

A

Location*

“We live **on the outskirts of town**¹, and it’s a very nice **location**. We used to live in the centre, but we **moved**² to our present flat when we had children because there’s more **space**³ for them to play and it has nice **views**⁴.”

* the place and position of something

¹ on the edge of town

² changed the place where we live

³ an area that is empty or not used

⁴ the things you can see from a place

B

Our flat

“This is where we live. We **rent**¹ a flat **on the second floor**. There’s a family in the flat **downstairs**², and a young French couple **upstairs**, on the top floor. It’s a modern **block of flats**³, and it’s quite good, although the **lift**⁴ is small, and there’s no **air conditioning**⁵.”

¹ pay money every week/month to use it because it isn’t ours

² on a lower level of a building

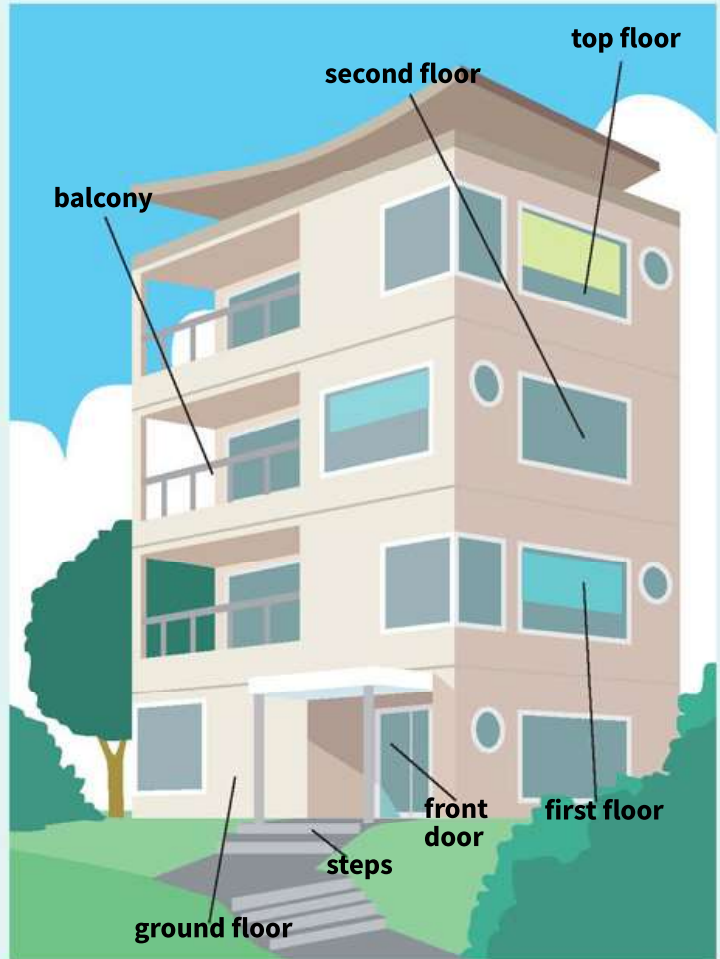
³ a building with a number of flats in it

⁴ the machine that takes people up or down a floor

⁵ a system that keeps the air cool

Language help

Flat is more common in British English; **apartment** is used in American English but is becoming more common in British English. Apartments are usually in large buildings; flats can be in a large building or part of a larger house.



C

A house in the country

“My parents **own**¹ a **cottage**². It’s a **charming**³ house and **has lots of character**⁴, but like many old buildings, it’s quite **dark** (*opp light*), quite difficult to **heat**⁵, and it doesn’t have **central heating**⁶.”

¹ they bought it

² a small house, that is old and attractive, and usually found in the country

³ pleasant and attractive

⁴ it is interesting and unusual

⁵ make warm or hot

⁶ a system that heats a whole house



cottage

Exercises

17.1 Are the sentences about the people on the opposite page true or false? If the sentence is false, change it to make it true.

- 1 They live in a house. *False. They live in a flat.*
- 2 They used to live on the outskirts of town.
- 3 They own their flat.
- 4 They've got nice views from their flat.
- 5 They live on the first floor.
- 6 There's a lift in the building.
- 7 A French couple live downstairs.
- 8 They own a cottage.
- 9 The cottage has lots of character.
- 10 The cottage is quite cold.

17.2 Are these generally positive or negative features of a home?

views *positive* air conditioning character

dark charming no central heating

17.3 Label the pictures.



1 *a block of flats*



2



3



4



5

6

17.4 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Our flat doesn't have air *conditioning*
- 2 I live the second floor, and my cousin lives, on the first floor.
- 3 My old flat was very small, but this one has much more
- 4 The flat's in a great : it's near the centre of town but opposite a park and very quiet.
- 5 We live on the of town, but it's only a twenty-minute walk to the centre.
- 6 The flat is on the third floor, but we can sit outside on the
- 7 It's a very big house, so it costs a lot of money to in the winter.
- 8 I'm on the second I usually use the stairs, but take the if I'm feeling lazy.
- 9 I live in Paris. I used to live in Marseilles, but I to Paris when I left university.
- 10 I love my apartment. It has big windows, so it's nice and inside.

