

Home Sweet Home



In this activity, we'll explore different housing situations and share our preferences. In groups of 3 or 4, one person reads a question and each person answers in turn and gives a reason. For example: *"Would you rather live in a big city apartment or a small countryside house? Why?"* – *"I would choose the countryside house because I love peace and being close to nature. Also, I prefer having more space."*

1. Urban vs. Rural:

Would you rather live in a high-rise apartment in a bustling city or a quiet farmhouse surrounded by fields?

2. Traditional vs. Modern:

Would you rather live in an ancient castle with history and charm or a futuristic smart home with high-tech gadgets?

3. Small vs. Spacious:

Would you rather live in a tiny house with minimal space but low expenses or a spacious mansion with high upkeep costs?

4. Natural vs. Artificial Surroundings:

Would you rather live in a treehouse in the middle of a forest or an underwater house with ocean views?

5. Location Priorities:

Would you rather live close to work but in a smaller, less attractive home, or further away in a larger, beautiful home?

6. Extreme Environments:

Would you rather live in a desert home with air conditioning or a snowy cabin with a fireplace?

7. Fixed vs. Mobile Housing:

Would you rather live in a permanent house or a mobile home that lets you travel anywhere?

8. Proximity to Nature:

Would you rather live by the beach with ocean views or in the mountains with breathtaking landscapes?

9. Neighbours vs. Privacy:

Would you rather live in a cosy neighbourhood where everyone knows each other or in a remote home with complete privacy?

1 Look at the following advertisements and match them to the people they are best suited for.

Joe

- is a computer programmer.
- works in the centre of the town.
- has a car.
- wants to live alone.
- needs room for an office at home.
- hates traffic.

Jamie

- is a college student.
- has a small scholarship and is looking for a part-time job.
- likes going to the pub at night.
- has a bike: "who needs a car?"
- is new in town and doesn't know anyone.
- is living away from her parents for the first time.

Charlie and Edith

- are a retired couple.
- are on a tight budget.
- have trouble sleeping at night.
- are too old to drive.
- love walking in the country.

Wishing to expand in a office and computer training. No capital required, profit sharing. Write to: Agency Services Ltd., 15 St. Catherine's Road, Bournemouth, BH10 4SE, England.

Building needed beneath the Castle 2 bed & bath, spacious kitchen, TV & air.

WE HAVE YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Jambakova mlb 33 Tel: 53 39 36 or 41 94 81

REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE

APARTMENTS/HOMES FOR RENT

Continental Realty

- Prime Area Houses and Apartments for Rent
- Helpful, Skilled English-Speaking Agents

Na Laspalce 19, P 6 Tel/fax: 311-0406

CONDOS FOR LEASE OR SALE: Shady Meadows Realty is now offering 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom flats at extremely economical rates. Situated in the secluded Bristley Valley, these apartments are just a five-minute walk from the Artswood National Forest, as well as being close to the central shopping district, the local school, and connections to public transport. Call TODAY!

Reconstructed, furnished flat in 1st district, Prague 1: 100 m from the Old Town Square.

Phone King & Co. Praha 2, 22 51 01 or 02, 22 5 44 05

Rentfinders

Currently Available:

- 1 br. 2nd fl. furnished garage 1,000 sq
- 1 br. Praha 6 flat, 1st fl., 12,500 sq

Among others: 777-0171 24 90 95

IN REAL OFFERS FLATS FOR RENT

LUXURIOUS TWO-BEDROOM FLAT in good neighbourhood. Close to downtown and the university district. The apartment has a fireplace, hardwood floors, and a beautiful view. NO PETS \$1800.

Prague 3 - Bismuntzova apt. 3 fl., furnished, tel. 40 000

Koblenka, Long-term lease, Tel. 262 2331 (evening)

4 modern reconstructed flats in Křižkovice, Prague 1

12-1400 sqm, security, internet, tel. line.

For further details contact King & Co. Praha 2, 22 51 01, 22 5 44 05.

