

3.

Housing and living

PART ONE

①

Where do you live? Tell me about it. Do you like the location of your home?

Can you describe your flat to me?

What is your room like?/What is the place where you live like?

What do you like best about the place where you live?

What are/were the advantages/disadvantages of living with your parents?

What do you think is the most important room in your home? Why?

What do the surroundings/does the neighbourhood of your home look like?

What relationship do you have with your neighbours? Tell me about it.

In your opinion, what should a good neighbour/flatmate be like?

Would you like to live in a village/in a big city? Why?/Why not?

Would you like to buy a house or a flat in the future? Why?/Why not?

Can you describe the house of your dreams?

Handwritten signature

What would your ideal home look like? Tell me about it?

If you could live in any home from a TV series/film, which would it be? Why?

Should teenagers have household chores? Why?/Why not?

Which household chores did you have to help with when you were at basic school? Tell me something about them?

When did you last stay in a hotel / tent? Tell me about it?

Would you like to live with your parents in the same house/flat/town in future? Why? Why not?

What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a weekend house?

Have you ever wanted to move somewhere else? Why?/Why not?

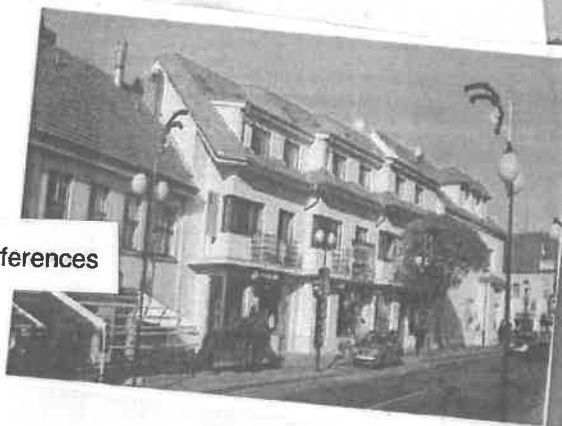
Would you like to live abroad? Why?/Tell me more about it./Why not?

PART TWO

Look at the pictures.

Choose one of the pictures and describe it.

- Location
- Transport
- Facilities
- Costs
- Personal preferences
- Other



Look at both pictures once more and compare them

3.

Housing and living

PART FOUR

2

I'm your English-speaking friend and we are planning to rent a flat together. We should agree on what type of flat to rent and then talk about the other details of renting it.

4A

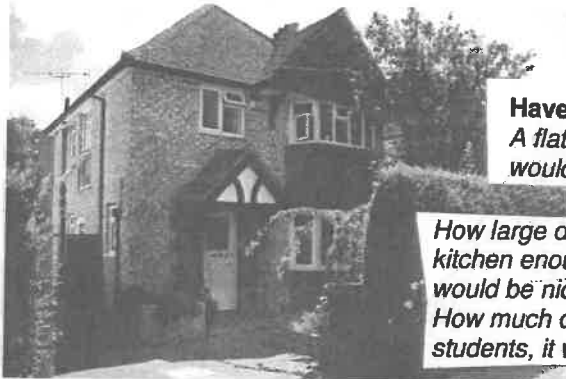
Type of flat / Location
How many rooms
Price
From when
Where to find it
Other



4B



4C



4D

Other

Have you thought about the flat we want to rent together?
A flat in a terraced house / detached house would be fine. / I would prefer a flat in a block of flats.

How large do you think it should be? / Are two rooms and a kitchen enough? Or shall we have a living room, too? / A balcony would be nice for storing my bike.
How much can you pay? / We can share the flat with some other students, it will be much cheaper.

we are going to talk together using the advertisement below. You came to study in London and want to find a cheap place to stay. You have seen an advertisement on the school noticeboard. Now you are meeting the person who is sharing the flat (it's me) to ask about the flat and to agree on when to move in.

Lovely modern flat to share with 2 other students.

A large three-bedroom flat, large living room and kitchen.

Fully furnished. Big terrace.

Rent only £110/week

Contact: cathysark@gmail.com

Location of the flat

Equipment / furniture / facilities

Rent

Conditions / rules

When to move in

Other

smoking

a dog/

Hello. Nice to meet you. Are you still interested in the flat?

You will have to clean the kitchen and bathroom once a month.

(Imagine the following situation.)

I am your new English teacher from the UK and I would like to learn something about your city so I've decided to invite you and your class out on Friday afternoon. We should decide together where to go and then talk about the details of the afternoon.

Imagine the following

Where to go (around school, city centre, country, etc.)

When to meet

How long

Types of entertainment

Price

Other

situation: The examiner is your English-speaking friend and you are thinking about renting a flat together in the place where you study. You should agree on which part of the city to rent the flat in and then talk about other details

Where to rent

How much to spend

How many rooms

Furniture/Equipment

Pets

Other

3.

