
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 隨身英語

Tips on saving energy

節約能源小提示



詞彙：finance 財務管理

We all want to **save** money, and with the **cost of living** on the rise in the UK, it's become more important than ever to watch what we **spend**. The biggest increase in our **expenditure** at the moment is on energy – the oil, gas and electricity we use to power and heat our homes. That's why many of us are looking at ways to save energy so we don't have to **shell out** on huge fuel **bills**.

Making our home more energy efficient is the obvious way to save money. To try to achieve this, new homes in the UK will be banned from installing new gas and oil boilers by 2025. Having a heat pump instead can help save energy, but they're **unaffordable** for many people, unless they've got spare cash **stashed** away.

If your home feels like a **money pit**, there are some **low-budget** solutions you can turn to to lower your energy usage. Warm air escapes our homes easily, so adding draught excluders or a rolled-up towel to block these gaps will help. **Investing** in new double glazing will certainly insulate your home better, but if it is too **costly**, it might be worth using some heavy curtains to stop the heat escaping. Switching off lights is also a good idea.

But there are lots of other little things we can do around the home that will help save energy, don't **cost a fortune** and that just require **tweaks** to our behaviour. They could be as good as installing, fitting or making anything. Put lids on pots and pans when cooking – the food will be ready quicker. Use a microwave to reheat food rather than the oven. Don't overfill your kettle when boiling water, and don't leave electrical items on standby. Jo Patterson from Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture told the BBC that a combination of small **measures** like these could **reduce** household energy bills by about 10%.

So, we're being encouraged to be more fuel efficient. But our main aim isn't just **financial** – we need to do it to reduce our carbon footprint, so that our energy usage doesn't **cost the Earth**.

詞彙表

save	節省，節約
cost of living	生活費用
spend	花（錢）
expenditure	支出
shell out	（通常指不情願地）支付（一大筆錢）
bill	帳單
unaffordable	支付不起的
stash	藏匿，存放
money pit	大錢坑，需要不斷投錢的無底洞
low-budget	低成本的
invest	投資（購買）
costly	昂貴的
cost a fortune	極其昂貴，花大價錢
tweak	稍作調整，稍稍改進
measure	方法
reduce	降低，減少
financial	經濟上的
cost the Earth	讓地球付出代價 (cost the earth 的原意是“花費一大筆錢”)

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. What will be banned from being installed in new homes in the UK by 2025?
2. How can you stop warm air escaping from your home?
3. Why might it be difficult for someone to install a heat pump or double glazing?
4. As well as helping our finances, what is the other benefit of using energy more efficiently?
5. True or false? *Putting more water than you need in your kettle is not energy-efficient.*

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. I'm going to my brother's wedding, so I have to _____ for a newsuit.

shelling out	shell out	out shell	shells out
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2. It's quite _____ to take the train to London, so we're going by bus instead.

financial	expenditure	costly	cost the earth
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3. Our food _____ keeps rising, so I'm going to start buying supermarket branded goods.

measures	invest	cost of living	bill
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4. My holiday to Spain _____, but it was well worth it!

cost a fortune	cost a fortunately	cost the fortune	costs a fortune
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5. My grandma _____ all her money under the bed rather than put it into a bank.

finance	stashed	measures	unaffordable
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答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. What will be banned from being installed in new homes in the UK by 2025?

New homes in the UK will be banned from installing new gas and oil boilers by 2025.

2. How can you stop warm air escaping from your home?

Adding draught excluders or a rolled-up towel to block gaps, or using heavy curtains will help.

3. Why might it be difficult for someone to install a heat pump or double glazing?

Heat pumps and double glazing can be expensive to install.

4. As well as helping our finances, what is the other benefit of using energy more efficiently?

It can reduce our carbon footprint.

5. True or false? *Putting more water than you need in your kettle is not energy-efficient.*

True. Not overfilling your kettle when boiling water will save energy.

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. I'm going to my brother's wedding, so I have to **shell out** for a new suit.

2. It's quite **costly** to take the train to London, so we're going by bus instead.

3. Our food **bill** keeps rising, so I'm going to start buying supermarket branded goods.

4. My holiday to Spain **cost a fortune**, but it was well worth it!

5. My grandma **stashed** all her money under the bed rather than put it into a bank.