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Level 4

Robots to help us make our own furniture

2nd April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-4.html>

Robots are taking over. The latest job technology is replacing is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have created furniture. The next generation of master carpenters may be robots. Researchers at MIT have created a robot that can custom-make furniture. The robots will not replace humans, but will improve safety. The goal is to let robots do the more dangerous task of sawing so carpenters can focus on design.

The MIT team used today's technology to create the "AutoSaw". It differs from robots that make the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture we buy from stores. People will design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood. It will also reduce the risk of us losing a finger. Researchers aim to "democratize furniture-customization". They want people to make what fits their needs, rather than what IKEA has. This will mean better furniture.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43251669>
<https://www.theverge.com/2018/2/28/17058532/robot-carpentry-automated-mit-assisted-furniture>
<https://www.cnet.com/news/mit-autosaw-roomba-robot-system-handles-carpentry-csail/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Robots are taking | a. of sawing |
| 2. skilled carpenters have | b. over |
| 3. The next | c. make furniture |
| 4. master | d. on design |
| 5. a robot that can custom- | e. generation |
| 6. improve | f. carpenters |
| 7. the more dangerous task | g. created furniture |
| 8. carpenters can focus | h. safety |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. mass- | a. customization |
| 2. flat- | b. the risk |
| 3. People will design their | c. produced |
| 4. reduce | d. better furniture |
| 5. losing a | e. pack furniture |
| 6. democratize furniture- | f. fits their needs |
| 7. make what | g. own furniture |
| 8. This will mean | h. finger |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-4.html>

Robots (1) _____. The latest job technology is replacing is carpentry. For thousands of years, (2) _____ created furniture. The (3) _____ master carpenters may be robots.

Researchers at MIT have created a robot that can (4) _____. The robots will not replace humans, but (5) _____. The goal is to let robots do the more dangerous task of sawing so carpenters can (6) _____.

The MIT (7) _____ technology to create the "AutoSaw". It differs from robots that make the mass-produced, (8) _____ we buy from stores. People will (9) _____ furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood. It will also (10) _____ of us losing a finger. Researchers aim to "democratize furniture-customization". They want people to (11) _____ their needs, rather than what IKEA has. This will (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-4.html>

Robots are taking over. The latest job technology is replacing carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have created furniture. Then the next generation of master carpenters may be robots. Researchers at MIT have created a robot that can custom-make furniture. The robots will not replace humans, but will improve safety. The goal is to let robots do the more dangerous tasks of sawing so carpenters can focus on design. The MIT team used today's technology to create the "AutoSaw". It differs from robots that make the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture we buy from stores. People will design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood. It will also reduce the risk of losing a finger. Researchers aim to "democratize furniture-customization". They want people to make what fits their needs, rather than what IKEA has. This will mean better furniture.

FURNITURE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about furniture in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

