

Matching (specific)

1 What do you think these pictures have in common?

2 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Which home appeals to you most? Why?
- 2 What things in your house could you easily live without?
- 3 What modern-day comforts couldn't you live without?

3 Read the texts quickly. Match the pictures (1–6) to the texts (A–F).

EXAM STRATEGY

- Read the questions from the exam task to see what information you are looking for in the texts.
- The questions are usually paraphrases of the information from the text - they give the same information, but use different words.
- Check that the remaining questions do not match any of the texts.

4 EXAM TASK Read the texts. Match the choices (1–8) to the texts (A–F). There are two choices you do not need to use.

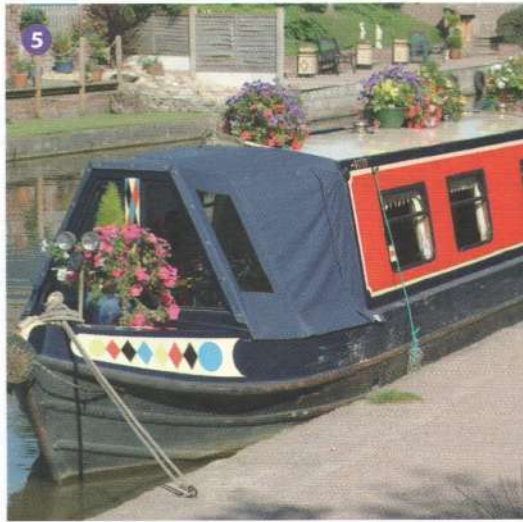
Which home ...

- 1 had its roof removed? _____
- 2 isn't what the owner intended to buy? _____
- 3 only has space for essential items? _____
- 4 lacks natural light inside? _____
- 5 has plenty of facilities, despite being unusual? _____
- 6 isn't suitable for small children? _____
- 7 helped the owner escape an urban environment? _____
- 8 is popular with tourists? _____

A Gina can only get to her home by cautiously walking across a narrow wooden plank. She's been living with her partner Tom and 18-month-old daughter Kyra on a 15-metre canal boat for just over a year. Living on a boat is an exercise in making the most of every centimetre of space. 'It's really hard to keep it tidy,' says Gina. 'The space is just enough at the moment, but there's no room for stuff you don't need. And I can't imagine how it's going to be as Kyra gets bigger.' At the moment, Kyra seems to love it, most of all because she's surrounded by ducks!

B Have you ever thought of getting away from it all – escaping from conventional ways of living? That's exactly what Nick Weston did when he moved out of London. He spent £170 on wood, and built a tree house in West Sussex. Constructing the house was hard. Due to the limited budget, Nick and his friends had to cut down nearby trees to make support posts for the house. Nick managed to live off the land for six months, eating mainly the things that he could grow in his vegetable garden, or find in the countryside. The practical advice on how he did it is an inspiration to anyone considering this way of life.

C If you'd asked me what kind of property I wanted to buy with an eighteen-month-old and a three-month-old baby, I would have said, 'something that I can just move straight into.' So why, oh why, did I buy a house that an old lady and her ten cats had just vacated – a house that needed the electrics and central heating replacing as well as a new kitchen and new bathroom? That's not to mention the flooring, decorating, fences, etc. The list goes on and on. But, although it certainly wasn't what I had in mind when I first started looking, now that we've done all the work, it's absolutely perfect!



D If you're looking for a cool property to live in, then why not consider a double-decker bus? There's a double bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, lounge and toilet. It also has a 200-litre water tank and has been fully wired by its electrician owner, so there are all the modern-day comforts on board that you'd expect from a normal home, such as a television, a microwave and a coffee machine. The bus is currently located in the town of Horsham, but the beauty of living on a bus is that if you need a change of scenery, you can just start up the engine and drive your property somewhere else. There are plenty of caravan sites in the UK that will be happy to have you on site!

E It's easy to see how the so-called 'shark house' in Oxford got its name. It was in 1986 that a local journalist, Bill Heine, decided it would be a good idea to have a giant shark installed on the roof of his house. The shark is 7.5 metres long and made of fibreglass. Heine's modest red-brick terraced property soon became a major attraction with many people posting comments and photos of it online. Oxford City Council ordered Heine to remove the shark, saying he did not have the necessary building permission to put it there. However, it is still there today.

F This home is similar to the traditional Mongolian tent called a yurt. Freddie and Maya Stark wanted to feel more closely connected to nature. The interior of the yurt is dark because the windows are small, and the only heating comes from a central wood-burning stove. 'We don't mind the darkness – it's cosy – and with the countryside right outside, we see the seasons and the weather change. We can't imagine living anywhere else.' We asked them whether living together in one small room was a problem. 'Sometimes,' Maya said. 'But it's easy to get some personal space – by going out for a long walk!'

5 Which of the homes described in the extracts would you choose to live in? Why? Which would you least want to live in? Why?

6 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think some people are looking for alternative places to live?
- 2 Can you think of any other advantages or disadvantages of living in alternative homes that aren't mentioned in the extracts?

Words in context

7 Complete the sentences (1–10) with words and phrases from the box.

change of scenery live off the land located narrow on board support posts surrounded vacate wood-burning stove wooden plank

- 1 The old buildings of central Amsterdam rest on _____ embedded in the bottom of the canals.
- 2 More than one million UK households use a _____ to heat their homes during the winter.
- 3 When I graduated, I was asked to _____ my university flat.
- 4 I was able to make a new bookshelf for my living room by recycling an old _____.
- 5 My parents retired to the countryside because they wanted a _____.
- 6 You can find a range of accommodation _____ our cruise liners.
- 7 It's our dream to _____: keeping chickens and sheep, and growing our own vegetables.
- 8 The roads in this old town are extremely _____: it's impossible for two cars to pass each other.
- 9 We're going to have a picnic in a beautiful spot – it's a lake that's completely _____ by trees.
- 10 Our offices are conveniently _____ a few minutes from the station.