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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6
Robots to help us make our own furniture

2nd April, 2018

https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180402-furniture.html

Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

Robots are taking over more and more aspects of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to perhaps feel threatened by the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have lovingly created furniture from wood. However, the next generation of master craftsmen and women may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can create custom-made wooden furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead will improve safety. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more dangerous tasks of sawing and assembling, so carpenters can focus on design.

The MIT team used currently available technology to create what they call the AutoSaw. It differs from conventional robots that are currently used to manufacture the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture many of us buy from giant home-furnishing stores. People will be able to design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great precision and reduced risk of us losing a finger. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our aim is to democratize furniture-customization. We're trying 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." She believes it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

WARM-UPS

1. CARPENTRY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about furniture. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

robots / occupation / threatened / technology / craftsmen / humans / safety / design / currently / conventional / mass-produced / furniture / precision / opportunities / needs

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. TAKING OVER: Students A **strongly** believe robots are taking over; Students B **strongly** believe they aren't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. OCCUPATIONS: Could robots take over these jobs? Why? Why not? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why?	**Why Not?**
Carpenter		
Soldier		
Teacher		
Doctor		
Soccer player		
Comedian		

5. TECHNOLOGY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "technology". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. FURNITURE: Rank these with your partner. Put the best furniture at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sofa
- bed
- dining table
- desk

- bean bag
- bookcase
- armchair
- clothes closet

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	aspects	a.	The progress or continuity of something that is considered to be moving continually onward.
2.	occupation	b.	Fitting together the separate component parts of a machine or other object.
3.	threatened	c.	A particular part or feature of something.
4.	march	d.	Be at risk or in danger.
5.	generation	e.	A job or profession.
6.	custom	f.	A single stage in the development of a type of product.
7.	assembling	g.	Designed and put together as the customer wanted it.

Paragraph 2

8.	conventional	h.	Made in very, very large numbers, usually in factories.
9.	mass-produced	i.	Furniture, fittings, and other decorative accessories, such as curtains and carpets, for a house or room.
10.	furnishing	j.	A field or area of activity or interest.
11.	precision	k.	Normal; regular; ordinary; usual.
12.	democratize	l.	Felt forced to do something.
13.	realm	m.	Make something accessible to everyone.
14.	bound	n.	The quality, condition, or fact of being exact and accurate.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

a. The article said robots have made carpenters no longer needed.   **T / F**

b. The next generation of master carpenters will be robots.   **T / F**

c. The carpentry robot in the article will improve safety.   **T / F**

d. The carpentry robot will take on more design tasks.   **T / F**

e. AutoSaw is the same as robots used to mass-produce furniture.   **T / F**

f. AutoSaw will allow people to make furniture without losing fingers.   **T / F**

g. AutoSaw's designer wants to make furniture design more democratic.   **T / F**

h. AutoSaw could free people from relying on IKEA for furniture.   **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:
Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

1.	**aspects**	a.	accuracy
2.	**occupation**	b.	concentrate
3.	**skilled**	c.	profession
4.	**generation**	d.	equip
5.	**focus**	e.	chance
6.	**conventional**	f.	crop
7.	**precision**	g.	world
8.	**risk**	h.	features
9.	**realm**	i.	established
10.	**empower**	j.	expert

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1.	taking over more and more	a.	created furniture
2.	feel threatened by the march	b.	finger
3.	skilled carpenters have lovingly	c.	sawing
4.	next generation of master	d.	pack furniture
5.	robots do the more dangerous tasks of	e.	of technology
6.	mass-produced, flat-	f.	furnishing stores
7.	giant home-	g.	aspects of our lives
8.	cut up the wood with great	h.	of opportunities
9.	reduced risk of us losing a	i.	craftsmen and women
10.	open up a realm	j.	precision

GAP FILL

Robots are taking over more and more (1) _____ of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to (2) _____ feel threatened by the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have (3) _____ created furniture from wood. However, the next generation of (4) _____ craftsmen and women may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can create (5) _____ - made wooden furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead will improve (6) _____. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more dangerous (7) _____ of sawing and assembling, so carpenters can (8) _____ on design.

