

Future Products



What's your favourite product and why?

1 How are the products that you buy or use different from ten years ago?

I use lots of apps on my mobile phone.

My smart TV has an internet connection.



2A How do you say the words in the box? Complete the sentences with the words.

electric energy environment machines plastic recycle pollution technology

- 1 Gas and electricity are two common types of _____.
- 2 The air in this city is full of _____.
- 3 Many people are buying _____ cars today.
- 4 The land, water and air that people, animals and plants live in is the _____.
- 5 All _____ need to use power, usually electricity.
- 6 Digital _____ is changing how we live and work.
- 7 We _____ paper in our office. It's good for the environment.
- 8 There is a lot of _____ in the sea and it's bad for marine life.

B 6.01 Listen and check your answers to Exercise 2A.

3 Discuss the questions.

- 1 What machines and technology do you use for your job?
- 2 What do you usually recycle at work and at home?
- 3 How popular are electric cars in your country?
- 4 Is air pollution sometimes a problem where you live? Why?

4A Read the article about products of the future. Match the pictures (A-C) with the correct part of the article (1-3).

B Which jobs do you think will/might disappear in the future? Why?

Products of the future

Technology and the environment are changing the products we use every day. We talked to some experts about the products of the future.



1 _____

Paul Kumar, Product Designer

Everyone **will use** their mobiles to pay for things. I **don't think** we **will need** cash and bank cards soon. But we **will need** better online security.



2 _____

Andrew Winter, Green Business Consultant

Consumers want to help the environment. I **think** many products we buy **will change**. One day we **might not see** plastic bags, packaging and water bottles in supermarkets. I **think there will be** more electric cars soon. And companies **will use** electric trucks and drones to deliver our products.



3 _____

Mia Schröder, Digital Engineer

Smart machines **will have** a big impact on our lives. Today we use LED lights and soon we **might use** technology to save energy in our homes. I **think** we **will buy** more robots for our homes. Robots **will do** more jobs in factories as well. Many jobs we do today **won't exist** in future.



Certain

Everyone **will use** their mobiles to pay for things.

I **think** we **will buy** more robots for our homes.

I **think there will be** more electric cars.

Impossible

I **don't think** we **will need** cash.

Many jobs we do today **won't exist** in future.

Possible

We **might use** technology to save energy.

We **might not see** plastic bags in supermarkets.

My company

- 1 There _____ more competition. (be)
- 2 There _____ more staff. (be)
- 3 We _____ to a new location. (move)

My job

- 4 I _____ the same job. (have)
- 5 A robot _____ my job. (do)
- 6 I _____ from home. (work)

Products/services I use/buy

- 9 I _____ an electric car. (buy)
- 8 I _____ smart technology at home. (use)
- 9 I _____ more things. (recycle)

Turnover next year

- Hire more sales reps – not sure
- Win new business in the USA – not sure
- Rent new offices – definitely not
- Launch our eco-friendly products – yes, in June
- Attend exhibitions – no plans, but we need to
- Buy new computers – not this year
- Hit targets – yes, order numbers are good

1 Look at the notes and complete the sentences with *will*, *might* (not) or *won't*.

- 1 In the next year, our company _____ hit its targets.
- 2 We _____ win new business in the USA.
- 3 We _____ hire more sales reps.
- 4 We _____ rent new offices.
- 5 We _____ launch eco-friendly products.
- 6 We _____ attend exhibitions.
- 7 We _____ buy new computers.

2 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

In the next ten years ...

- 1 don't / drink water / think / I / we / from plastic bottles / will / .

- 2 sell / won't / goods / supermarkets / plastic packaging / in / .

- 3 and offices / might / robots / our houses / clean / .

- 4 pollution / in our cities / I think / we / reduce / will / .

- 5 to drive / might not / many people / learn / .

- 6 might / a lot of / there / be / on the roads / driverless cars / .

D	F	M	J	R	Z	X	Q	W	R	J	K	E
A	G	I	O	P	P	B	E	V	K	L	E	U
R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	Y	O	U	I	L	W
S	D	R	E	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	S	O
A	Z	E	A	D	S	U	T	X	M	I	O	F
D	C	N	D	I	T	Q	P	W	E	R	U	I
U	I	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T
K	O	R	B	C	C	D	L	V	I	F	O	L
M	I	G	E	X	Q	Y	L	Y	T	F	K	P
T	K	Y	D	C	X	V	U	X	T	K	I	X
Y	H	I	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	G	R
W	A	S	R	I	O	P	I	L	O	P	M	U
V	Y	U	O	P	E	R	O	G	H	U	B	Y
G	Y	W	T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y

1 Find eight words about technology and the environment in the word search.

2 Complete the dialogues with words from Exercise 1.

1 A: What do you do to help the _____?

B: I _____ paper, glass and clothes and I don't drive.

2 A: Why is _____ bad for our planet?

B: It pollutes the sea and is bad for marine life.

3 A: What type of _____ do you use to cook: gas or electricity?

B: We use an _____ cooker.

4 A: Is there a lot of _____ in your town or city?

B: Yes, there is. There are a lot of cars and factories.

5 A: What _____ do you use to save energy?

B: We use LED lights.

6 A: What do the _____ do in your factory?

B: They place the products in boxes.

