

Vocabulary

Places: city / town / village / the capital / the countryside / the town centre (BrE) / downtown (AmE) / the outskirts of / the suburbs of / housing estate (BrE)

Houses: flat (BrE)/apartment (AmE) / block of flats (BrE)/apartment building (AmE) / one-room flat/bedsit (BrE)/studio apartment (AmE) / three-bedroom flat/apartment / terrace house (BrE) / detached house (BrE) / semi-detached house (BrE)

Rooms: bedroom / living room / dining room / kitchen / kitchenette / bathroom / toilet/ lavatory/loo (BrE) / hall (BrE)/entryway (AmE) / study / office / loft / attic / basement / cellar / balcony / patio / garden• / yard• (AmE) / garage

Style of Living: to live with parents/ flatmates (BrE)/roommates (AmE) / to live alone/on my own / to have your own house/ flat / to rent a flat

Describing Your Neighbourhood: quiet / family-friendly / vibrant / noisy / posh (BrE) / run-down / full of greenery / there is/are... a lot of shops / restaurants / local facilities / a school / clinic / (football) stadium / playground / sports centre / police station / bus/tram stop / underground (BrE)/subway (AmE)/ train station / car park (BrE)/parking lot (AmE) / busy roads / good public transport

Personal Questions

- Where do you live?
- What kind of house do you live in?
- What rooms are there in your house? Can you describe them?
- Who do you live with?
- What's your neighbourhood like?
- Where is the nearest...?

"I live in... / near... / just outside... / in the centre of... / on the outskirts of... / It is a tiny village / medium-sized town / the largest city in..."

Pair Discussion

Imagine that you have just moved from your current home into your dream home anywhere in the world, and you are describing the differences to a friend. Your partner should ask questions for more detail. Talk about the neighbourhood you used to live in and what's different or better about your new home.

* You can find a sample dialogue on the November 2017 CD.

Language for Describing a Place

I live in... / The neighbourhood is...

My flat/house has... / There is/are...

Across the street / nearby / next to / close to / opposite / just past / on the other side of the street / on the corner...

Not far from us, there is/are...

This area looks like / reminds me of...

Language & Culture Point

In the US, the **yard** is the area of grass next to a house. A US **garden** has flowers or vegetables. (You tell kids to go and play in the yard. You tell them not to play in the garden.) In the UK, a **yard** is usually a paved area in an industrial area. A UK **garden** has grass, flowers and/or vegetables.

"My house/flat... is big / small / full of light / has two bedrooms and a living room / is on the fifth floor..."

"There are... / The living room is the largest room / faces south / has a balcony... / In my room, I have a table / a wardrobe / a wooden floor... / In the garden, there is a pool / flower bed..."

"I share the house/flat with my parents / my grandparents... / One day I'd like to rent a flat / live on my own..."

"My neighbourhood is... / There are a lot of... / I like that there is a(n)... / There's not much to do... / The public transport is good/bad around here because... / The problem is that there are no..."

"It's on the corner of [x] and [y] streets / next to the park / close to my school / across the road from the police station / not far from here / just past the supermarket..."

Bridge

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