

Listening 2

The porter's office

🎧 Listen to William O'Neill answering telephone calls and directing operations. Complete these notes that he makes of the phone calls.

The Pathology lab wants _____¹ and _____².

Take _____³ to the waste bins. They are outside _____⁴, near the _____⁵ on the _____⁶.

Ward 4 needs a _____⁷ to take a patient to _____⁸.





Modern wheelchairs are a big improvement on the first wheelchairs, which were just wheelbarrows like the ones we use in the garden. Professor Stephen Hawking's wheelchair, for example, is a vehicle, an office, and a domestic servant, all in one.

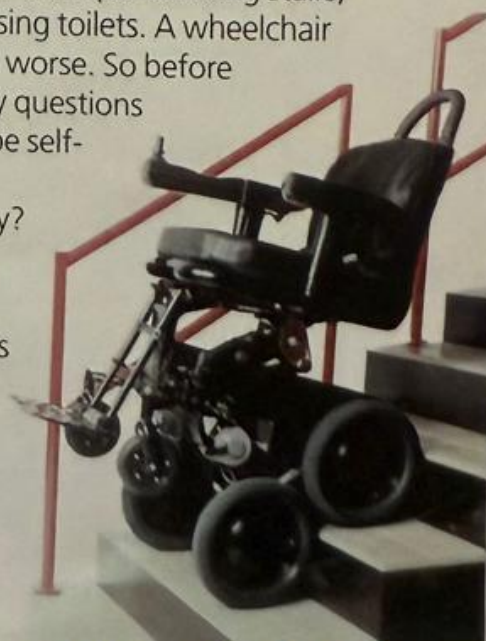


The first real wheelchair was owned by King Philip of Spain in the sixteenth century. It had the latest technology – removable arm rests and leg rests – and was made of wood. Modern wheelchairs are made from the same strong, light metal as aircraft, and electric engines mean that users don't need to use their arms or have someone to push.

Wheelchair design made a big jump forward with the invention of a computer program that responds to voice commands. For users who cannot speak, computer technology also makes it possible to manoeuvre a machine by small movements of the head, hand, tongue, and breath.

Some things that able-bodied people do without thinking can be a major problem for disabled people, for example climbing stairs, entering and leaving buildings, and using toilets. A wheelchair can either help or make the problems worse. So before choosing a wheelchair there are many questions you have to ask: Will the wheelchair be self-propelled or manual? Which is more important, manoeuvrability or stability? How do you get in and out of it?

The iBOT claims to solve many of the problems of standard wheelchairs. It is a highly advanced, all-purpose wheelchair that can travel up stairs, raise the user to reach high shelves, and balance on two wheels in the shower. It is great fun to use, but beware the price – the iBOT costs as much as a luxury car.



Reading

Wheelchairs

1 Read the article on p.15 quickly. Tick the things that are mentioned.

- 1 ☐ computer programs
- 2 ☐ hospitals
- 3 ☐ problems getting around buildings
- 4 ☐ sport
- 5 ☐ what wheelchairs are made of
- 6 ☐ children
- 7 ☐ history of wheelchairs
- 8 ☐ high-speed wheelchairs

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What material was the first wheelchair made of?
- 2 What are modern wheelchairs made of?
- 3 What difference does an electric engine make?
- 4 Apart from your arms, what can you use to control a wheelchair?
- 5 What three things can an iBOT do that an ordinary wheelchair can't?

3 Find words in the text with these meanings.

- 1 the place you put your arms _____
- 2 orders _____
- 3 not disabled _____
- 4 moved by the user's own power _____
- 5 how easy it is to move around _____
- 6 that does everything _____

Prepositions of place and movement

- To describe the place where something is, we use prepositions such as *in, on, on top of, at the top / bottom of, inside / outside, near, next to, by, in front of, behind, opposite, under, over, at, on the left / right*.

*The shop's **near** the entrance, **on the right** of reception.*

*The toilets are **at the bottom of** the stairs, **on the left**.*

- To talk about movement, we use prepositions such as *up, down, into, out of, away, from, to, through, across, along, past, back to, around, left / right*.

*Go **through** the swing doors, turn **left** along the corridor, and the coffee bar's **in front of** you.*

- Prepositions of movement are used with verbs of movement such as *go, come, take, push, carry*.

*Can you take these files **back to** the office, please?*

*To get **from** here **to** surgery, you have to wheel the trolley **through** three wards.*

1 Complete the sentences with the prepositions below.

at by in next to on outside over under

- 1 The toilets are _____ the ground floor,
_____ reception.
- 2 I always keep a pen _____ my pocket.
- 3 Press the button _____ your bed if you need
the nurse.
- 4 I'll put your bag _____ your bed, out of
the way.
- 5 The restaurant's _____ the top of the building,
so take the lift!
- 6 Reception is _____ the main entrance,
_____ the left.
- 7 See that door over there? The car park is just
_____.
- 8 He's _____ Ward 3, _____ the end of this
corridor.