Home and household

PART ONE

Could you describe your house or flat to me?

Which is your favourite room in your house/flat? Why?

How do you keep your bedroom/flat tidy? Tell me about it.

Do you have to do a lot of housework at home? Why?/Why not?

How much housework do you do?

How much housework did you have to do at home as a child? Tell me about it.

What did you last buy/change/improve in your room/flat/house? Tell me about it.

Have you ever changed anything in your room? Why?/Why not?

Should teenagers get any money for regular housework? Why?/Why not?

Should your future house have a garden/garage/swimming pool? Why?/Why not?

What is your dream house/flat? Tell me about it.

PART TWO

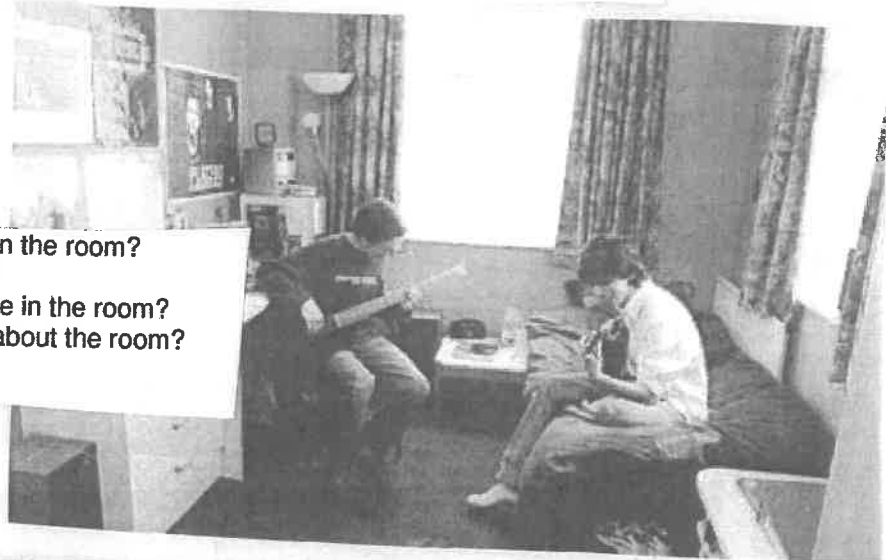
Look at the pictures

Describe them.

Rooms

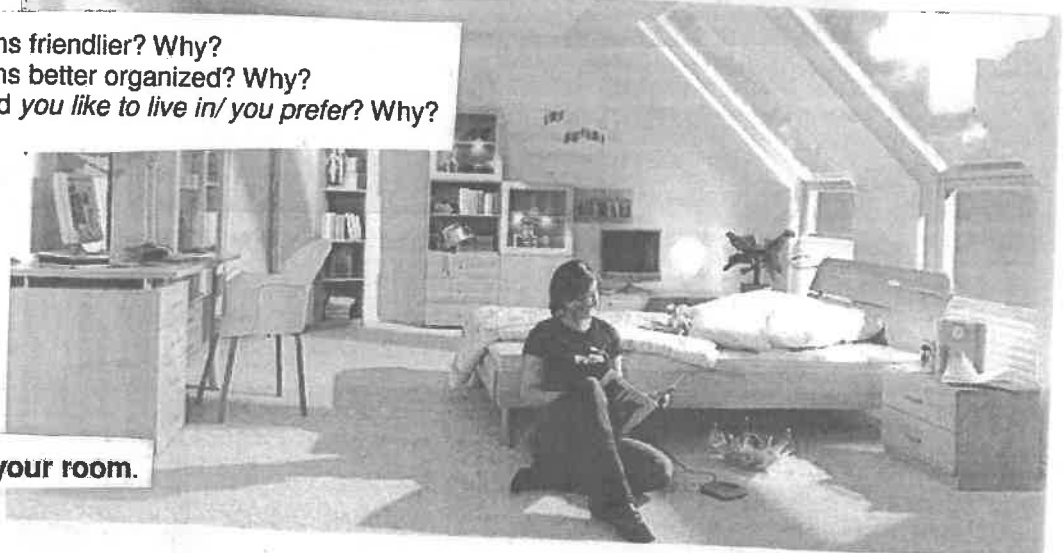
Place/Space
People (age, gender, clothes)
Activities
Furniture/Equipment
Colour/Style
Other

What is the atmosphere like in the room?
What time of day could it be?
What decorations can you see in the room?
Would you change anything about the room?
Why?/Why not?



compare them.

Which room seems friendlier? Why?
Which room seems better organized? Why?
Which room would you like to live in/you prefer? Why?



Talk about your room.

3.

2

Home and household

PART FOUR

Imagine the following situation.