lovingly

custom

aspects

tasks

focus

safety

master

perhaps

The MIT team used (9) _____ available technology to create what they call the AutoSaw. It (10) _____ from conventional robots that are currently used to manufacture the (11) _____ -produced, flat-pack furniture many of us buy from (12) _____ home-furnishing stores. People will be able to design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great (13) _____ and reduced risk of us losing a finger. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our (14) _____ is to democratize furniture-customization. We're trying to open up a (15) _____ of opportunities so users aren't bound to what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what best (16) _____ their needs." She believes it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

precision

mass

currently

fits

giant

aim

differs

realm

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

1) The latest occupation to perhaps feel threatened by _____ technology
   a. the march of
   b. the may of
   c. the much of
   d. them arch of

2) However, the next generation of _____
   a. mister craftsmen
   b. muster craftsmen
   c. mast star craftsmen
   d. master craftsmen

3) .... (MIT) have created a robot that can create custom-made _____
   a. wood den furniture
   b. wooden furniture
   c. wood dent furniture
   d. woo den furniture

4) They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead _____
   a. will improve safely
   b. will improve safety
   c. will improve safe tea
   d. will improve safe tee

5) the more dangerous tasks of sawing and assembling, so carpenters _____ design
   a. can focus an
   b. can focus in
   c. can focus on
   d. can focus one

6) The MIT team used currently available technology to create _____ the AutoSaw
   a. what they call
   b. what they speak
   c. what they talk
   d. what they voice

7) currently used to manufacture the mass-produced, _____
   a. flat-back furniture
   b. flat-pack furniture
   c. flat-plaque furniture
   d. flat-pact furniture

8) furniture many of us buy from giant home-_____
   a. finishing stores
   b. fern fishing stores
   c. furnish in stores
   d. furnishing stores

9) cut up the wood with great precision and reduced risk of us _____
   a. lose sin a finger
   b. loose in a finger
   c. lose in a finger
   d. losing a finger

10) Instead, they can make what best _____ needs
   a. flits their
   b. fits their
   c. frits their
   d. flips their

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Robots are taking over more (1) _____ of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to perhaps (2) _____ the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have lovingly created furniture from wood. However, (3) _____ of master craftsmen and women may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can (4) _____ furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead (5) _____. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more dangerous tasks of sawing and assembling, so carpenters can (6) _____.

The MIT (7) _____ available technology to create what they call the AutoSaw. It differs from conventional robots that are currently used to manufacture the mass-produced, (8) _____ many of us buy from giant (9) _____. People will be able to design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great precision and reduced risk of us (10) _____. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our aim is to democratize furniture-customization. We're trying to open up a realm of opportunities so users (11) _____ what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what (12) _____ needs." She believes it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What are robots taking over more aspects of?

2. For how many years have carpenters been lovingly making furniture?

3. What might the next generation of master carpenters be?

4. What will robots improve for carpenters?

5. What will robots allow carpenters to focus on?

6. What is the name of the robot researchers at MIT created?

7. What kind of furniture is in giant home-furnishing stores?

8. What parts of our body could the robot saw mean we keep?

9. What is a researcher trying to open up?

10. What will the robot saw allow people to do create?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1) What are robots taking over more aspects of?
a) furniture
b) our lives and jobs
c) calculations
d) technology

2) For how many years have carpenters been lovingly making furniture?
a) hundreds of thousands
b) hundreds
c) millions
d) thousands

3) What might the next generation of master carpenters be?
a) robots
b) experts
c) PhD holders
d) children

4) What will robots improve for carpenters?
a) nailing
b) gluing
c) safety
d) wood

5) What will robots allow carpenters to focus on?
a) technology
b) design
c) shelves
d) hobbies

6) What is the name of the robot researchers at MIT created?
a) AutoSaw
b) Sawy
c) Saw-Saw
d) Robo-Saw

7) What kind of furniture is in giant home-furnishing stores?
a) badly-designed stuff
b) plastic furniture
c) flat-packed furniture
d) cheap stuff

8) What parts of our body could the robot saw mean we keep?
a) our fingers
b) our eyes
c) our brain
d) our limbs

9) What is a researcher trying to open up?
a) a realm of opportunities
b) the secrets of carpenters
c) a tool box
d) a box from a furniture store

10) What will the robot saw allow people to do create?
a) a mess
b) a world made of wood
c) a new world
d) better-designed furniture

ROLE PLAY

Role A – Sofa

You think a sofa is the best item of furniture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their items. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): dining table, desk or bookcase.