PRAGUE 6 DELICIOUS - DADA


Very nice, quiet apartment in a brand new house.

- 2-3 bedrooms
- 3+1, 100 m²
- 1100 sqm, 43 m² of terrace, WI, kitchen

Call or fax owner at 344 0744

New modern apt. with for rent: 3 floors x 145 m² each: Living 60 m², kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, large basement, 2 car garage, floor 1500 m² fenced in, telephone, central heating, 25,000 Kč/month. Located in Prague 9 Horní Počernice. Call (02) 86 34 41. Oscar Kohout.

1/6 Hlaváčkova 5 Praha 1, Praha 1, 100 00

2  Listen to the telephone conversation about a flat that is for rent and fill in the missing information in Peter's notes.

3 Choose one of the advertisements on the preceding page and with a partner roleplay a similar phone conversation. You can take the part of Joe or Jamie. Your partner is the landlord/landlady.

4 Complete the paragraphs on the right choosing some of the following comments.

It was very cramped.

It is nice and cosy.

It was so spacious you could get lost in it.

It had a kitchen corner.

I had to share the bathroom with the other tenants.

There was a large swimming pool and hot tub in the back.

The commute to work was too long.

The couches folded down into a double bed.

The living room doubled as my office, so it was rather messy.

It was in a bad part of town.

The walls were so thin you could hear everything your neighbours said.

It was right up the street from the university.

5 What other advantages and disadvantages of each kind of house can you think of?

Ringmer Road, Brighton - 01273-946192

1 _____-bedroom flat in a 2 _____ house

3 _____ flats in the house, the 4 _____ lives in one of them.

Special features:

5 _____ floors

tall 6 _____

7 _____ in the garage – share with other tenants

8 _____ in the back that leads to a 9 _____

with a 10 _____.

They are looking for someone who is 11 _____.

12 _____, 13 _____.

THESE ARE THE FLATS OF OUR LIVES

When I was at university, I hardly had any money at all. I couldn't get a room in the halls of residence, so I had to live in a bedsitter. There were some nice things about it. For example, ...

But it also had its disadvantages.

When I graduated from university, I found a job as an accountant and started to earn decent money. My girlfriend and I moved into a flat in a housing estate. It was much nicer than my previous place.

But it still wasn't perfect. My girlfriend eventually broke up with me and moved out because she said...

My career went ahead very well, and soon I was a rich stockbroker. I got married, and when my wife became pregnant we decided to buy a house in the suburbs. It was very expensive and luxurious. ...

Having such a large place, however, presented some problems. For instance, ...

When I retired, we decided that we needed a change of pace, so we bought a nice mobile home, with a piece of land in the country where we could park it when we weren't travelling. It was perfect for our lifestyle.

Now I'm dead and I rest in a pine box, apparently. ...

1 WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

a Complete the **Preposition** column with *in* or *on*.

- I live **in** the **country**, surrounded by fields.
- I live **in** the **outskirts** of Oxford, about 5 miles from the centre.
- I live **in** a **village** (a town / a city).
- I live in Aldeburgh, a small town **on** the **east coast**.
- I live **on** the **second floor** of a large block of flats.
- I live **in** Croydon, a **suburb** of London about 10 miles from the city centre.

Preposition

in



suburbs or outskirts?

The *suburbs* is a residential area outside the centre of a large city.

Croydon is a **suburb of** London.

The *outskirts* is the area around a city which is the furthest from the centre.

They live **on the outskirts of** Milan.

b (4 19)) Listen and check.

c Cover the **Preposition** column. Say the sentences with the correct preposition.

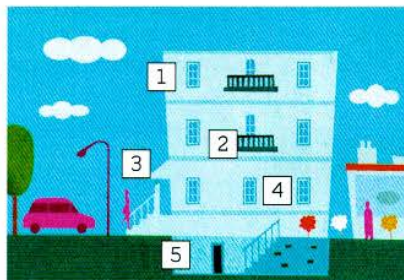
d Describe where you live to your partner.

