest of the space is filled with horizontal blue lines. There are three hole-punch marks on the left side of the writing area, one near the top, one in the middle, and one near the bottom. The background of the writing area is light gray with a faint watermark pattern.