

Washing machines and fridges turn detective

PRE-LISTENING

1. Describe the photo.
2. How does the photo relate to the headline of the article?
3. Here is a description of this refrigerator from the company that makes it. **Underline the nouns that tell you what the refrigerator includes, and circle the verbs that tell you what it does.**

The Family Hub™ is a revolutionary new refrigerator with a Wifi enabled touchscreen that lets you manage your groceries, connect with your family and entertain like never before.

The Family Hub has three built-in cameras that take a photo every time the doors close. You can use your phone to access photos from anywhere, so you always know what you have and what you're missing. When it's time to get groceries, order them directly from the touchscreen with apps ... You can even discover new recipes and receive notifications when food is about to expire... Coordinate everyone's schedules, leave notes and reminders, and show off pictures of your latest family vacation... Stream your favorite music with the Family Hub's built-in speakers ... A versatile bottom-right door can switch between a fridge or a freezer with the touch of a button, allowing you to choose between five customizable temperature settings.



4. The Family Hub refrigerator costs around €4000 in Germany. A basic refrigerator of the same size costs around €500.

Find a partner. Pretend you are shopping for a refrigerator for your shared home. One of you is interested in a high-tech refrigerator like the Family Hub. The other wants to save money and buy a basic model. Present your arguments to your partner and try to convince him/her to buy the model you like.

5. How could this refrigerator act as a detective?

6. Here are some difficult words and phrases from the article. Using the vocabulary list below the article, put each word or phrase in the correct category.

built-in • to carry a live feed • coffee maker • crime scene evidence • device
 footprint • investigation • lightbulb • murder victim • processor • remotely
 suspect • trace • track • voice-controlled • wireless • witness statement

ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS	CRIME

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. True, false or not in the text? Tick the correct box.

	True	False	Not in the text
a) Scotland Yard often uses household electronics to solve crimes, says Mark Stokes.			
b) Mark Stokes is a detective at Scotland Yard.			
c) Digital evidence might be used to prove that people have not told the truth about a crime.			
d) Samsung is quoted in the article as saying that the price of its Family Hub refrigerator will fall to £400.			
e) Samsung has sold thousands of Family Hub refrigerators in the UK.			
f) New kits will let the police collect digital evidence in the field.			
g) Data from Amazon's Echo systems has already helped the police to solve a crime.			

2. Correct the false statements from exercise 1.

Which of these devices might help police solve crimes, or has already done so, according to the article?

a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)



4. Describe how the police used electronic evidence in the investigation into the murder of Victor Collins.

POST-LISTENING

1. What devices do you use that save information about you? There may be many more than you first think!
2. Apps and devices that save information about you can be very practical, but many people worry about their privacy. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of this technology.

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**SOLUTIONS
PRE-LISTENING**

1.

Sample answer

The photo shows a large grey refrigerator with a lit-up screen on the top right-hand door. The screen shows some photos, the time, and other information that is hard to read. On the left-hand door is a water/ice dispenser.

2.

Sample answer

The headline of the article mentions refrigerators turning into detectives. This refrigerator looks very high-tech: perhaps it can also play detective!

3.

The Family Hub™ is a revolutionary new refrigerator with a Wifi enabled touchscreen that lets you manage your groceries, connect with your family and entertain like never before. The Family Hub has three built-in cameras that take a photo every time the doors close. You can use your phone to access photos from anywhere, so you always know what you have and what you're missing. When it's time to get groceries, order them directly from the touchscreen with apps ... You can even discover new recipes and receive notifications when food is about to expire... Coordinate everyone's schedules, leave notes and reminders, and show off pictures of your latest family vacation... Stream your favorite music with the Family Hub's built-in speakers ... A versatile bottom-right door can switch between a fridge or a freezer with the touch of a button, allowing you to choose between five customizable temperature settings.

4.

Individuelle Schülerlösungen

5.

Sample answer

By saving information about users, for example their photos, credit card numbers, schedules, etc. If the outside of the refrigerator also includes a camera or a microphone, it could also record anyone around it.

6.

ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS	CRIME
coffee maker	crime scene evidence
lightbulb	investigation; investigator; to investigate
device	footprint
built-in	to track
wireless	murder victim
remotely	witness statement
voice-controlled	suspect
processor	trace
to carry a live feed	

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1.

	True	False	Not in the text
a) Scotland Yard often uses household electronics to solve crimes, says Mark Stokes.		x	
b) Mark Stokes is a detective at Scotland Yard.		x	
c) Digital evidence might be used to prove that people have not told the truth about a crime.	x		
d) Samsung is quoted in the article as saying that the price of its Family Hub refrigerator will fall to £400.		x	
e) Samsung has sold thousands of Family Hub refrigerators in the UK.			x
f) New kits will let the police collect digital evidence in the field.	x		
g) Data from Amazon's Echo systems has already helped the police to solve a crime.		x	

2.

- a) Scotland Yard will use household electronics to solve crimes in the future, but the text does not say that it already does so.
- b) Mark Stokes is the head of forensics at Scotland Yard/heads the digital, cyber and communications forensics unit at the Metropolitan police.
- d) Mark Stokes is quoted as saying that "A £3,000 fridge with a built-in family hub in it will soon be £400."
- g) Amazon has refused to give Echo data to the police to help solve a crime.

3. a • c • d

- 4. They used data from his electric water meter, which showed that a huge amount of water was used, which the police think was done to wash away blood from the murder.

POST-LISTENING

Individual student answers



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