I am your English speaking friend and we want to buy some furniture and equipment for our newly-rented flat. First, we should decide what to buy, choose the place where to do the shopping and then talk about the details of the shopping.

What we need
How much to spend
Where to buy
How to get there
When
Other

So, what do you think we should buy?

4A A second-hand shop

4B An open-air market

4C IKEA

4D Other

Hi

Imagine the

following situation:

You are staying in England and you are **sharing a flat with your English speaking friend**. He/She doesn't like household chores and would like to hire someone to do them. He/She would like to share the cost with you. However, you do not like this idea very much. **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and try to convince him/her that doing the chores yourselves is better.** The examiner will play the role of your English speaking friend.

Costs

Who?

How often?

Access to the flat

Personal things

Other

• Where do you live?

In a house / flat on the ground, first, second... floor... in a large / small block of flats. I live in a large / small / spacious / cramped... (detached / semi-detached house / flat / penthouse / studio)

• Do you have your own room in your house/flat? Or do you share a room with someone?

I have my own room. I share with my brother / sister. We have bunk beds. I sleep on the top / bottom. We have separate beds. There's a bookshelf / curtain separating our room.

• Can you describe your flat/house?

E.g. rooms / parts

Our house / flat has [rooms] a bathroom / three bedrooms / entry hall / garage / guest room / kitchen / living room / lounge / spare room / study / toilet, [parts] balcony / porch / terrace / winter garden.

• What does your room look like?

(decorations, furniture, etc...)

I have a bed in the corner / clothes stand / wardrobe / bookshelf against the wall... a desk near the window... a computer / television / lamp on the desk... posters on the wall. My room is huge / spacious / tiny / cramped... near my brother's / sister's room... at the end of the house / flat.

• If there was a fire in your home and you had the time to take one thing, what would it be? Why?

If there was a fire, I would take photos of my friends and family because I want to have memories of them... my favourite CDs / MP3 player / iPod because I can't live without music... my favourite book because it is very special to me / my diary because it has all my memories and secrets.

• How do you get to your home? (e.g. from the station)

From the station / shops / school I get home by bicycle / on foot... my parents pick me up... I take the bus, metro, public transport, train, tram, I cycle.

• What kind of housing is typical for your country?

In my country most people live in blocks of flats and some people live in houses. However, more people are moving into houses.

• Is it better to live in a house or in a flat? Why?

It's better to live in a house because you have your own room... you can have a garden and pets... you live away from the city where the air is cleaner / the streets are quieter. It's better to live in a flat because... you can live close to the city centre which is more interesting... you can live closer to shops / cafes / theatres / cinemas / friends.

• Is it better to live in a village, in a town or in a city? Why?

It's better to live in a city because there are more things to do... there are more people to meet... there are more interesting events... everything is more convenient. It's better to live in a village because the environment is less polluted... the surroundings are quiet... you can live near your family... you have sense of community.

• What do you like/dislike doing around the house?

I like / enjoy / don't mind... doing the gardening / looking after our pets / walking the dog / doing the dishes / cooking / fixing things / mowing the lawn / watering the flowers. I don't like / can't stand / hate... cleaning / tidying my room / taking out the rubbish / stacking the dishwasher / doing the ironing.

• What kind of jobs can you do yourself and what kind of jobs do you have a professional do?

I / We / My father / mother does the ironing / the gardening / the cooking / the cleaning... myself / ourselves / himself / herself. We hire someone to... repair our car / fix our roof / paint our walls / do our garden / clean our whole house.

• What kind of things can go wrong in a house?

Many things can go wrong... Pipes can burst... Roofs can leak... Cracks can form in the walls... Windows can smash... Pipes can become blocked... Electricity can short circuit... Bulbs can blow... Water taps (= faucets AmE) can drip... The washing machine can overflow.

• What do you do in an emergency?

If there is an emergency like... a burst water pipe / leaking roof, fire... I turn off the water mains / put a bucket under the leak / call the emergency line / call my parents / panic.

• Do you spend you weekends at home or do you have a weekend house?

I spend my weekends in my room playing computer games / reading / listening to music. I spend my weekends outside playing sport / hiking / fishing... with my friends / family.

• Do you have any pets? Why or why not?

Yes, I have a dog / cat / bird [parrot, canary, finch] / snake / turtle / mouse / rat / hamster / guinea pig / rabbit. His / her name is... He / she is... lovely / friendly / smelly / playful / quiet. I have a pet because I love animals / we have enough room / my parents bought it. No, I don't have a pet because we don't have enough room / my parents don't like animals / I'm allergic.

• How long do children usually live with their parents in your country?

Most people stay with their parents until they are in their mid-twenties... sometimes people move out when they become adults to study / work. I know that in USA people move out much earlier.

