

SMART JUNIORS 1

The Housing Evolution

Lesson 8
Read for Main Idea



Academic Vocabulary

Read the definitions and complete the sentences.

evolution



n. a gradual process of change and development

amenity



n. something that is intended to make life more pleasant or comfortable

significant



adj. very important or noticeable



Have a try!

01

The hotel has many _____ including a swimming pool and fitness center.

02

The _____ of technology has made our lives much easier.

03

The _____ used to make this dress is of high quality.

Academic Vocabulary

Read the definitions and complete the sentences.

traditional



adj. following the ways of doing things or beliefs that have continued for a long time

durable



adj. able to last and be used for a long time

similarity



n. a particular way in which people or things are the same



Have a try!

01

Many people today are still using _____ ways of cooking.

02

John and Mary have a lot of _____ in their tastes for music and movies.

03

_____ materials were used to make the house last a long time.

PREPARE TO READ

Think Before Reading

How are houses **in the present** and **the past** different?



	Past	Present
■ materials:
■ room types:
■ appliances:
■ others:

The Housing Evolution

Over the years, there have been great changes in living conditions thanks to the advancement of technology. One of the most significant differences can be seen in housing. Houses today are vastly different from those of the past in ways such as materials, type, design, and amenities.

In the past, houses were made of natural materials like wood, stone, and mud. They were smaller and simpler than what we live in now, with only a few rooms for cooking and sleeping. A traditional house had basic rooms including a living room, kitchen, dining room, and one or two bedrooms. Standing in the rooms, you can feel the traces of daily life when people were living inside. An interesting fact is, although the first flush toilet was invented in 1596, it was only in the 19th century that indoor bathrooms became more common in houses.

In contrast, today's houses are built with more durable materials including concrete, steel, and glass. Compared to traditional houses that only had basic rooms, modern houses now have more types of rooms such as a study room, tea room, and even a game room where friends can gather over video games! In addition, high-technology appliances make life at home more enjoyable and convenient. For instance, what used to be time-consuming chores like mopping and dishwashing are now just a click away with a mopping robot and a dishwasher. Moreover, why bother to travel to the theater when you can watch all your favorite movies on a large television at home?

Despite the changes in housing over the years, there are still some similarities between housing in the past and present. One similarity is, both past and present housing often reflects the culture and tradition of the people who live there. Additionally, as the most important similarity, they both provide a place to call home where we can relax, rest, and feel safe and warm. After all, it doesn't matter how traditional or modern one's house is, it is the peace and love inside that make it a true home.

Predict From the Title

Look at **the title** of the essay and answer.

1. What is the essay's title?
2. Which picture below do you think is related to the title?



A



B

Listen and read the essay. Pay attention to its main idea as you read.

The Housing Evolution

▶ Over the years, there have been great changes in living conditions thanks to the advancement of technology. One of the most significant differences can be seen in housing. Houses today are vastly different from those of the past in ways such as materials, type, design, and amenities.



▶ In the past, houses were made of natural materials like wood, stone, and mud. They were smaller and simpler than what we live in now, with only a few rooms for cooking and sleeping. A traditional house had basic rooms, including a living room, kitchen, dining room, and one or two bedrooms. Standing in the rooms, you can feel the traces of daily life when people were living inside. An interesting fact is, although the first flush toilet was invented in 1596, it was only in the 19th century that indoor bathrooms became more common in houses.



READ FOR MAIN IDEA

- ▶ In contrast, today's houses are built with more durable materials including concrete, steel, and glass. Compared to traditional houses that only had basic rooms, modern houses now have more types of rooms such as a study room, tea room, and even a game room where friends can gather over video games! In addition, high-technology appliances make life at home more enjoyable and convenient. For instance, what used to be time-consuming chores like mopping and dishwashing are now just a click away with a mopping robot and a dishwasher. Moreover, why bother to travel to the theater when you can watch all your favorite movies on a large television at home?



READ FOR MAIN IDEA

- ▶ Despite the changes in housing over the years, there are still some similarities between housing in the past and present. One similarity is, both past and present housing often reflects the culture and tradition of the people who live there. Additionally, as the most important similarity, they both provide a place to call home where we can relax, rest, feel safe and warm. After all, it doesn't matter how traditional or modern one's house is, it is the peace and love inside that make it a true home.



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The Main Idea

What do you think is the main idea of the essay?

- A** the cost of housing in different times
- B** the housing changes from the past to modern times
- C** common challenges we faced in housing development

The Housing Evolution | Paragraph 1

Over the years, there have been great changes in living conditions thanks to the advancement of technology. One of the most significant differences can be seen in housing. Houses today are vastly different from those of the past in ways such as materials, type, design, and amenities.

Main Idea for Paragraphs

- **Skim paragraph 1 and underline:**
 - the sentence that introduces the topic
 - the sentence that leads up to the main part

SKILL

The first paragraph usually **introduces the topic** and **leads up to the main part.**



The Housing Evolution | Paragraph 2

In the past, houses were made of natural materials like wood, stone, and mud. They were smaller and simpler than what we live in now, with only a few rooms for cooking and sleeping. A traditional house had basic rooms including a living room, kitchen, dining room, and one or two bedrooms. Standing in the rooms, you can feel the traces of daily life when people were living inside. An interesting fact is, although the first flush toilet was invented in 1596, it was only in the 19th century that indoor bathrooms became more common in houses.

Main Idea for Paragraphs

- Skim paragraph 2 and choose the main idea of the paragraph.
- A In the past, houses had no indoor bathrooms with flush toilets.
- B In the past, houses were made of natural materials and with simple rooms.

SKILL

The **list of details** in the paragraph helps us get a quick idea of **what the paragraph is talking about**.



The Housing Evolution | Paragraph 3

In contrast, today's houses are built with more durable materials including concrete, steel, and glass. Compared to traditional houses that only had basic rooms, modern houses now have more types of rooms such as a study room, tearoom, and even a game room where friends can gather over video games! In addition, high-technology appliances make life at home more enjoyable and convenient. For instance, what used to be time-consuming chores like mopping and dishwashing are now just a click away with a mopping robot and a dishwasher. Moreover, why bother to travel to the theater when you can watch all your favorite movies on a large television at home?

Main Idea for Paragraphs

- Skim paragraph 3 and choose the main idea of the paragraph.
 - Ⓐ Today's houses have more rooms and high-tech appliances.
 - Ⓑ Today's houses are built with more durable materials, more types of rooms, and high-tech appliances.

SKILL

Transition phrases are signals for us to find how many key points the paragraph includes.



The Housing Evolution | Paragraph 4

Despite the changes in housing over the years, there are still some similarities between housing in the past and present. One similarity is, both past and present housing often reflects the culture and tradition of the people who live there. Additionally, as the most important similarity, they both provide a place to call home where we can relax, rest, feel safe and warm. After all, it doesn't matter how traditional or modern one's house is, it is the peace and love inside that make it a true home.

Main Idea for Paragraphs

- Skim paragraph 4 and underline the sentence that tells the main idea of the paragraph.

SKILL

A topic sentence usually appears as the **first sentence** of the paragraph.





Academic Vocabulary



evolution



amenity



significant



traditional



durable



similarity

Read for Main Idea

SKILLS

1. The first paragraph usually **introduces the topic** and **leads up to the main part**.
2. Pay attention to the **list of details** in the paragraph. It helps us find the main idea.
3. Pay attention to **some special phrases**. They usually lead to the key points of the paragraph.
4. A topic sentence usually appears as the **first sentence** of the paragraph.





WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to read the essay "The Housing Evolution" in detail.
See you next time!