

The 7 Steps -
March



1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.



Smarthomes & Drones

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

Listening Questions 1

- Name 3 smart devices mentioned in the audio.
_____.
- When did Apple come out with its smart speaker and what is it called?
_____.
- What's another name for a "digital assistant"?
_____.
- How much of the U.S. smart speaker market does Amazon have?
_____.
- What is Amazon's digital assistant called?
_____.

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

Listening Questions 2

- Name 2 situations drones are being used for.
_____.
- What did Amazon do towards the end of 2015?
_____.
- Where would these facilities be located?
_____.
- How high would the blimps fly and what would they be used for?
_____.
- What is Wal-Mart planning, and what would they have in common with Amazon?
_____.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Discussion Questions

- How can smart devices improve the quality of our lives?
- How do you feel about the increasing use of drones in society?

TRANSCRIPT 1

4. CHECK ANSWERS



Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

Smart devices are becoming an increasingly important part of our lives, and more and more of them are being designed for, and appearing in our homes. A few examples are electrical outlets, cameras, locks, lights, thermostats, and fans.

When it comes to the smart home market, Amazon, Google and Apple have come out with what are called “smart speakers.” Amazon’s lineup includes the Echo and Echo Dot, Google has the Home and Home Mini, and in February 2018 Apple launched the HomePod. These devices work **in conjunction with** each company’s “digital assistant” (also known as “voice assistant”), and are activated by saying specific words. Homeowners can control their smart devices with them or even ask them questions like, “What is the weather going to be like today?”

According to a CNET article published in August 2017, Amazon’s share of the smart speaker market in the United States is about 70% and more than 1,000 different products work with their voice assistant Alexa.

Smart home technology is developing **rapidly** and the opportunities appear to be limitless. What perhaps seemed very futuristic only a few years ago, now looks very realistic. It’s not inconceivable that our homes will one day be completely connected.

MATCH THE SYNONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

In conjunction with

Used to

Rapidly

At some point in the future

Eventually

Together with

Accustomed to

Ordinary

Average

Quickly

5. CHECK VOCABULARY



Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

6. READ ALOUD



Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 2

Another word that we’ve become **accustomed to** hearing is “drone.” Drones come in many shapes, sizes and prices, and are used for all kinds of purposes, the best-known probably being personal entertainment and movies. Drones have also been deployed in search and rescue operations, and according to a CNN article, by insurance companies to assess damage, for example after a natural disaster.

As online purchases continue to grow in popularity, the area that drones will probably have the biggest impact on the **average** person is deliveries.

In June 2017, CNN reported that Amazon had applied for a patent in late 2015 for what could **eventually** be their distribution center of the future. It looks like they would be located in cities and designed for drones that would make deliveries. Interestingly, Amazon could also potentially make traditional truck deliveries from the same facility.

In December 2016 CNN reported that Amazon may also be planning another kind of facility. Imagine a blimp that could function as a starting point for drone deliveries. The article explained that the blimps would fly over cities at more than 10,000 meters high.

It looks like Amazon isn’t the only one with ambitious plans. In August 2017, Fortune reported that Wal-Mart is looking to develop what Fortune called “floating warehouses,” and like Amazon their drones would take off from there.

7. SHADOWING



Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5