

READING

1 **5.1** Read the question and the

article quickly. Choose the best answer.

The text is about Bill Gates and his

a business. c home.

b family. d money.

2 Read the phrases and put them in the correct places in the article.

a from all over the world

b he is also very generous

c while he is driving home

d with views of the lake from

e many of the windows

f a Utopian dream with

perfect comfort

3 Match the underlined words with the definitions.

1 fortune (n) a very large amount of money

2 (adj) suitable for serious occasions

3 (adj) using the newest knowledge or materials

4 (n) a frightening dream

5 (n) a gift of money to charity

6 (n) a hard, natural material

7 _____ (n) a piece of cloth to pull across a window

4 Read the article again. Tick true and cross false.

1 Bill Gates started Microsoft with another person.

2 Paul Allen is the richest man in the world.

3 It isn't surprising that the house is modern.

4 The house doesn't have normal rooms.

5 Bill Gates never buys old things.

6 There is a separate house for visitors.

7 Melinda Gates has an antique wardrobe.

8 The writer thinks nobody wants a home like Bill Gates.

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Bill Gates



Bill Gates, who started Microsoft in 1975 with Paul Allen, is the richest man in the world. He has \$45.3 billion! Although he is very rich, his charity, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is one of the most generous in the world. In 1999, the foundation gave \$3.2 billion to a health charity – the world's biggest donation to an aid organisation.

However, Bill Gates has spent some of his enormous fortune on himself and his family. In the 1990s, he built a house next to Lake Washington near Seattle. The house, which cost \$97 million, is in a great place, it is (as you'd expect

from a man whose money comes from computers) very modern and has all the latest computer equipment. It has all the normal things you find in a home like a kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms. In addition, it has the things only very rich people can buy: a hall which is big enough for 200 people, a swimming pool that has an underwater music system, a sauna, a library where he keeps a sixteenth century Leonardo da Vinci notebook

(which he bought for \$3.8 million), a theatre with state-of-the-art technology, a formal dining room that's big enough for 24 guests, an underground garage, a boat house and a guest house for visitors. In fact, the guest house was built first to test the main house's technology.

The computer technology is remarkable: all the floors, the drive and the paths in the garden are heated, there are 52 miles of communication cables, Bill Gates can fill his bath at the correct temperature, and his wife's clothes are in a computerised

wardrobe which brings the correct dress or jacket automatically.

The architects, builders and designers used the best materials that money can buy. There is wood on the floors and in the walls

4. In one bathroom the shower 'curtain' is a 225 kilo piece of stone!

Most of us can't afford to live like the Gates family – but do we want to? It depends on your point of view: 5. or a science fiction nightmare with computers controlling everything?