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词汇: *finance* 财务管理

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**.

## 词汇表

<b>save</b>	节省, 节约
<b>cost of living</b>	生活费用
<b>spend</b>	花 (钱)
<b>expenditure</b>	支出
<b>shell out</b>	(通常指不情愿地) 支付 (一大笔钱)
<b>bill</b>	账单
<b>unaffordable</b>	支付不起的
<b>stash</b>	藏匿, 存放
<b>money pit</b>	大钱坑, 需要不断投钱的无底洞
<b>low-budget</b>	低成本的
<b>invest</b>	投资 (购买)
<b>costly</b>	昂贵的
<b>cost a fortune</b>	极其昂贵, 花大价钱
<b>tweak</b>	稍作调整, 稍稍改进
<b>measure</b>	方法
<b>reduce</b>	降低, 减少
<b>financial</b>	经济上的
<b>cost the Earth</b>	让地球付出代价 ( <b>cost the earth</b> 的原意是“花费一大笔钱”)

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

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. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I'm going to my brother's wedding, so I have to \_\_\_\_\_ for a new suit.

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. 阅读课文并回答问题。

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. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

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.