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Level 5

Robots to help us make our own furniture

2nd April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-5.html>

Robots are taking over more parts of our lives and jobs. The latest job to feel threatened by technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have created furniture from wood. However, the next generation of master carpenters may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can create custom-made furniture. The robots will not replace humans, but will improve safety. The goal of the project 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 are currently used to make the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture we buy from home-furnishing stores. People will design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great precision. It will also reduce the risk of us losing a finger. Researchers said: "Our aim is to democratize furniture-customization...to open up a realm of opportunities so users aren't bound to what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what best fits their needs." This will mean better-designed 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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. taking over more | a. task of sawing |
| 2. feel threatened | b. generation |
| 3. the next | c. made furniture |
| 4. master | d. on design |
| 5. create custom- | e. parts of our lives |
| 6. The robots will not | f. carpenters |
| 7. the more dangerous | g. replace humans |
| 8. focus | h. by technology |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The MIT team used today's | a. precision |
| 2. mass-produced, flat- | b. fits their needs |
| 3. home- | c. losing a finger |
| 4. cut up the wood with great | d. designed furniture |
| 5. reduce the risk of us | e. technology |
| 6. open up a realm | f. furnishing stores |
| 7. make what best | g. pack furniture |
| 8. better- | h. of opportunities |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-5.html>

Robots are taking over (1) _____ our lives and jobs. The latest job to feel threatened by (2) _____. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have created furniture from wood. However, the (3) _____ master carpenters may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can (4) _____ furniture. The robots will not replace humans, but (5) _____. The goal of the project is to let robots do the more dangerous (6) _____ so carpenters can focus on design.

The MIT team used (7) _____ create the "AutoSaw". It differs from robots that are (8) _____ make the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture we buy from home-furnishing stores. People will (9) _____ furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great precision. It will also reduce the risk of us (10) _____. Researchers said: "Our aim is to democratize furniture-customization...to open up (11) _____ opportunities so users aren't bound to what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what best (12) _____." This will mean better-designed furniture.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture-5.html>

Write about **furniture** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