Role B – Dining Table

You think a dining table is the best item of furniture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their items. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why):: sofa, desk or bookcase.

Role C – Desk

You think a desk is the best item of furniture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their items. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why):: dining table, sofa or bookcase.

Role D – Bookcase

You think a bookcase is the best item of furniture. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their items. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why):: dining table, desk or sofa.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'robot' and 'furniture'.

robot	furniture

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• more	• available
• march	• mass
• lovingly	• own
• next	• risk
• replace	• aim
• focus	• fits

FURNITURE SURVEY

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.

FURNITURE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?

2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'furniture'?

3. How interested are you in furniture?

4. Would you like to make your own furniture?

5. What do you think of the carpentry trade?

6. How much of a threat are robots to carpenters?

7. How important are carpenters?

8. To what degree will robots replace humans?

9. What furniture have you made?

10. What is your favourite piece of furniture, and why?

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FURNITURE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?

12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'robot'?

13. What do you think about what you read?

14. What do you think of the AutoSaw robot?

15. What do you think of assemble-yourself furniture from IKEA?

16. What are the benefits of designing your own furniture?

17. What does "to democratize furniture-customization" mean?

18. What kind of furniture best fits your needs?

19. How well designed is your furniture?

20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

Robots are taking over more and more (1) _____ of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to perhaps feel threatened (2) _____ the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have (3) _____ created furniture from wood. However, the next generation of (4) _____ craftsmen and women may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can create custom-made wooden furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but (5) _____ will improve safety. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more dangerous tasks of sawing and (6) _____, so carpenters can focus on design.

The MIT team used currently available technology to create what they (7) _____ the AutoSaw. It differs from conventional robots that are currently used to manufacture the (8) _____-produced, flat-pack furniture many of us buy from giant home-furnishing stores. People will be able to design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great (9) _____ and reduced risk of us losing a finger. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our aim is to democratize furniture-customization. We're trying to open up a (10) _____ of opportunities so users aren't (11) _____ to what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what best (12) _____ their needs." She believes it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

1.	(a)	complex	(b)	aspects	(c)	respects	(d)	inspects
2.	(a)	at	(b)	by	(c)	on	(d)	to
3.	(a)	lovely	(b)	lovey-dovey	(c)	loves	(d)	lovingly
4.	(a)	mister	(b)	master	(c)	mistress	(d)	muster
5.	(a)	choice	(b)	doubt	(c)	prefer	(d)	instead
6.	(a)	resembling	(b)	rambling	(c)	assembling	(d)	assenting
7.	(a)	call	(b)	say	(c)	speak	(d)	voice
8.	(a)	miss	(b)	moss	(c)	mass	(d)	mess
9.	(a)	prediction	(b)	permission	(c)	partition	(d)	precision
10.	(a)	realm	(b)	ream	(c)	roam	(d)	real
11.	(a)	bound	(b)	sound	(c)	found	(d)	pound
12.	(a)	fits	(b)	bits	(c)	nits	(d)	pits

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. more <u>stecspa</u> of our lives

2. The latest <u>uiconctapo</u>

3. skilled <u>rapecnesrt</u>

4. the next <u>teeraiongn</u>

5. master <u>cnesamftr</u>

6. sawing and <u>nebmsgsila</u>

Paragraph 2

7. used currently <u>alavbaeli</u> technology

8. <u>onennvtoilca</u> robots

9. with great <u>preinsico</u>

10. <u>cdtrezmaeoi</u> furniture-customization

11. open up a realm of <u>ittperonupsoi</u>

12. She believes it will <u>mweoerp</u> people

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

(   )   up the wood with great precision and reduced risk of us losing a finger. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our aim is to

(   )   threatened by the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled

(*1*)   Robots are taking over more and more aspects of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to perhaps feel

(   )   robots that are currently used to manufacture the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture many of us buy from

(   )   and women may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(   )   carpenters have lovingly created furniture from wood. However, the next generation of master craftsmen

(   )   democratize furniture-customization. We're trying to open up a realm of opportunities so users

(   )   dangerous tasks of sawing and assembling, so carpenters can focus on design.

