

Read, listen and talk about houses and homes.
Practise comparative and superlative of adjectives; relative pronouns.
Focus on describing photographs.
Write a description.

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DETACHED HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS

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CITY CENTRE FLAT

£350,000

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COUNTRY COTTAGE

£195,000

GRAMMAR AND LISTENING

1 Look at the homes in the photos and tick the things you see.

- hedge fence garage lawn
 skylight front door drive
 balcony letterbox chimney

2 Use the prompts below to think of reasons why the people in this family want to live in these places.

- 1 Dad wants to live in **a house in the suburbs** because _____.
 2 Ivy wants to live in **a city centre flat** because _____.
 3 Mum wants to live in **a country cottage** because _____.

quiet near the shops spacious garden
 friendly neighbours fun inexpensive

3 **CD2.10** Read and listen to the dialogue to check your answers to Exercise 2.

- Dad** The detached house in the suburbs is the most spacious; it's got three bedrooms, a huge fitted kitchen, an attic, a basement, a garden ...
Ivy There's a bigger flat for sale upstairs on the third floor. Why don't we buy that?
Dad Because it's the most expensive and it isn't big enough.
Ivy Why do you want to move to the suburbs? The centre's got shops and ... it's the most interesting part of town!
Dad And the noisiest too. It's a lot quieter in the suburbs. Life is better there.
Ivy No, it isn't. It's worse! It's too far from all my friends. There's nothing to do there.
Mum Why don't we buy the country cottage! It isn't as expensive as the house and people are friendlier in the country.
Ivy No, it isn't. It's even more boring than the suburbs!

Work it out

4 Match sentences 1 and 2 with the sentences with the same meaning, a or b.

- 1 The house is **not as expensive as** the flat.
 a The house is **cheaper than** the flat.
 b The house isn't **cheaper than** the flat.
- 2 The flat is **too small**.
 a The flat is **big enough**.
 b The flat isn't **big enough**.

5 Find comparative and superlative adjectives in the dialogue in Exercise 3 and add them to the box.

Comparison of adjectives

	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
One syllable	quiet	1 _____	the quietest
	big	2 _____	the biggest
	nice	nicer	3 _____
Two syllables ending in -y	noisy	noisier	4 _____
	friendly	5 _____	the friendliest
Two or more syllables	boring	6 _____	the most boring
	expensive	more expensive	7 _____
Irregular	good	8 _____	the best
	bad	9 _____	the worst
	far	further	the furthest

Ways of comparing: not as expensive (as) = cheaper (than)
 too small = not big enough

6 **CD2.11** Complete the sentences with the comparatives or superlatives of the words in brackets. Then match speakers a-c with sentences 1-5. Listen and check.

a Ivy b Mum c Dad

- 1 It's _____ (far) from school so it means getting up _____ (early) and getting home _____ (late).
 2 The house is _____ (large), _____ (comfortable) and _____ (peaceful) than the flat.
 3 The cottage in the country is the _____ (peaceful) place to live.
 4 The country isn't the _____ (good) place to live. It's the _____ (bad)!
 5 Country people are _____ (fit) and _____ (healthy) than people in cities.

7 Use the words in brackets to change the sentences so that they are true for each speaker.

- 1 Ivy: 'The flat isn't as near the city centre as the house.' (than)
 'The flat is **nearer the city centre than the house.**'
 2 Dad: 'The centre isn't as noisy as the suburbs.' (than)
 3 Ivy: 'The suburbs are more interesting than the centre.' (as)
 4 Ivy: 'It's easier to get to school from the house in the suburbs.' (difficult)
 5 Ivy: 'The country is as boring as the suburbs.' (most)
 6 Mum: 'The flat is nicer than the cottage.' (as)
 7 Ivy: 'The house isn't very far from the shops.' (too)
 8 Dad: 'The centre is too quiet.' (enough)

8 **CD2.12** In pairs, decide where you think Ivy and her parents are going to move to. Then listen and check and say how Ivy feels about it.