2 PARTS OF A HOUSE OR BLOCK OF FLATS

a Match the words and pictures.

A flat

- 1** balcony /'bælkəni/
- 2** basement /'beɪsmənt/
- 3** entrance /'entrəns/
- 4** ground floor /'graʊnd flɔː/ (AmE first floor)
- 5** top floor /tɒp flɔː/



A house

- 1** chimney /'tʃɪmni/
- 2** gate /geɪt/
- 3** path /pɑːθ/
- 4** roof /ruːf/
- 5** steps /steɪps/
- 6** terrace /'terəs/
- 7** patio /'pætiəʊ/
- 8** wall /wɔːl/



b (4 20)) Listen and check. Cover the words and look at the pictures. Test yourself.

3 DESCRIBING A HOUSE OR FLAT

a Match the descriptions and photos.

I live in a cottage in the country. It's old and **made of stone**, and the rooms have very low **ceilings**. There's an **open fire** in the living room and it's very **cosy** in the winter.

I live in a **modern flat** in the city centre. It's **spacious** and very **light**, with **wooden floors** and big windows.

b (4 21)) Listen and check. Focus on how the **highlighted** phrases are pronounced.

c Cover the descriptions and look at the photos. Describe the rooms.



chimney or fireplace?

In English *chimney* only refers to the structure on the roof of the house. *Fireplace* is the place where you burn wood or coal. For some nationalities *chimney* is a 'false friend'.

roof or ceiling?

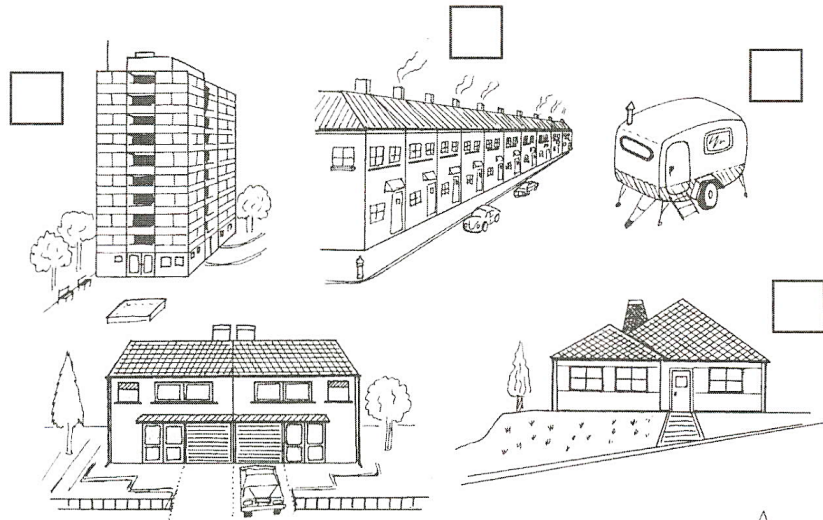
Roof is the top part of a house. *Ceiling* is the top part of a room.



TYPES OF DWELLINGS

1 Match the following expressions to the pictures. Put a number in each box.

- 1 semi-detached house (GB)
duplex/two-family house (US)
- 2 chalet
- 3 terraced house (GB)
row house (US)
- 4 block of flats (GB)
apartment building (US)
- 5 detached house (GB)
(single-family) house (US)
- 6 bungalow (GB)
ranch house (US)
- 7 caravan (GB)
trailer (US)
- 8 half-timbered house
Tudor-style house (GB)



2 Where would you be most likely to find each of these houses? Can they all be found in your country? What kinds of people do you think live in each?



