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## Unit 2

# LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The best way to predict the future is  
to create it.

——Peter Drucker





# I. Viewing and Speaking

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. What do the boy, the robot and the universe probably stand for?

◆ the boy: human beings

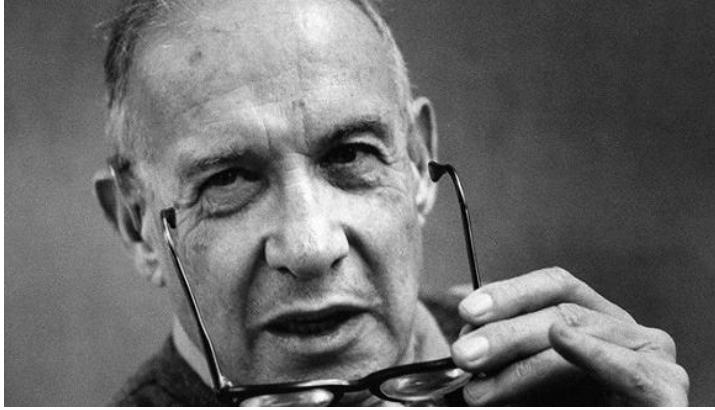
◆ the robot: science technology

◆ the universe: infinite future

3. Based on what the boy is doing, ahead what message does this picture intend to convey?

◆ the possible future relationship between man and technology





The best way to predict the future is to create it.

—Peter Drucker

How do you understand the quote?

4. Watch a video about Zuckerberg's home and think about the two questions:
- 1) Use one adjective to describe his home.
  - 2) What changes will technology bring our homes in the future?

◆ baby-

sitting

◆ entertainment

◆ house

arrangement

...

Smart homes  
make  
life Easier





## II. Reading and Thinking

1. Skim the text quickly and answer the following questions:

(1) What's the type of this text?

**exposition**

(2) What's the structure of this text?

(3) What's its purpose?

To **inform** readers of smart homes

(4) Who is the intended readers?

**Home owners** who are interested in turning their homes smarter

### SMART HOMES TO MAKE LIFE EASIER

Have you ever forgotten to lock the door of your house? Or, have you ever forgotten to **switch** off the TV or computer? You will no longer have to think about turning switches on and off yourself. Your home will also learn your daily **routine** and **preferences**, so everything will be done for you when you get home. Our lights will come on the moment you open the door along with your favourite music or TV programmes, and you will find your dinner already prepared for you. All controls will respond to voice commands, so if you want to change your temperature, you just say aloud what you want and the home system will obey.

**Title**

**Introduction**

**Body**

#### Intelligent Controls

Today, we have to use switches for lights, knobs for our appliances, and **remote** controls for our TVs and air conditioners. In the future, we will be using advanced technology every day for a variety of purposes. Every smart home will have

#### Regular Health Checks

In addition, your smart home will be monitoring your health for you every day. Your bed, for example, will record how long you sleep and how often you wake up. It will also

**subtitle<sub>1</sub>**

**subtitle<sub>2</sub>**

**subtitle<sub>3</sub>**

send a **warning** to your phone. It will also give you suggestions on a healthier diet and how to sleep better. Smart toilets will be keeping **constant** track of your health as well. They can warn you early on if there is something abnormal. If you have a **critical** illness, such as heart disease, smart homes can potentially save your life.

there is a short in the electrical wiring, your smart home will **detect** it and provide you with the **relevant** information. This way, you will be able to fix the problem before your home becomes flooded or catches fire.

**Conclusion**

#### No More Disasters

Smart homes will be able to prevent serious damage from accidents. For example, if a water pipe starts **leaking**, or if

new technology is not a **fantasy**. Now **innovations** are already **available** and being used in some homes. In this sense, the home of tomorrow is already the home of today. **Nevertheless**, it will take some years before most new homes begin to use this new technology.

2. Why does the writer raise two questions in the very beginning?



◆ To attract readers'

attention

◆ To lead to the topic

Why could such questions attract readers' attention?

the shared experience (empathy)

3. What's the following sentences about?

To signal the coming of what the writer emphasizes.

However, in the not-too-distant future, we will be living in smart homes that will lock the door for us when we are away and remember to switch off the TV when we forget. These smart homes will keep us secure, save us energy, and provide a more comfortable environment to live in.