9 Work in groups and answer the questions. Then tell each other the advantages and disadvantages of your homes.

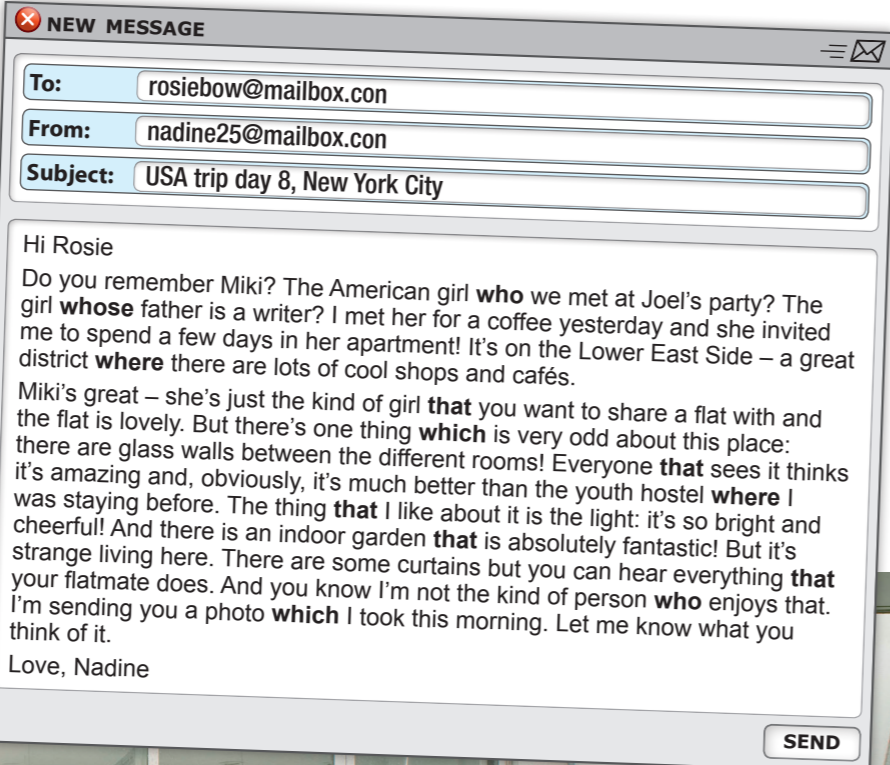
In your group who lives:

- in the centre of town/suburbs/country?
- closest to/furthest from school?
- in the noisiest/quietest part of town?
- in the most interesting district?

GRAMMAR AND READING

1 In pairs, look at the photo, read the email and answer questions 1–4.

- 1 Where is Nadine staying in New York?
- 2 What does she think of the district/her flatmate/the flat?
- 3 What does Nadine find unusual about the flat?
- 4 Why would you like/not like to live in this flat?



4 Choose the correct relative pronouns. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Tick the sentences where you can leave out *who*, *which* or *that*.

- 1 That's the neighbour *that / who / which* lives upstairs.
- 2 This is the key *which / who / where* you need to open the back door.
- 3 This is a picture of the loft *which / where / that* I'm staying.
- 4 This is the carpet *that / which / whose* I want to buy.
- 5 That's the man *whose / who / that* flat we're renting.
- 6 The guy *which / whose / who* you saw is my new flatmate.
- 7 The flat *that / which / whose* we rented last year was very expensive.

5 Look at the email again and find five sentences with a relative pronoun you can leave out.

6 **CD2.13** Listen and complete the plan of the flat where Nadine is staying.

- bathroom Nadine's bedroom
 kitchen and dining room living room
 cupboard lavatory

7 **CD2.13** Listen again and look at the plan. Write the numbers of the rooms where you can find these things.

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| sink | <input type="checkbox"/> | washbasin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| desk | <input type="checkbox"/> | bookshelves | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| freezer | <input type="checkbox"/> | DVD player | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| shower | <input type="checkbox"/> | games console | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| armchair | <input type="checkbox"/> | vacuum cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| wardrobe | <input type="checkbox"/> | dishwasher | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8 Write the missing relative pronouns. Then circle those which you can leave out.

- 1 This is an apartment _____ owner is an artist.
- 2 Do you see the computer _____ is on the desk?
- 3 It's one thing _____ I don't like sharing.
- 4 That's the market _____ I do my shopping.
- 5 The books belong to the girl _____ used to live here.

9 Use the phrases in the box to complete the definitions.

- use to clean the floor keep clothes
 lives with you sells flats and houses
 use to wash clothes watch TV

- 1 A washing machine is a thing you use to wash clothes.
- 2 A living room is a place _____.
- 3 A wardrobe is a place _____.
- 4 Your flatmate is the person _____.
- 5 An estate agent is a person _____.
- 6 A vacuum cleaner is a thing _____.

