



Name: _____

Points: _____

READING AND WRITING

A Scan the article quickly. Write the appliances the article mentions on the line below.

Technology Report

June 9

In today's report, we look at a new trend in technology called the *internet of things*.

The internet of things means putting tiny computers into everyday electronic appliances, such as toasters and microwaves. With this new technology, appliances can communicate with their users—and with other appliances!



Many companies now sell products that are part of the internet of things, like a smart toaster. It remembers your favorite kind of toast: light or dark. Companies have also designed a smart coffee maker. Not only can it measure water and coffee, but it can also remember to put milk in your coffee at breakfast and make black coffee in the afternoon. In addition, there's a smart alarm clock that can show you the weather, play music, and even communicate with other devices and give you information. For example, it can tell you, "Your coffee maker needs more water."

And that's only the beginning. Now, it's possible to have a smart home, in which the lights, heater, and air conditioner change automatically when family members come home. This makes the home comfortable, and it saves a lot of energy. The internet of things could change many parts of our daily lives.

But do people really want this? Do they really need technology everywhere? One company asked people about their opinions on smart appliances. Some answers were surprising. A smart refrigerator can buy more food online, but people didn't want that because the refrigerator could make mistakes.

Some people say that smart technology will someday be as important as the telephone. But, in fact, many of these products are not useful, or even practical. Companies should learn more about the technology that people really want.

B Read the article again. Circle **T** for *true* or **F** for *false*.

1. A smart toaster has a computer inside.	T	F
2. People can buy products like this now.	T	F
3. Smart houses use more energy.	T	F
4. A smart alarm clock can communicate with other devices.	T	F
5. The people that one company spoke to wanted a smart refrigerator.	T	F
6. The writer of the report believes all smart technology is useful.	T	F

C Match each word from the report with the correct meaning.

_____ 1. appliances	a. create a plan to make something
_____ 2. communicate	b. send messages
_____ 3. design	c. machines for the home
_____ 4. technology	d. science used to invent useful things

D Use the words in **C** to complete the sentences.

1. Cell phones help us _____ with each other.
2. Without modern _____, we wouldn't have cell phones and computers.
3. Scientists _____ some amazing things.
4. My favorite _____ are my vacuum cleaner and my washing machine.

E Write about your favorite way to communicate. Compare it with other ways.