

# 1B

## A place to live



- › **Goal:** talk about where you live
- › **Grammar:** modifying comparisons
- › **Vocabulary:** where I live

### Vocabulary

#### 1 Discuss the questions.

- 1 How often do people usually move house in your country?
- 2 Is it common for people you know to improve their flats/houses?
- 3 What reasons do people give for moving or improving their flat/house?

#### 2 Work in pairs. Check you understand the words in bold. Then match sentence halves 1–9 with a–i.

- 1 It's an old apartment and was **freezing** in the winter,
- 2 We **could do with** a bit more space to put things in,
- 3 The kitchen was **tiny**,
- 4 It's quite **rough** round here,
- 5 Being in the country **surrounded by** fields was great,
- 6 Our kids had **moved out**, and we're not as fit as we were,
- 7 I needed a bigger place, but didn't want to **move away** from the area,
- 8 My **landlord** wants to **put up the rent**,
- 9 It's not in very **good condition**
  - a but now the kids need somewhere a bit more **lively**.
  - b so I'd like to move to a slightly safer **neighbourhood**.
  - c so we're covering the balcony to give us more **storage**.
  - d so we **knocked down** one wall and made it much bigger.
  - e but it's cheap to buy and I can **repair** most things myself.
  - f so we **put in central heating**.
  - g so I made **the basement** bigger.
  - h so we bought a smaller place, which is a lot easier to **keep clean and tidy**.
  - i so I'm going to **move in with** a friend and **share the cost**.

#### 3 a Work in pairs. Put the words and phrases in bold in Exercise 2 into the correct groups.

- 1 Connected to or describing apartments/houses
- 2 Describing areas
- 3 Connected to moving or home improvement

#### b Choose five words or phrases in bold from Exercise 2 and make sentences about where you live.

*We have a basement, which we use for storage.*

Go to page 156 or your app for more vocabulary and practice.



### Reading

#### 4 a Look at the photos of Notting Hill in London and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you know what the area is famous for?
- 2 What do you think it was like in the 1940s?

#### b Read the article about Notting Hill and check your answers.

#### 5 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 Who were the houses first built for?
- 2 Why weren't some houses sold and what happened to them?
- 3 Why were some houses knocked down?
- 4 Who moved into the area in the 1960s?
- 5 How have the house prices changed since the 1960s?

#### 6 Work in groups. What might be good and bad about the changes in Notting Hill since the 1990s? Are there any areas like this where you live?

## THE CHANGING FACE OF

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# NOTTING HILL

London's Notting Hill is famous for Portobello Road market and its annual carnival – the biggest street party in Europe. Today it is a rich area, but, like many neighbourhoods in big cities, its character has changed over time. Originally, it was built in the

mid-nineteenth century as a new development for professionals and upper-class people, but it was right next to one of the roughest parts of the city, where there were very poor houses, criminals and even pig farms. Because of this, many of the lovely new houses built on Portland Road, on the edge of the neighbourhood, could not be sold and were rented cheaply to poorer people.

For example, in the 1940s, the Andrews family lived at 157 Portland Road. The six members of the family lived in just two rooms on one floor. They shared the house with four other families. Many houses were even more crowded. One three-floor building housed 48 people – with no bathroom or heating. Because landlords did not have nearly enough money for repairs, the houses ended up in a terrible condition. Eventually, some were knocked down and replaced by lots of government-built flats.

In the 1960s, new people started to move into Portland Road, many of them professional people with young families. These families had often lived in tiny places in nearby Chelsea, and bigger places there were far too expensive. By buying houses in bad condition on Portland Road and then doing the repairs themselves, they could get much more space. As the houses were improved, more middle-class people moved there and in the 1990s, the neighbourhood became popular with people who worked in the finance industry. Portland Road became far more expensive to live in, and houses that had sold for around £10,000 in the 1960s were now worth over £1 million. One house on the street sold last year for over £10 million.

## Grammar

- 7 Read the grammar box and choose the correct alternatives.

### Modifying comparisons

You can add words before a comparative adjective or *too* to show how big the difference is between things.

To show a <sup>1</sup>big/small difference, use *far*, *much*, *a lot*.

*We made it **much** bigger.*

*It's **a lot** easier to keep clean and tidy.*

*Houses in Portland Road became **far** more expensive.*

*Bigger places in Chelsea were **far** too expensive.*

To show a <sup>2</sup>big/small difference, use *a bit*, *slightly*.

***a bit** more space*

***a slightly** safer neighbourhood*

When you use *not ... enough* and *not as ... as*, you can use *quite* to show a <sup>3</sup>big/small difference and *nearly* to show a <sup>4</sup>big/small difference.

*We're **not quite as fit as** we were.*

*It's **not nearly** cheap enough.*

*Landlords **didn't** have **nearly enough** money for repairs.*

When you add *even*, it shows the comparison is <sup>5</sup>surprising/small.

*Many houses were **even** more crowded.*

- 8 Complete the sentences with the words in brackets and a comparative structure.

- 1 It's a bit too expensive. I'd like somewhere slightly cheaper. (slightly / cheap)
- 2 When we got married, we got an apartment which was \_\_\_\_\_ from my job. (a lot / far away)
- 3 You hear about crime there sometimes, but it is not \_\_\_\_\_ as it was before. (nearly / rough)
- 4 They've really improved the area. It's \_\_\_\_\_ than it was. (much / green)
- 5 I lived in a tiny flat when I was a student. It was \_\_\_\_\_ than this one. (even / small)
- 6 Our heating bills are far too expensive. We need to put in some \_\_\_\_\_ windows. (much / good)
- 7 It's a nice flat, but it doesn't have \_\_\_\_\_ for all my clothes! (nearly / storage)
- 8 It's a great area, but you'd need to earn \_\_\_\_\_ than I do to buy somewhere there. (a lot / money).


Go to page 136 or your app for more information and practice.

- 9 Work in pairs. Turn to page 166. Look at and compare the photos. Also compare them to where you live.

*The flat in this photo looks quite like mine, but I think my flat is a bit bigger and older.*

## Speaking

### PREPARE

- 10 a  1.4 You're going to talk about where you live. First, listen to two people talking about where they live. Which question are they answering?
- 1 How many places have you lived in? Why did you move? How did the different places compare?
  - 2 How happy are you with the place you live now? Say at least one thing that would improve it.
  - 3 What's the area you live in like? Has it changed while you have lived there?
- b Now work on your own and think about how to answer the questions in Exercise 10a.

### SPEAK

- 11 a Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions in Exercise 10a. Use the Useful phrases to help you.

#### Useful phrases

I've moved around quite a lot.

I like my new place the best.

I'm fairly happy with where I live now.

It's not changed much, but it's not quite as nice as before.

It's changed hugely. It's far more crowded now.

- b What are the main similarities and differences between your experiences?

Develop  
your  
reading  
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