A place called home

Read, listen and talk about houses and homes. Practise comparative and superlative of adjectives; relative pronouns. Focus on describing photographs. Write a description.

1 Look at the homes in the photos and tick the things you see.

- fence
- garage
- lawn
- balcony
- letterbox
- chimney

2 Use the prompts below to think of reasons why the people in this family want to live in these places.

- Dad wants to live in a house in the suburbs because ___________.
- Ivy wants to live in a city centre flat because ___________.
- Mum wants to live in a country cottage because ___________.

3 Listen and check.

- Ivy: 'It's nearer the city centre than the house.' (than)
- Dad: 'The centre isn't as noisy as the suburbs.' (than)
- Ivy: 'The country isn't as boring as the suburbs.' (as)
- Dad: 'The centre is too quiet.' (enough)
- Ivy: 'The suburb is as boring as the flat.' (as)
- Mum: 'The flat is nicer than the cottage.' (as)
- Ivy: 'The house isn't very far from the shops.' (too)
- Dad: 'The centre is too quiet.' (enough)

4 Match sentences 1 and 2 with the sentences with the same meaning, a or b.

1 The house is not as ____________ as the flat.
   - a The house is cheaper than the flat.
   - b The house isn't cheaper than the flat.
2 The flat is too small.
   - a The flat is big enough.
   - b The flat isn't big enough.

5 Find comparative and superlative adjectives in the dialogue in Exercise 3 and add them to the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One syllable</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two syllables ending in -y</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>noisy</td>
<td>noisier</td>
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<td>friendly</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Two or more syllables</th>
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<th>Superlative</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Comparative</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>the worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>further</td>
<td>the furthest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ways of comparing: not as expensive (as) = cheaper (than) as small as not big enough

6 Complete the sentences with the comparatives or superlatives of the words in brackets. Then match speakers a–c with sentences 1–5.

- Ivy: 'It's ________ (early) and getting home ________ (late).'
- Dad: 'The house isn't as ________ (large) as the cottage.'
- Mum: 'The cottage in the country is the ________ (peaceful) place to live.'
- Ivy: 'The peace in the cottage is ________ (peaceful) than the flat.'
- Dad: 'The centre is ________ (noisy) than the cottage.'
- Mum: 'The flat is ________ (big enough) than the cottage.'

7 Use the words in brackets to change the sentences so that they are true for each speaker.

- Ivy: 'The flat isn't ________ (far) from school so it means getting up ________ (early) and getting home ________ (late).'
- Mum: 'The flat isn't ________ (large) as the cottage.'
- Ivy: 'The cottage in the country is the ________ (peaceful) place to live.'
- Mum: 'The cottage in the country is ________ (peaceful) than the flat.'
- Ivy: 'The peace in the cottage is ________ (peaceful) than the flat.'
- Mum: 'The flat is ________ (big enough) than the cottage.'
- Ivy: 'The flat isn't as ________ (large) as the cottage.'

8 In pairs, decide where you think Ivy and her parents are going to move to. Then listen and check and say how Ivy feels about it.

9 Work in groups and answer the questions. Then tell each other the advantages and disadvantages of your homes.

- In your group who lives:
  - in the centre of town/suburbs/country?
  - closest to/furthest from school?
  - in the noisiest/quietest part of town?
  - in the most interesting district?
GRAMMAR AND READING

Work it out

2 Look at Nadine’s email again and answer the questions.

Which of the words in bold refer to:

a people? ________ and ________
b possessions? ________ and ________
c objects or things? ________ and ________
d places? ________

3 Look at sentences 1 and 2 and choose the correct answer, a or b.

1 I’m sending you a photo (which) I took this morning.
2 There’s one thing which is very odd.

We can leave out who/which/that when they are followed by:

a a pronoun (I, you, she, everybody …) or a noun.
b a verb.

Check it out

Choose the correct relative pronouns. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Tick the sentences where you can leave out who, which or that.