10 Complete the sentences for you. Then, in pairs, compare your sentences.

- 1 _____ is the place where I usually hang out with my friends.
- 2 _____ is something that I don't understand.
- 3 _____ is the person whose opinion I trust the most.
- 4 _____ is the possession which is most important to me.
- 5 _____ is the person who makes me laugh the most.

Work it out

2 Look at Nadine's email again and answer the questions.

- Which of the words in bold refer to:
- a people? _____ and _____
 - possessions? _____
 - objects or things? _____ and _____
 - places? _____

3 Look at sentences 1 and 2 and choose the correct answer, a or b.

- 1 I'm sending you a photo (**which**) I took this morning.
- 2 There's one thing **which** is very odd.

We can leave out *who/which/that* when they are followed by:

- a pronoun (*I, you, she, everybody ...*) or a noun.
- a verb.

Check it out

Relative pronouns

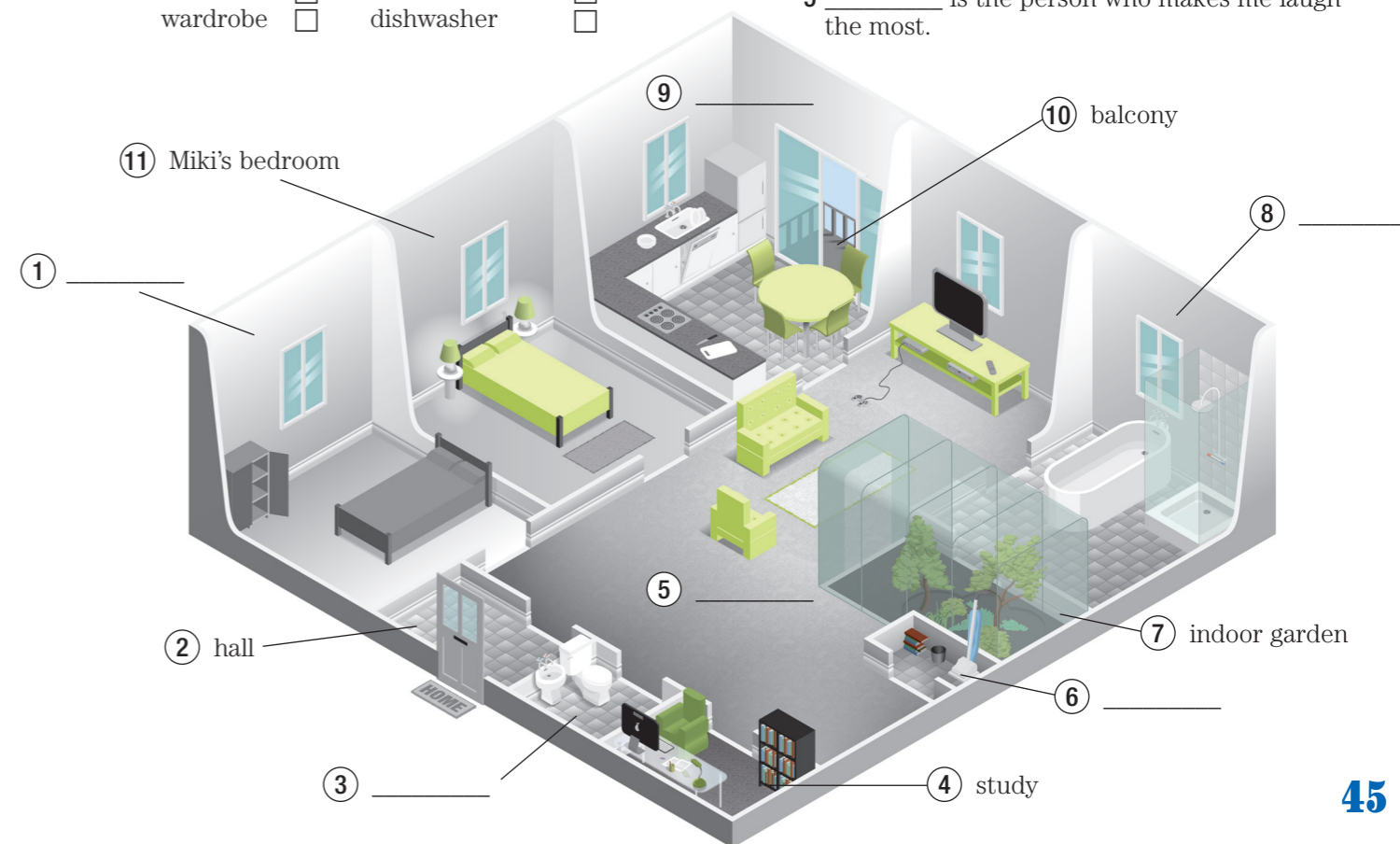
Who and **that** refer to people.
 She's the American girl **who** we met at Joel's party.
 Everyone **that** sees it thinks it's amazing.