6A  **6.1.1** Watch the video. Which speaker (Leona, Steve, Kate or Lisa) talks about these things? Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

Apps	
Electric	
Mobile phones	
Packaging	Leona

Pollution/Waste	
Renting/Sharing	
Robots	
Smart technology	



cars cash colour energy
electric food packaging
products recycled rent
room share

- B** Work in pairs. Complete the sentences with a word from the box. Watch the video again and check.

Speaker 1: _____

There will be more online shopping. People will still want to touch and feel ¹ _____.
² _____ will become less popular. There will be less ³ _____ on products.

Speaker 2: _____

In the next five to ten years ⁴ _____ cars and motorbikes will become very popular.
Many people will choose to ⁵ _____ cars. There might be driverless ⁶ _____
in five to ten years.

Speaker 3: _____

Clothes will change ⁷ _____ and size in the future. Manufacturers will use ⁸ _____
materials. People won't buy many clothes. We might ⁹ _____ clothes instead!

Speaker 4: _____

Hotel guests will open the door to their ¹⁰ _____ with an app. Robots might deliver
¹¹ _____ to their rooms. Smart technology will also help hotels to save ¹² _____.

- C** Work in pairs. Write the name of each speaker 1-4. Do you agree with their ideas?

7A Complete each sentence about the future of products, technology and the environment.
Then write four sentences of your own using *will*, *won't*, *might* or *might not*.

I think there will _____ . I don't think there will _____ .
There might/might not _____ . People will/won't _____ .

Physical description of a product

In addition to describing the features of a product, you may also have to describe it physically, in particular its shape (= the form that it has), size (= dimensions), weight and materials.

To talk about shape we can use adjectives or nouns.

It's **square**, **circular**/round, **rectangular**, **L-shaped**, **star-shaped**.

It's in the shape of a **square**, **circle**, **rectangle**, **letter 'L'**.

To talk about dimensions we can use adjectives or nouns.

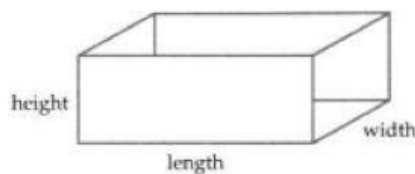
The product is 8mm **long/wide/high/deep**.

The **length/width/height/depth** of the product is 8mm.

It's 8mm **in** length/width/height/depth.

It's 40cm **in diameter**.

It **ranges** in height **from** 2m at one end **to** 3m at the other.



We might want to talk about area and volume.

It **measures** 60cm **by** 20cm. So that's 1,200 **square centimetres** (written as cm^2).

It **measures** 2m **by** 2m **by** 1.5m. So that's 6 **cubic metres** (written as m^3).

To talk about weight we say:

It **weighs** six kilos.

It's six kilos **in weight**. (NOT six of kilos)

To talk about materials we say:

It's **made of** aluminium, reinforced concrete, copper, fibreglass, glass, leather, moulded plastic, nanomaterials, rubber, steel, wood (US: lumber), etc.

It's a **composite material**. (= made of several things)

It's a new type of polymer.

Note these questions that a customer may ask:

What shape is it? What size is it?

How long is it? How wide is it?

Can you give me the dimensions?

How much does it weigh?

What's it made of?

9.4 Underline the correct word in italics.

- 1 The *features* / *characteristics* of a product are the important and interesting things that help to sell it.
- 2 Dimensions of a product *include* / *don't include* weight.
- 3 What *form* / *shape* is it?
- 4 What *dimension* / *size* is it?
- 5 How *length* / *long* is it?
- 6 What is its *length* / *long*?
- 7 How much does it *weigh* / *weight*?
- 8 What is the *weigh* / *weight*?

9.5 Complete the sentences by writing one word in each space.

- 1 How long is it?
→ It's 120 centimetres long.
→ It's 120 centimetres in length.
- 2 How wide is it?
→ It's 15 centimetres wide.
→ It's 15 centimetres in _____.
- 3 How _____ is it?
→ It's just 25 millimetres high.
→ It's just 25 millimetres in _____.
- 4 How _____ is the hotel swimming pool?
→ It's around 2 metres in _____.
→ It ranges _____ depth from 1 metre at one end to 2 metres at the other.
- 5 How much does it weigh?
→ It _____ a little over 2 kilos.
→ It's a little over 2 kilos in _____.
- 6 What area of ground does it need?
→ Well, it measures 10 metres _____ 10 metres when it's constructed, so it will need 100 _____ metres of ground.
- 7 What is the _____ of the tank?
→ Let me see. It's 1.5 metres long by 1.5 metres wide by 4 metres deep. So that's 9 _____ metres.
- 8 What's it made _____?
→ Well, like most modern bicycles it's made of a _____ material – plastic reinforced with carbon fibre.

9.6 Write the name of the material next to the object it is most likely to be made from.

reinforced concrete	copper	leather
moulded plastic	nanomaterials	steel

- 1 washing machine, bridge steel
- 2 fizzy drink bottle, cheap toy _____
- 3 pipe to carry water, wire, coin _____
- 4 seat of a luxury car, shoe _____
- 5 computer memory, high-tech clothing _____
- 6 walls and floors of a tall building _____