

Shine a light on me!

Activity One: Read the paragraph. Replace the verbs in CAPITAL letters with correct past tenses.

IKEA : A HUGE RANGE FOR THE HOUSE AND HOME.

Ikea OFFER a variety of products for the home for the past six decades, from the matches Ingvar Kamprad **START** to sell in the 1920's to the flatpack furniture he **INVENT** which **MAKE** design available to the masses, to everything for home furnishings. From coat hooks to whole kitchens Ikea **SELL** it all for generations. Several recent projects **LAUNCH** which aim show that the Swedish furniture manufacturer is really committed to the environment and to being seen as a real specialist in anything for the house and home. As it **REPORT** IKEA alone accounts for almost one percent of all wood used commercially worldwide, it's important for them to show their commitment to the environment. This is one reason why they **PROPOSE** ecological housing ideas. Since 2011 Ikea **DESIGN** prefabricated houses for the American market . In Sweden they **SELL** BoKlok, or "smart Living" homes since 1996. In 2005 Ikea **BUILD** 36 of these houses in the North of England and then **LAUNCH** a huge development project in 2012 in London. Now they **START** to sell solar panels in the UK. This helps to further shine a light on their commitment to the environment by linking their name to solar energy. However, IKEA has also **BE** in the limelight with some bad publicity in recent months The Global Forest Coalition recently **CLAIM** that IKEA is guilty of logging trees which are up to 600 years old and that they **CAUSE** the loss of valuable bio-diversity as a result. IKEA **COMMIT** to a 2020 sustainability program and **REASSURE** the public by explaining that they RESPECT all the regulations and take their forestry responsibilities very seriously. From matches to who housing developments. The need for timber has increased!

Activity Two – Read the article paying attention to your intonation and stress and then answer the comprehension questions which follow.

Ikea boosts solar power outlook with £5,700 home system

Could Ikeas panels package help to lift gloom in the domestic solar market? We look at whats on offer... Miles Brignal – The Guardian.



Ikea is shining a fresh light on the UKs domestic solar panel market, offering customers a fully installed, decent-sized system for £5,700.

Following a successful pilot project at its Lakeside store in Essex, which it says has been selling one photovoltaic system almost every day, the Swedish retailer is to offer a range of solar panel packages at all 17 of its British stores within the next 10 months.

The good news is that you wont have to get out the Allen keys and struggle to put the solar system together yourself. The company providing the service on Ikeas behalf, Hanergy, will survey your home and install the panels on your roof.

Ikea claims that an average semi-detached house with a south-facing roof in Southampton would make as much as £770 a year through the savings on energy

bills, suggesting that a £5,700 3.36kW system would pay for itself in a little more than seven years.

While those figures are achievable in theory, the Energy Saving Trusts solar calculator suggests that such a system in southern England would generate closer to £600 a year in tariffs and savings.

Energy bill savings will depend on how much you are able to use the power as it is being generated during the day, and the extent to which electricity prices rise over the next 20 years. There is also one other very important factor to take into account – your homes energy efficiency. If you live in a home rated below band D, solar schemes are generally not worth it – at least if you want a financial return.

Those signing up to the Ikea/Hanergy scheme after an in-store consultation must pay a £250 deposit. A surveyor will then visit to check the house and do an EPC test to establish its energy rating, and whether the roof will require any additional work before installation. A spokesman for Hanergy says customers will be advised of any additional costs, at which point they can go ahead or withdraw with their deposit refunded.

Joanna Yarrow, head of sustainability at Ikea, says: "We know that our customers want to live more sustainably and we hope working with Hanergy to make solar panels affordable and easily available helps them do just that. Evidence shows that installing solar panels enables homeowners to cut their energy bills by up to 50%."

So is it a good deal? Cathy Debenham, who runs the independent renewables website YouGen, says the Ikea prices are at the lower end of the spectrum, but are not hugely cheaper than you could pay elsewhere. However, she welcomes the initiative, and hopes it will stimulate renewed interest in the solar sector.

"The fact that Ikea has come into the market, and all the publicity that surrounds it, will certainly raise awareness of that fact, which has got to be a good thing."

1. What is Ikea shining a fresh light on?
2. How did they try out the project?
3. Where will Ikea sell the panels in the UK? Will people have to install the panels themselves?
4. Why does Ikea claim that the panels will make money for the owners?
5. What does the Energy Saving trust say?
6. What does energy saving depend on?
7. What happens if you buy the panels?
8. What is Joanna Yarrow's job?
9. What is Cathy Debenham's job?



Shine the Light on Ikea...

Activity Three - **There are always two sides to every story.** Whilst one person could **highlight** one aspect, another can **shine a light on** something else and **bring to light** another viewpoint. The press and media often **shed light on issues** in order to **enlighten** the public about the truth behind a situation. People often get into the **limelight** in order to influence public opinion one way or another.

Review the 'light' expressions:

To highlight a point
I'd like to highlight an important point here
To shine light on something
I think that we need to shine light on this situation

To shed light on something
To enlighten someone
Can you enlighten me?
You are in the limelight.
I don't like being in the limelight.

You can use these **linking words and expressions for contrasting ideas**:

One one hand..... on the other hand.
However
On the contrary
In contrast
Still
Though
Even though
YetDespite that
In spite of that
Whereas
While
We also have to consider the fact that
The other side of the story is that...
Although..
The flip side is that..
To look at this in another way..
From another perspective



NOW - Discuss the following points by highlighting one side of the argument, and then illustrating a contrasting viewpoint of the same issue:

- IKEA uses too much wood.
- Solar panels are very expensive.
- Consumerism creates a lot of waste.
- Recycling is very expensive.
- Cheap prices encourage waste.



Activity Four - Let the The Midnight Special Shine a light on me.

Listen to the song:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU_NAfuNICY

What do you think this song is about?

The image of light linked to purity and salvation comes from the bible 'Believe in Light that you may be the children of light' and this imagery has been used throughout the centuries in song and prayer.

"**Midnight Special**" is a traditional folk song which originated among prisoners in the American South.The title comes from the refrain which refers to the passenger train *Midnight Special* and its "ever-loving light" (sometimes "ever-living light"). Sam Collins recorded the song commercially in 1927 under the title "The Midnight Special Blues" but many other artists have recorded it.

The *Midnight Special* is understood to refer to a train from Houston shining its light into a prison cell. The light of the train is seen as the light of salvation, the train which could take them away from the prison walls.

There are other gospel songs which use images of light as a symbol of salvation. "*Let the Light from your Lighthouse Shine on Me" for example. Listen to an extract of this famous blues version - http://www.jukebox.fr/blind-willie-johnson/clip,let-your-light-shine-on-me,qpm0fl.html This is still a popular concept in modern music.*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqLGuRX_nLM

- Which of these songs did you like?
- Do you feel inspired by the idea of a higher power shining light on you?
- BRAINSTORM as many **words** as you can think of linked to LIGHT....

Ray, starlight, warmth.....