Which and **that** refer to objects and things.
 There's one thing **which** is very odd about this place.
 The thing **that** I like about it is the light.

Whose refers to possessions: people or things we have.
 That's the girl **whose** father is a writer.

Where refers to places.
 A district **where** there are lots of cool shops and cafés.

We can leave out *who/which/that* when they are followed by a noun or a pronoun.
 Here is a photo I took this morning. =
 Here is a photo **which** I took this morning.



Why do we build strange places?

There are many amazing buildings around the world. Perhaps some near where you live. But why do people build strange places? Why not just design buildings that are useful and practical?

One reason is that some of us like to be different. We can see that in the houses where we live and also in the clothes we wear. So perhaps it's not surprising that French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has a very special home: the **Bubble House** in the south of France. With its round windows, oval doors and curved walls some people say it looks more like a plant or an animal than a house. Others say that it is a place where aliens could live. However, even if you don't like it, you have to admit it's original.

Another reason for designing unusual buildings is to attract people's attention. One of the best examples is the **Kansas City Public Library** in Missouri, USA. The outside wall of the library looks like a row of enormous books. The message is clear: there are books in here. The people who designed the library asked local residents to choose the books that best represent their city. And now these giant books attract people to the library. So what's next? A café that looks like a coffee cup? A hotel in the shape of a bed? Or a baker's with walls of bread?

Some people want to use their buildings to communicate. Take, for example, businessman Daniel Czapiewski who built the **Upside Down House** in Szymbark, Poland. When you go inside, you walk on the ceiling. The furniture is on the floor; but the floor is above your head!

Although many people feel sick as they walk around the house, it is very popular with tourists. However, for Mr Czapiewski the house is more than a simple tourist attraction. He built it to protest about the state of the world; to say that we are running the world the wrong way.

Finally, some buildings are special because of their strange location: on a mountain top, in a lonely forest, or on a rocky island. Often the reason that people choose to build in such strange places is to find a quieter life; to escape the noise and violence of the world. Perhaps the best examples are the **Meteora monasteries**, which sit on top of spectacular rock columns in central Greece. Tourists are welcome at some times but the monasteries are still really peaceful places with the most wonderful views you can imagine. The only problem is to decide whose turn it is to go out to buy the bread.



READING

1 In pairs, look at photos A–D and say what types of buildings they are from the list below. Then read the article quickly to check.

church library monastery museum
private home shopping centre station
theatre tourist attraction

2 **CD2.14** Read the article again and match buildings A–D with the reasons for building them 1–5. There is one extra reason.

- 1 to enjoy peace and quiet
- 2 to express an opinion
- 3 to win a competition
- 4 to show the owner's personality
- 5 to tell people what's inside

3 Read the article again. Are the statements true (T), false (F) or is there no information (NI)?

- 1 The author of the article is an architect.
- 2 The Bubble House is not a place where people can live.
- 3 The people of Kansas City helped choose the books which decorate the library wall.
- 4 A lot of people visit the Upside Down House.
- 5 You can visit the Meteora monasteries at weekends.

4 Complete with the underlined words from the article.

- 1 Windows on ships are usually _____.
- 2 Don't leave your clothes on the _____.
- 3 It's a small room in the attic – my head hits the _____.
- 4 Our town is a good _____ for your factory.
- 5 The _____ are angry the pub stays open until 2 a.m.
- 6 Old people find flats more _____ than houses with stairs.
- 7 They _____ the Eiffel Tower in under two years.
- 8 A famous architect _____ that building.

5 In pairs, answer the questions.

- 1 Which of the four buildings is the strangest?
- 2 Which one would you most like to visit? Why?
- 3 What's the strangest building you know?