(   )   aren't bound to what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what best fits

(   )   (MIT) have created a robot that can create custom-made wooden furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead

(   )   The MIT team used currently available technology to create what they call the AutoSaw. It differs from conventional

(   )   will improve safety. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more

(   )   giant home-furnishing stores. People will be able to design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut

(   )   their needs." She believes it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. aspects   Robots   taking   our   over   more   lives   .   are   of

2. from   created   have   carpenters   Skilled   wood   .   furniture   lovingly

3. that   furniture   .   robot   Created   can   create   a   custom

4. the   not   replace   robots   will   say   humans   .   They

5. tasks   robots   the   dangerous   of   do   sawing   .   Let

6. technology   .   MIT   The   currently   used   team   available

7. will   furniture   .   able   design   be   their   People   to   own

8. with   great   cut   precision   .   up   will   wood   AutoSaw

9. to   open   We're   realm   up   a   trying   of   opportunities   .

10. create   better-designed   to   people   Empower   furniture   .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Robots are taking over more and more *inspects / aspects* of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to perhaps feel *threatened / threatening* by the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, *skilled / skilling* carpenters have lovingly created furniture *for / from* wood. However, the next generation of *mister / master* craftsmen and women may be robots, not *humans / humane*. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can create *customs / custom-* made wooden furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead will improve *safe / safety*. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more dangerous tasks of *sawing / seeing* and assembling, so carpenters can focus on *design / designed*.

The MIT team used *currently / current* available technology to create what they call the AutoSaw. It *differs / differentials* from *conventional / convenience* robots that are currently used to manufacture the *mass-produced / miss-produced*, flat-pack furniture many of us buy from giant home-furnishing stores. People will be able to design their *gown / own* furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great *precisely / precision* and reduced risk of us losing *a / the* finger. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our aim is to *democratize / democracy* furniture-customization. We're trying to open up a *ream / realm* of opportunities so users aren't bound to what they've bought at Ikea. Instead, they can make what best fits their needs." She *believes / beliefs* it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

R_b_t s _r_ t_k_n g _v_r m_r_ _n d m_r_ _s p_c t s _f
_ _ r l_v_s , _n d j_b s . T h_ l_t_s t _c c_p_t_ _ n t_
p_r h_p s f_ _ l t h r_ _ t_n d b y t h_ m_r c h _f t_c
h n_l_g y _s c_r p_n t r y . F_r t h_ _ s_n d s _f y_ _ r
s , s k_l l_d c_r p_n t_r s h_v_ l_v_n g l y c r_ _ t_d
f_r n_t_r_ f r_m w_ _ d . H_w_v_r , t h_ n_x t
g_n_r_t_ _ n _f m_s t_r c r_f t s m_n _n d w_m_n
m_y b_ r_b_t s , n_t h_m_n s . R_s_ _ r c h_r s _t t
h_ M_s s_c h_s_t t s I n s t_t_t_ _f T_c h n_l_g y (M I
T) h_v_ c r_ _ t_d _ r_b_t t h_t c_n c r_ _ t_ c_s
t_m w_ _ d_n f_r n_t_r_ . T h_y s_y t h_ r_b_t s w_l
l n_t r_p l_c_ h_m_n s , b_t _n s t_ _ d w_l l _m p
r_v_ s_f_t y . T h_ r_s_ _ r c h_r s s_ _ d t h_ g_ _ l _f
t h_ _ r p r_j_c t w_s t_ l_t r_b_t s d_ t h_ m_r_
d_n g_r_ _ s t_s k s _f s_w_n g _n d _s s_m b l_n g ,
s_ c_r p_n t_r s c_n f_c_s _n d_s_g n .