17.5 Over to you

Answer the questions about your home.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Do you live in a house or flat? | 5 How long have you lived there? |
| 2 If you live in a flat, what floor is it on? | 6 Do you have these things: |
| 3 Do you own your home or rent it? | air conditioning? central heating? |
| 4 Are you in the centre, or on the outskirts of your town? | a balcony? |

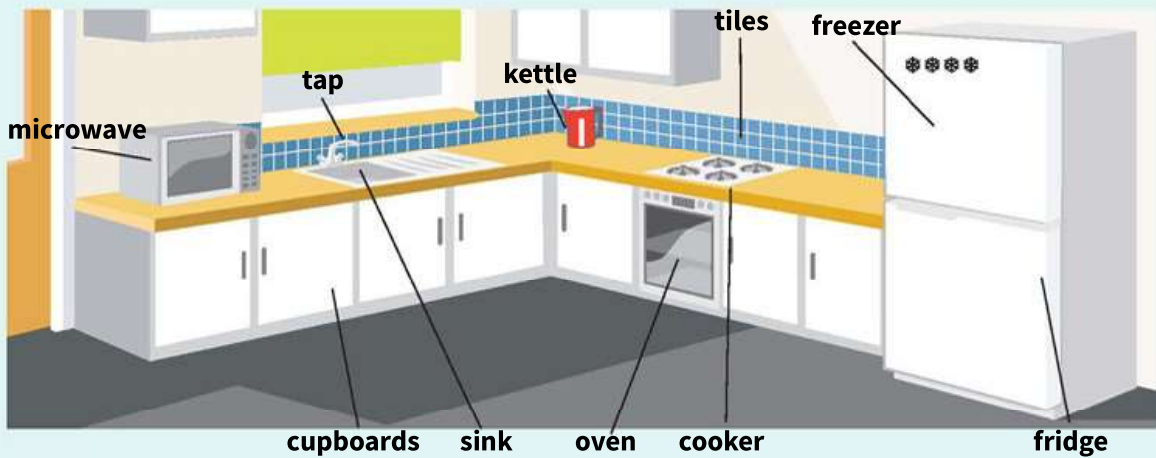
A

Different homes

“When we first got married, we lived in a one-bedroom flat with a small kitchen, a living room and a bathroom. When our first child was born, she had to **share** our bedroom. [use something at the same time as someone else] Now we live in a four-bedroom house. Our bedroom has an **en-suite bathroom** [a bathroom connected to the bedroom], our two teenage children have their **own** rooms [they do not have to share], we have a **spare room** for guests, and another bathroom. Downstairs, there’s a living room, a dining room and a **study** [a room where people can work]. We’ve also got a lovely big kitchen with a fridge-freezer, a cooker with two ovens and a **dishwasher** [a machine for washing dishes]. Next to it, there’s a small **utility room** where we keep the **washing machine**.”

Language help

We usually talk about a **sink** in the kitchen, but a **(wash)basin** in the bathroom.



B

Choices*

* when you decide between two or more possibilities

⏪ ⏩
🔄 🔍 🏠

WHAT DO YOU PREFER?

FOR THE HOME
LIGHTING
GIFTS
SALE

Some people like big soft **sofas**¹ with lots of **cushions**²,

some people like **firm** (opp **soft**) **armchairs**.

Do you like a **wooden floor**³ with a **rug**⁴,

or a **carpet**?

Curtains,

or **blinds**?

A **duvet**,

or a **sheet**⁵ and a **blanket**⁶?
One **pillow**⁷, or two?

Exercises

18.1 You are in the kitchen. Where would you put these things?

- 1 milk? *in the fridge*
- 2 food that you want to heat very quickly?
- 3 meat that you are going to cook?
- 4 dirty clothes?
- 5 dirty saucepans?
- 6 clean cups and saucers
- 7 frozen food that you want to keep for several weeks?

18.2 What are these things, and which room(s) do you usually find them in?

- 1 girdef *fridge, in the kitchen*
- 2 snik
- 3 nacistur
- 4 shiconus
- 5 ktelet
- 6 bashniswa
- 7 cparte
- 8 lipowl
- 9 shiwang chameni
- 10 kocero
- 11 chmariar
- 12 leits

18.3 Complete the sentences.

- 1 I'm happy with curtains or *blinds*; I really don't mind.
- 2 We used to have a floor, but it was a bit noisy so we put down a carpet.
- 3 When I got my new bedroom, my mum gave me a of curtains or blinds.
- 4 My mum works at home, so she spends all day in the on the computer.
- 5 As a child I had to a room with my sister, but now I've got my bedroom.
- 6 We often have guests to stay, but fortunately we've got a room.
- 7 'Dad, there's no water coming out of the in the kitchen sink.'
- 8 Some people like a sheet and, but I prefer a
- 9 There's a family bathroom, but I've got my own shower room next to the bedroom.
- 10 Our kitchen is small but we have a room for the washing machine.

18.4 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- 1 What have you got on your kitchen floor?
- 2 What have you got on the bathroom floor?
- 3 What have you got on the floor in the living room?
- 4 Have you got curtains or blinds in your bedroom?
- 5 Have you got a duvet or sheets and blankets on your bed?

18.5 Over to you

Look at section B on the opposite page again. Which do you prefer, and why? Compare your answers with someone else if possible.