## HOUSES THAT THINK

Are you tired of the color or pattern of your walls? In a smart home, you won't have to repaint them. The walls will actually be digital screens, like computer or TV screens. The technology is called OLED,[1] and it's here already. OLEDs are tiny devices that use electricity to light things. You can find the same technology in today's thin TV screens. OLED walls can become clear, like windows, or display colors and patterns, like walls.

A computer network will link these walls with everything else in your house. This intelligent technology works like a computer "brain" that controls your entire house. It will also adapt to your preferences. Your house can learn about your likes and dislikes. It will then use that knowledge to control the environment. For example, it will set the heat in the house to your favorite temperature. It will turn on the shower at the right heat. It will also darken the windows at night and lighten them when it's time to wake up.

## ROBOTS THAT FEEL?

But how about your cooked breakfast, and the umbrella and hat you found by the door? For those, you can thank your robot helper. Futurologists predict that many homes will have robots in the future. Robots already do many things, such as building cars and vacuuming floors. But scientists today are starting to build friendlier, more intelligent robots—ones that people will feel more comfortable having around in the house.

Sociable robots will be able to show feelings with their faces, just like humans. They will smile and frown, make eye contact, and speak. These robots will do work around the house, such as cooking and cleaning. They will even take care of children and the elderly.

How soon will this smart home be a reality? There's a good chance it will be a part of your life in the next 10 years, perhaps sooner. Much of the technology is already here.

[1]OLED stands for "organic light-emitting diode."

**A** Match each main idea below to a paragraph (A–H) from the reading. Three paragraphs are extra. UNDERSTANDING MAIN IDEAS

_____ 1. An intelligent electronic system will control an entire house.

_____ 2. Information-storing technology will allow parts of the house to communicate with us.

_____ 3. Digital technology will allow us to change the design of our homes.

_____ 4. Intelligent homes may be a part of our everyday life within 10 years.

_____ 5. Robots that act like humans will do housework and take care of people.

**B** According to the passage, is each statement below true? Or is it not mentioned? Circle T for *true*, F for *false*, or NG for *not given*. UNDERSTANDING DETAILS

**Appliances That Talk**

1. Appliances will make personalized suggestions using information they collect. **T F NG**
2. RFID is a type of smart refrigerator that can recommend recipes. **T F NG**

**Houses That Think**

3. Future technology will make houses safer from natural disasters. **T F NG**
4. Houses will be able to change the temperature of the room based on your preferences. **T F NG**

**Robots That Feel?**

5. Robots will have human-like expressions. **T F NG**
6. Sociable robots will help us in our homes. **T F NG**

LIVEWORKSHEETS