T h_ M I T t_ _ m _s_d c_r r_n t l y _v_ _ l_b l_ t_c h
n_l_g y t_ c r_ _ t_ w h_t t h_y c_l l t h_ A_t_S_w .
I t d_f f_r s f r_m c_n v_n t_ _ n_l r_b_t s t h_t _r_
c_r r_n t l y _s_d t_ m_n_f_c t_r_ t h_ m_s s - p
r_d_c_d , f l_t - p_c k f_r n_t_r_ m_n y _f _s b_y f
r_m g_ _ n t h_m_- f_r n_s h_n g s t_r_s . P_ _ p l_
w_l l b_ _b l_ t_ d_s_g n t h_ _ r _w n f_r n_t_r_ _n d
A_t_S_w w_l l c_t _p t h_ w_ _ d w_t h g r_ _ t p
r_c_s_ _ n _n d r_d_c_d r_s k _f _s l_s_n g _ f_n g_r
. R_s_ _ r c h_r A d r_ _ n_ S c h_l z s_ _ d : " O_r _ _
m _s t_ d_m_c r_t_z_ f_r n_t_r_- c_s t_m_z_t_ _ n .
W_' r_ t r y_n g t_ _p_n _p _ r_ _ l m _f _p p_r
t_n_t_ _ s s_ _s_r s _r_n ' t b_ _ n d t_ w h_t t h_y '
v_ b_ _ g h t _t I k_ _ . I n s t_ _ d , t h_y c_n m_k_
w h_t b_s t f_t s t h_ _ r n_ _ d s . " S h_ b_l_ _ v_s
_t w_l l _m p_w_r p_ _ p l_ t_ c r_ _ t_ b_t t_r - d_s_g
n_d f_r n_t_r_ .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

Robots are taking over more and more aspects of our lives, and jobs. The latest occupation to perhaps feel threatened by the march of technology is carpentry. For thousands of years, skilled carpenters have lovingly created furniture from wood. However, the next generation of master craftsmen and women may be robots, not humans. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a robot that can create custom-made wooden furniture. They say the robots will not replace humans, but instead will improve safety. The researchers said the goal of their project was to let robots do the more dangerous tasks of sawing and assembling, so carpenters can focus on design.

The MIT team used currently available technology to create what they call the AutoSaw. It differs from conventional robots that are currently used to manufacture the mass-produced, flat-pack furniture many of us buy from giant home-furnishing stores. People will be able to design their own furniture and AutoSaw will cut up the wood with great precision and reduced risk of us losing a finger. Researcher Adriana Schulz said: "Our aim is to democratize furniture-customization. We're trying 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." She believes it will empower people to create better-designed furniture.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Robotsaretakingovermoreandmoreaspectsofourlives,andjobs.Thel
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scarpentry.Forthousandsofyears,skilledcarpentershavelovinglycre
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tstheirneeds."Shebelievesitwillempowerpeopletocreatebetter-desi
gnedfurniture.

FREE WRITING

Write about **furniture** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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ACADEMIC WRITING

We don't need robots to help us make furniture. Discuss.

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HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FURNITURE: Make a poster about furniture. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HOME DESIGNED: Write a magazine article about everyone designing and making their own furniture. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on furniture. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can improve our furniture design. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1.	c	2.	e	3.	d	4.	a	5.	f	6.	g	7.	b
8.	k	9.	h	10.	i	11.	n	12.	m	13.	j	14.	l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1.	aspects	a.	features
2.	occupation	b.	profession
3.	skilled	c.	expert
4.	generation	d.	crop
5.	focus	e.	concentrate
6.	conventional	f.	established
7.	precision	g.	accuracy
8.	risk	h.	chance
9.	realm	i.	world
10.	empower	j.	equip

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Our lives and jobs
2. Thousands
3. Robots
4. Safety
5. Design
6. AutoSaw
7. Flat-packed furniture
8. Our fingers
9. A realm of opportunities
10. Better-designed furniture

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Robots are taking over more aspects of our lives.
2. Skilled carpenters have lovingly created furniture from wood.
3. Created a robot that can create custom furniture.
4. They say the robots will not replace humans.
5. Let robots do the dangerous tasks of sawing.
6. The MIT team used currently available technology.
7. People will be able to design their own furniture.
8. AutoSaw will cut up wood with great precision.
9. We're trying to open up a realm of opportunities.
10. Empower people to create better-designed furniture.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1.	b	2.	d	3.	a	4.	c	5.	b	6.	a	7.	c	8.	a	9.	a	10.	d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)