1 That’s the neighbour that / who / which lives upstairs.
2 This is the key which / who / where you need to open the back door.
3 This is a picture of the loft which / where / that I’m staying.
4 This is the carpet that / which / whose I want to buy.
5 That’s the man whose / who / that flat we’re renting.
6 The guy which / whose / who you saw is my new flatmate.
7 The flat that / which / whose we rented last year was very expensive.

5 Look at the email again and find five sentences with a relative pronoun you can leave out.

6 CD2.13 Listen and complete the plan of the flat where Nadine is staying.

bathroom Nadine’s bedroom kitchen and dining room living room cupboard lavatory

7 CD2.13 Listen again and look at the plan. Write the numbers of the rooms where you can find these things.

sink desk freezer shower armchair wardrobe

washbasin bookshelves DVD player games console vacuum cleaner dishwasher

8 Write the missing relative pronouns. Then circle those which you can leave out.

1 This is an apartment ________ owner is an artist.
2 Do you see the computer ________ is on the desk?
3 It’s one thing ________ I don’t like sharing.
4 That’s the market ________ I do my shopping.
5 The books belong to the girl ________ used to live here.

9 Use the phrases in the box to complete the definitions.

use to clean the floor keep clothes dry to wash clothes watch TV

1 A washing machine is a thing ________ use to wash clothes.
2 A living room is a place ________.
3 A wardrobe is a place ________.
4 Your flatmate is the person ________.
5 An estate agent is a person ________.
6 A vacuum cleaner is a thing ________.

10 Complete the sentences for you. Then, in pairs, compare your sentences.

1 ________ is the place where I usually hang out with my friends.
2 ________ is something that I don’t understand.
3 ________ is the person whose opinion I trust the most.
4 ________ is the possession which is most important to me.
5 ________ is the person who makes me laugh the most.

A place called home
Why do we build strange places?

There are many amazing buildings around the world. Perhaps some near where you live. But why do people build strange places? Why not just design buildings that are useful and practical?

One reason is that some of us like to be different. We can see that in the houses where we live and also in the clothes we wear. So perhaps it’s not surprising that French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has a very special home: a surprising that French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has a very special home: a Bubble House in the south of France. With its round windows, oval doors and curved walls some people say it looks more like a plant or an animal than a house. Others say that it is a place where aliens could live. However, even if you don’t like it, you have to admit it’s original.

Although many people feel sick as they walk around the house, it is very popular with tourists. However, for Mr Czapiewski the house is more than a simple tourist attraction. He built it to protest about the state of the world to say that we are running the world the wrong way.

Finally, some buildings are special because of their strange location: on a mountain top, in a lonely forest, or on a rocky island. Often the reason that people choose to build in such strange places is to find a quieter life; to escape the noise and violence of the world. Perhaps the best examples are the Meteora monasteries, which sit on top of spectacular rock columns in central Greece. Tourists are welcome at some times but the monasteries are still really peaceful places. And some of the noise and violence of the world.

Another reason for designing unusual buildings is to attract people’s attention. One of the best examples is the Kansas City Public Library in Missouri, USA. The outside wall of the library looks like a row of enormous books. The message is clear: there are books in here. The people who designed the library asked local residents to choose the books that best represent their city. And now these giant books attract people to the library. So what’s next? A café that looks like a coffee cup? A hotel in the shape of a bed? A baker’s with walls of bread?

Some people want to use their buildings to communicate. Take, for example, businessman Daniel Czapiewski who built the Upside Down House in Szymbark, Poland. When you go inside, you walk on the ceiling. The furniture is on the floor but the floor is above your head.

Paragraph 1

1. Why do people build strange places?
2. How do strange buildings differ from ordinary ones?
3. What is unique about the Bubble House?
4. What is special about the Kansas City Public Library?
5. What is the Upside Down House like?