▪ What can smart homes do?

▪ What's smart homes like?

▪ What benefits will smart homes bring us?

▪ What's the benefits of smart homes?

4. Form a **Reading Circle** in groups of four. Each student plays one of the following roles to analyze Paragraph 2-4:

Role	Focus	Questions to ask
Content analyst	What's going on?	◆ What's the text about?
		◆ Who does what to whom, how, when and where?
Structure builder	How is the text organized?	◆ How does the text organize the message?
		◆ How are ideas presented and developed?
Language master	What's the language feature?	◆ How does the writer use words and sentences to express ideas?

Paragraph	Role	Name	Questions	Answer
2	Content analyst	Lucy	What makes all these intelligent controls possible?	...

## ▪ Intelligent Controls

5. How will the automatic controls make our homes smarter?

◆ using **integrated sensors** to change the environment into **energy-efficient mode**

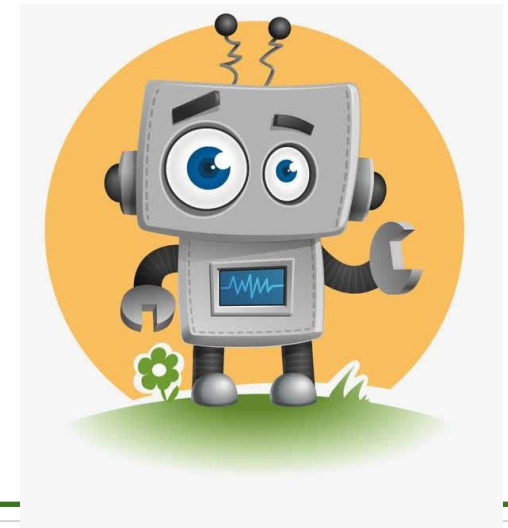
◆ Making everything ready by learning your **daily routine** and **preferences**.

6. What makes all these automatic controls possible?

◆ **advanced technology**

7. How could we control the automatic controls?

◆ By saying aloud (**voice commands**)





## 8. How does the writer show the automatic controls are intelligent?

**content: direct**  
**description**

The future home will use integrated sensors to tell when you leave home each morning...Your home will also learn your daily routine and preferences...

**Structure:**  
**contrast**

Today, we have to use switches for our lights, knobs for our appliances.. In the future, we will be using advanced technology every day for automatic...

**Language:**  
**rheterical device**  
**(personfication)**

The future home will use integrated sensors to tell when you leave home each morning...Your home will also learn your daily routine and preferences...Your lights will come on the instant your...All controls will respond to voice commands, so if ...

**Language:**  
***adj and adverb***  
**(vivid and strong)**

...every day for automatic control of just about everything in our home...and the go into an energy-efficient mode all by itself. You will no longer have to think about turning switches on and off yourself...so everything will be ready when you get home each evening. Your lights will come on the instant your enter the door...and you will find your dinner already prepared for you. All controls will respond to voice commands...you just say aloud what you want and the home system will obey.

