

Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about New skin for buildings and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a – j next to the number 1 – 10.

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|---------|-----------------|----|--|
| 1..... | researchers | a. | made in a laboratory; not natural |
| 2..... | synthetic | b. | a kind of science which uses living cells and bacteria to produce things (e.g. medicine) |
| 3..... | virtual reality | c. | the front of a building |
| 4..... | biotechnology | d. | people who investigate or study something |
| 5..... | nanotechnology | e. | computer images that simulate real life |
| 6..... | protocells | f. | the engineering of material on an extremely small scale, manipulating individual atoms |
| 7..... | sustainability | g. | able to give off light (for a living organism) |
| 8..... | façade | h. | the ability to continue to exist without using up or destroying natural resources |
| 9..... | bioluminescent | i. | material which carries genetic information |
| 10..... | DNA | j. | bubbles of oil in water which have some of the properties of living cells |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Professor Neil Spiller is working alone to develop a new covering for buildings. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | The research could be very useful for buildings and especially for buildings in hot climates. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Professor Spiller has only become interested in the impact of new technologies on architecture recently. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Cyberspace and virtual reality started in the early 1990s. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | The research team are trying to develop a covering for buildings that will allow a building façade to make changes to the micro-climate around the building. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | The team have already done experiments on the façades of real buildings. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | Using protocells has several advantages. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Sustainability and ecological planning will cause the construction industry to grow. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your grammar: gap fill

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word which appears in CAPITAL LETTERS. You must not change the word in capital letters. Use a maximum of five words. For example:

Researchers are developing a covering for buildings.

DEVELOPED

A covering for buildings **is being developed by** researchers.

1. The research could greatly improve buildings where there is a hot climate.

GREAT

The research could lead to _____ in buildings in hot climates.

2. 'My interest in this subject began in the early 1990s,' explained Professor Spiller.

INTERESTED

Professor Spiller said he _____ this subject since the early 1990s.

3. The team are trying to think of ideas on how to develop a special covering.

COME

The team are trying to _____ ideas on how to develop a special covering.

4. The experiments done in the lab are on a smaller scale to experiments done on a building façade.

BIG

The experiments done in the lab are on a scale which is _____ ones done on a building facade.

5. Researchers will use the actual protocells in one experiment.

USED

The actual protocells _____ in one experiment.

6. 'We have a technology that is not limited by the normal economics of the building industry,' said Spiller.

THAT

Spiller said _____ technology that was not limited by the normal economics of the building industry.

Discussion

What do you think buildings will be like in the future?