Smart cities "智能"城市

Vocabulary: Technology and cities 词汇: 科技与城市

Would you like to live in a city where buildings turn the lights off for you, where **self-driving cars** find the nearest parking space, and where even the rubbish bins know when they're full?

Although it might sound like **science-fiction**, living in a 'smart' city like this could happen sooner than you think.

Towns we have lived in for centuries are being

upgraded, while completely new cities are being built.

Might cities of the future look like the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain?

One such place is Songdo in South Korea. Every home there will have a **built-in** 'telepresence' system - allowing users to control the heating and locks; take part in **video conferences**; and receive education, **healthcare** and government services.

Around the city, **escalators** will only move when someone is on them, and offices and schools will all be connected to the network.

The digital **mastermind** behind Songdo is the company Cisco. Indeed, technology **firms** around the world such as IBM, Siemens and Microsoft are already selling software to solve a range of city problems, from **water leaks** and air pollution to traffic **congestion**.

For example, IBM is gathering traffic **data** in Singapore which it uses to predict where **traffic jams** will occur - an hour before they happen.

So what is all this smart technology for? Many hope all this **connectedness** will make cities greener, more **sustainable**, and more efficient.
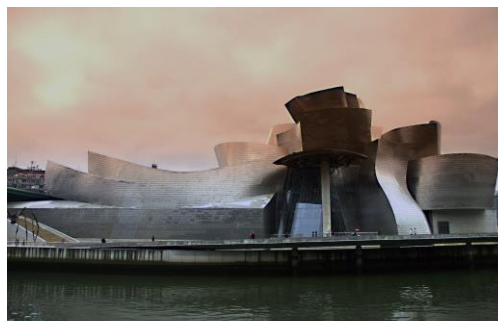
And with 75% of the world's population predicted to live in cities by 2050, the transport system and **emergency services** will need to modernise to cope with all the new arrivals.

But making cities smarter is only part of the solution, according to Dan Hill, chief executive of research firm Fabrica.

He said: "We don't make cities to be efficient, we make cities for culture, **commerce**, community - all of which are very inefficient".

In the rush in order to make cities perform better, we could be missing their greatest **asset**.

"It is going to be smart **citizens** that make smart cities," he said.

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *Smart cities are just unrealistic science fiction.*
2. What will residents of Songdo be able to use their 'telepresence' systems for?
3. True or false? *IBM has designed a system to ease traffic congestion.*
4. What proportion of people is expected to live in cities halfway through the 21st Century?
5. What does Dan Hill think the most important thing in smart cities will be?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I'm not sure whether to buy a new laptop or get my existing one _____.

sustainable	escalated	connected	upgraded

2. Our new kitchen has a _____ washing machine.

telepresence	built-in	asset	self-driving

3. This morning in the train station, the _____ weren't working.

escalations	escolators	escalaters	escalators

4. Our company has invested in a whole new computer system, but really our greatest _____ is our people.

assist	assessment	asset	essat

5. In the UK you dial 999 to alert the _____ of a fire, a crime or life-threatening medical problem.

emergency services	fire brigade	ambulance	police

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. True or false? *Smart cities are just unrealistic science fiction.* **False. They are already being built.**

2. What will residents of Songdo be able to use their 'telepresence' systems for? **They will be able to use them to control the heating and locks; take part in video conferences; and receive education, healthcare and government services.**

3. True or false? *IBM has designed a system to ease traffic congestion.* **True. It has designed a system in Singapore which can predict where traffic jams will occur.**

4. What proportion of people is expected to live in cities halfway through the 21st Century? **75% of the world's population is expected to live in cities by 2050.**

5. What does Dan Hill think the most important thing in smart cities will be? **Smart citizens.**

Exercise 练习

1. I'm not sure whether to buy a new laptop or get my existing one **upgraded**.
2. Our new kitchen has a **built-in** washing machine.
3. This morning in the train station the **escalators** weren't working.
4. Our company has invested in a whole new computer system, but really our greatest **asset** is our people.
5. In the UK you dial 999 to alert the **emergency services** of a fire, a crime or life-threatening medical problem.

Glossary 词汇表

self-driving car	自动驾驶汽车
science-fiction	科学幻想
to upgrade	重建、改造，改良
one such place	这样的一个地方
built-in	内置的
video conference	视频会议
healthcare	医疗
escalator	自动扶梯
mastermind	策划者
firm	公司，企业
water leak	漏水
congestion	拥堵
data	数据
traffic jam	塞车
connectedness	连通性
sustainable	可持续的
emergency services	紧急救援部门
commerce	贸易，商业
asset	资产，财富
citizen	市民