Paragraph 2

1. Read the article again and match buildings A–D with the reasons for building them 1–5. There is one extra reason.
   - to enjoy peace and quiet
   - to express an opinion
   - to win a competition
   - to show the owner’s personality
   - to tell people what’s inside
   - to communicate
   - to communicate
   - to communicate

2. Complete with the underlined words from the article.
   1. Windows on ships are usually ________.
   2. Don’t leave your clothes on the ________.
   3. It’s a small room in the attic – my head hits the ________
   4. Our town is a good ________ for your factory.
   5. The ________ are the pub stays open until 2 a.m.
   6. Old people find flats more ________ than houses with stairs.
   7. They ________ the Eiffel Tower in under two years.
   8. A famous architect ________ that building.

3. Write a description of your bedroom. Look at the text on page 121 to help you. Include the following information.

Paragraph 1

1. Do you like it? Why? Why not?
2. Is the room big/comfortable/warm/bright enough?
3. What can you see from the window?

Paragraph 2

1. Do you have any decorations like pictures/posters on the wall/door?
2. What kind of furniture/appliances are there in the room?

Paragraph 3

1. What do you do in your room?
2. What did you use to do there?
**SPEAKING**

1. In pairs, look at photos 1–3 and answer the questions.
   - What type of accommodation does each picture show? Choose from the ideas below.
     - a semi-detached house
     - terraced houses
     - a detached house
     - a cottage
     - a block of flats

2. What type of accommodation do you think is:
   - the most attractive?
   - the most modern?
   - the most comfortable?

3. What kind of accommodation is most common in your country?

4. What kind of home does your family live in?

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**SPEAK OUT**

1. Describing photos

   Start by saying what the photo shows in general.
   **The photo shows a housing estate in a city.**

   Talk about what you can see in more detail. Use the following phrases to describe where things are:
   - in the background/middle/foreground
   - at the bottom/top
   - on the right/left

   **In the foreground there's a woman with a big rucksack.**

   Use the Present Continuous to describe what people are doing.
   **She's wearing a sun hat and she's walking.**

   Use phrases like **perhaps**, **probably**, **(it/there) might be** and **looks like** + noun if you are making a guess.
   **It might be somewhere in Europe.**

   Use **looks/seems + adjective** to show how you feel about the photo.
   **It looks/seems quite attractive/horrible/relaxed.**

---

2. Look at photo 1 and complete the missing phrases.

   Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Then listen and check.
   1. __________ there's a little boy on a bike.
   2. __________ there are some people who are chatting in the street.
   3. __________ there might be a parked car.
   4. __________ there's a big hill with a farm on it.

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3. In pairs, follow the instructions. Student A, look at photo 2 on this page. Student B, look at the photo on page 123.
   - Look at Speak Out and make notes on what you are going to say. Use the text on page 121 to help you.
   - Describe your picture to your partner.

4. In pairs, complete the sentences to make them true about a typical home in your country. Then compare your answers with a partner.
   1. People in my country usually live in a _________.
   2. The typical home has got _________.
   3. Most homes are rather _________.
   4. Most people _________.
   5. Nearly everybody has got _________.

---

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   **The photo shows a housing estate in a city.**

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   **It might be somewhere in Europe.**

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   **It looks/seems quite attractive/horrible/relaxed.**

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6. Look at photo 1 again and complete the missing phrases.

   Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Then listen and check.
   1. __________ there's a little boy on a bike.
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   3. __________ there might be a parked car.
   4. __________ there's a big hill with a farm on it.

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7. What else can you say about photo 1? Answer the questions.
   1. Can you guess which country or place the people are in? Why do you think so?
   2. Which adjectives describe the scene best for you? Choose three from the list.
      - attractive
      - bright
      - pleasant
      - nice
      - relaxed
      - boring
      - colourful
      - horrible
      - quiet
      - ugly

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8. In pairs, complete the sentences to make them true about a typical home in your country. Then compare your answers with a partner.
   1. People in my country usually live in a _________.
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   3. Most homes are rather _________.
   4. Most people _________.
   5. Nearly everybody has got _________.

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9. In pairs, complete the sentences to make them true about a typical home in your country. Then compare your answers with a partner.
   1. People in my country usually live in a _________.
   2. The typical home has got _________.
   3. Most homes are rather _________.
   4. Most people _________.
   5. Nearly everybody has got _________.