



The heating system

Central heating means heating from a central source. Even the Romans had central heating, in the form of an open fire under the floor. The heat generated by the fire was channeled through large ducts built into the floor.

Today there are many types of heating systems, such as steam, hot water, forced warm air and electric systems. They all function in the same basic way.

Each system is equipped with a **control**, a **heat producer**, a **heat exchanger**, and a **heat distributor**. The **control**, called **thermostat**, signals a need for heat. This signal turns the **heat producer** on, which is usually an oil or gas burner or an electric heating element.

The heat warms the transfer medium (air, water, or steam) in the **heat exchanger**. In warm air heating systems, the heat exchanger is called a **furnace**, in warm water systems it is called a **boiler**.

Steam heating systems are typical of older homes. Here, the boiler turns water into steam, which rises through pipes to radiators



and convectors. There the steam gives its heat up and condenses into water, which returns to the boiler. Today, the most widespread systems are hot water and forced air systems.

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ACTIVITIES

1 Scan the text and find the English equivalents of the following Italian words.

- 1 Conduttura
- 2 Scambiatore di calore
- 3 Termostato
- 4 Bruciatore di gas
- 5 Caldaia
- 6 Vapore