## ■ Regular Health Checks

9. What in your smart homes will monitor your health? And what can they do specifically?

◆ **smart bed**

record sleep quality

check body weight

advise healthy diet

◆ **smart**

send warnings on abnormal physical condition or critical illness

**toilets**

10. Why does the writer use the sentence pattern “Your bed will...It will...it will...It will...Smart toilets will...”?

◆ **To create a kind of feeling that smart home could solve all the**

**problems you meet.**

11. How is the paragraph developed? Draw a tree map.

◆ **By example**



## ■ No More Disasters

12. How could smart homes prevent your home from serious disasters?

◆ By quickly detecting the problem and providing relevant information

13. How is this paragraph developed?

◆ By example

14. Why does the writer say “the home of tomorrow is already the home of today”? How do you understand it?

◆ the home of tomorrow: **new**

**innovations**

◆ the home of today: a few new things **already**  
**available**

15. What's the writer's attitude towards smart homes according to the last paragraph?

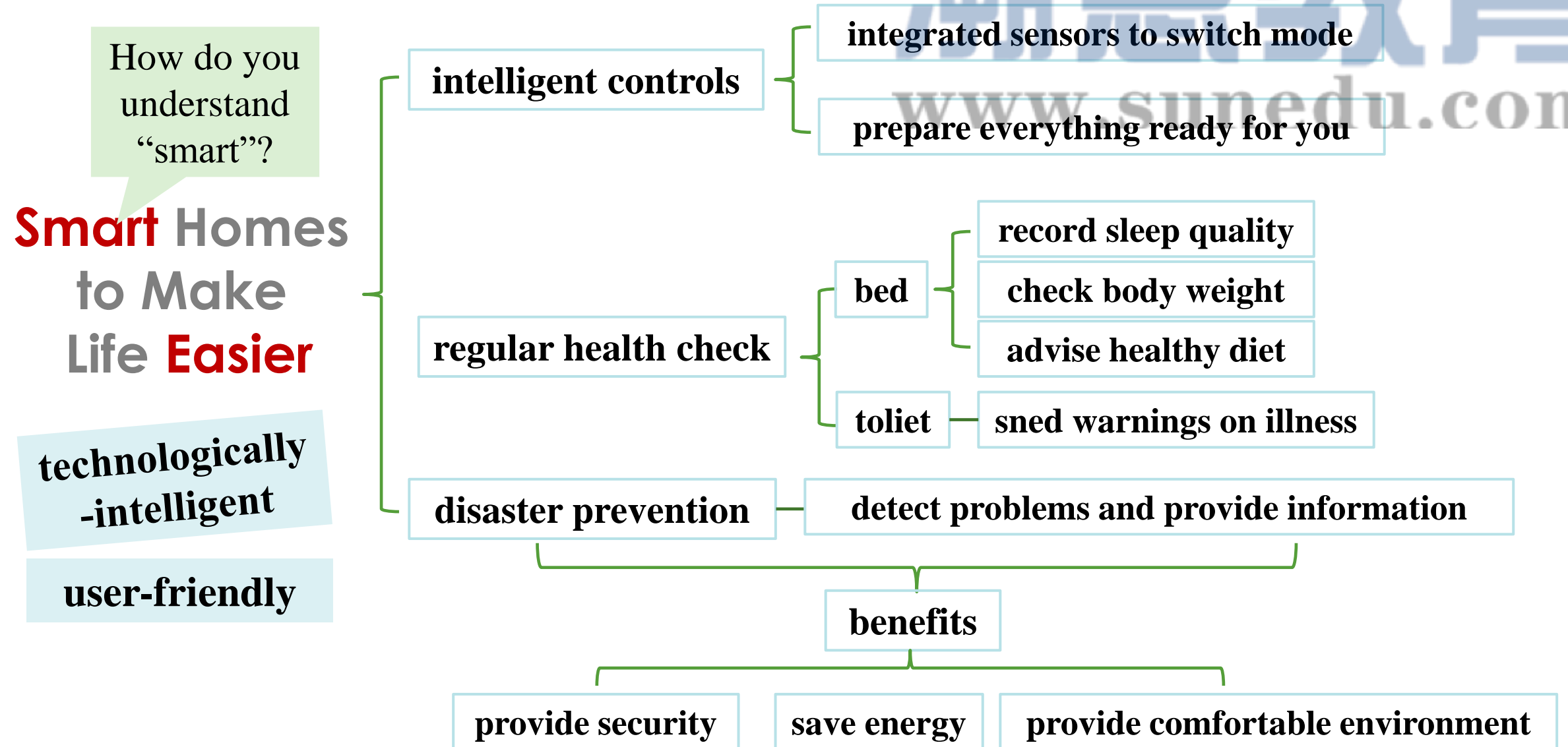
◆ supportive but rational

Not a Fantasy;  
a Reality





16. Draw a mind map to show the content and structure of the text.



### III. Activity

17. Why does the writer begin many sentences with “you”, which seems inappropriate in writing an exposition?
18. What do you think of smart homes? What are the disadvantages and disadvantages smart homes have?
19. If you are able to create a smart device for your home, what will you create? Write about your creation. You are supposed to include:
- a name indicating the device;
  - a general introduction to the new device;
  - examples illustrating its new function;
  - the benefits the new device can bring.
- (draw a picture to illustrate more clearly and vividly)