3 Which type of house do you live in and what other type of house might you like living in?



4 Describe the house of the future. What will be different? What will stay the same?

Types of Dwellings

redbrick house (without plaster)
housing estate
council houses and flats (GB) / housing project (US) / public housing (US)
condo(minium) (US)
high-rise / towerblock / multi-storey building
skyscraper
town house
country house
mansion
manor house
castle
chateau

stately home
palace
half-timbered house / Tudor-style house (GB)
cottage
summer cottage
weekend cottage / "second home"
log cabin
grass hut
igloo
teepee
mobile home
a squat
halls of residence (GB) / dorm(itory) (US)

flat (GB) / apartment (US)
bachelor flat / bachelor pad
bedsitter / bedsit
studio
basement flat
Positive qualities
comfortable
cosy
luxurious / exquisite
pleasant
roomy / spacious
large
tidy / spotless
well-kept

attractive
elegant
magnificent
newly built
Negative qualities
dilapidated
haunted
ramshackle
hideous
cramped
shabby
dingy
poky
leaky
damp

Activities
to move into
to move out of
to move house
to rent (out)
to lease
to (re)decorate
to furnish
to renovate
to refurbish
to alter
to pull down / demolish

FINDING YOUR IDEAL RENTED FLAT OR HOUSE

Imagine you found a new job in the UK and are planning to rent a flat or house. Your task is to search for a property online, analyse its features, and present why it would be the best choice for you.

Take note of important details:

- Location
- Price
- Size (number of rooms, square footage)
- Features (balcony, garden, proximity to shops/schools, etc.)
- Any unique selling points (e.g., "great city view," "modern design").

Where is the property located?

What makes it appealing to you?

How does it fit your needs and lifestyle?

Are there any downsides? If so, why are they acceptable to you?

What would you change about this property?

Do you think the price is reasonable?

Here is one of the largest property portals in the UK. You can search for flats and houses to rent or buy based on location, price range, and features: <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/>

rightmove 

Buy

Rent

House Prices

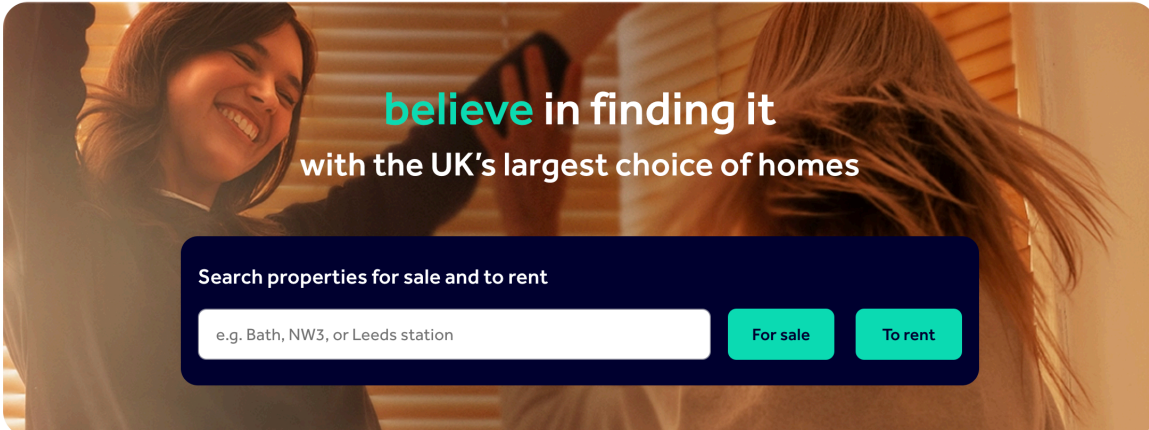
Find Agent

Commercial

Inspire

Overseas

 Sign in



believe in finding it
with the UK's largest choice of homes

Search properties for sale and to rent

e.g. Bath, NW3, or Leeds station

For sale To rent

The image shows a screenshot of the Rightmove website's search interface. It features a dark blue search bar with a white input field containing the text 'e.g. Bath, NW3, or Leeds station'. To the right of the input field are two teal buttons labeled 'For sale' and 'To rent'. Above the search bar, the text 'believe in finding it with the UK's largest choice of homes' is displayed in white and teal. The background of the search bar is a blurred image of a smiling woman looking at a smartphone.