Tomorrow Calling

Technology

Match the headings (1–5) with the paragraphs (a–d). There is one extra heading.

a Tiny and cheap!

b Just tell your computer, phone or TV what to do!

c Don't ever leave home; have a printer? Easy!

d Online anytime, anywhere!

e Shopping has never been easier!

The future wonders of technology

In the 90s everyone was making predictions about the new millennium, the year 2000. Today, research agencies have chosen 2050 as the year to look towards. Countless official predictions are set for 2050, as many World Expos will have happened by then. We all expect a lot of new inventions! Will artificial intelligence and robotics have taken over the world?

1 _____

Internet experts think that by 2050, we will have provided Internet to every corner of the world. Currently, only about 40% of the globe has Internet access, with 78% of users in developed countries and 32% in developing countries. That's about 2.85 billion people. Online expansion will expose the world to one of the most important innovations of modern history, opening possibilities for global communication and commerce.

2 _____

Over the last 25 years or so, information technology has become 1,000 times better. By 2050, computer engineers will have invented a computer that fits in your jacket as a small chip. We will say goodbye to big hard disks and this will all be done through nanotechnology. The good news is that it won't cost tons of money to own one of these tiny computers. By then, the price of electronic devices will have dropped by more than 50%.

3 _____

We've got used to the idea that computers are machines that we operate with our hands. Just as we became comfortable with keyboards and mouses, today's generation has learned to text at high speed. Each new technology has required new skills to use it. The next step is no-touch interfaces, devices adapt to us rather than the opposite. There is already evidence of this through voice command; by even earlier than 2050, electronic developers will have produced devices that users can completely control in this way.

4 _____

With 3D printers, not only will we be able to print objects in three dimensions, we will be able to print them in practically any material: not just plastics, but also metal, concrete, fabrics and even food. By 2050, we will have created websites that allow you to buy and download product designs, and then you will just be able to print them at home.