VOCABULARY | Home

1 **Think Back!** Put these words in the correct category in the table. Then, in groups, add other words you know to each category.

study attic fence carpet kettle
washing machine hedge vacuum cleaner
toilet cupboard balcony curtains
garage bookshelves wardrobe stairs
garden freezer basement

Rooms/ places in the house	Furniture/ decorations	Appliances	Things outside the house
study	carpet	kettle	fence

2 Check the meaning of the new words and put them in the table in Exercise 1.

microwave doorbell stool blinds
heater rug sofa chest of drawers

3 Use a dictionary to decide if these adjectives have a positive (+) or a negative (–) meaning. Some words can have both a positive and a negative meaning.

Adjectives to describe homes		
bright	original	roomy
practical	spacious	elegant
ugly	attractive	tasteless
comfortable	tiny	modern
tasteful	uncomfortable	cosy

4 **CD2.15** Read the text on page 121 and choose the correct words. Then listen and check. What kind of room is the person describing?

5 Write a description of your bedroom. Look at the text on page 121 to help you. Include the following information.

Paragraph 1

- 1 Do you like it? Why?/Why not?
- 2 Is the room big/comfortable/warm/bright enough?
- 3 What can you see from the window?

Paragraph 2

- 1 Do you have any decorations like pictures/posters on the wall/door?
- 2 What kind of furniture/appliances are there in the room?

Paragraph 3

- 1 What do you do in your room?
- 2 What did you use to do there?

SPEAKING

1 In pairs, look at photos 1–3 and answer the questions.

1 What type of accommodation does each picture show? Choose from the ideas below.

- a semi-detached house
- terraced houses
- a detached house
- a cottage
- a block of flats

2 What type of accommodation do you think is:

- the most attractive?
- the most modern?
- the most comfortable?

3 What kind of accommodation is most common in your country?

4 What kind of home does your family live in?

2 **CD2.16** Listen and decide which photo in Exercise 1 the speaker is describing.

3 Read the description on page 121 and answer the questions.

1 What does the speaker talk about first – small details or a summary of what the photo shows?

2 Which phrases does the speaker use to describe where something is in the photo?

3 Which tense does the speaker use to describe actions?

4 Does the speaker have a negative or a positive reaction to the photo? How do you know?

4 Study **Speak Out** and check your answers to Exercise 3.

SPEAK OUT | Describing photos

Start by saying what the photo shows in general. **The photo shows** a housing estate in a city.

Talk about what you can see in more detail. Use the following phrases to describe where things are: **in the background/middle/foreground at the bottom/top on the right/left**

In the foreground there's a woman with a big rucksack.

Use the Present Continuous to describe what people are doing.

She's wearing a sun hat and **she's walking**.

Use phrases like *perhaps, probably, (it/there) might be* and *looks like* + noun if you are making a guess.

It might be somewhere in Europe.

There might be a playground in the background.

Perhaps they're coming back from school.

She looks like a typical tourist.

It's probably a great place to live.

Use *looks/seems* + adjective to show how you feel about the photo.

It looks/seems quite **attractive/horrible/relaxed**.

5 Look at photo 1. What does the photo show in general?

6 **CD2.17** Look at photo 1 again and complete the missing phrases. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Then listen and check.

- 1 _____ there's a little boy on a bike.
- 2 _____ there are some people who are chatting in the street.
- 3 _____ there might be a parked car.
- 4 _____ there's a big hill with a farm on it.

Mind the trap!

Usually when we describe what we can see in general we use the words *a* and *some*.

On the right **a** woman is talking on **a** mobile phone. There are **some** cars and **a** bus in the background.

But when we talk about something for the second time we use *the*.

There's **a** small cottage in the background. **The** cottage looks very attractive.

7 What else can you say about photo 1? Answer the questions.

- 1 Can you guess which country or place the people are in? Why do you think so?
- 2 Which adjectives describe the scene best for you? Choose three from the list.

- attractive
- bright
- pleasant
- nice
- relaxed
- boring
- colourful
- horrible
- quiet
- ugly

8 In pairs, follow the instructions. Student A, look at photo 2 on this page. Student B, look at the photo on page 123.

- Look at **Speak Out** and make notes on what you are going to say. Use the text on page 121 to help you.
- Describe your picture to your partner.

9 Complete the sentences to make them true about a typical home in your country. Then compare your answers with a partner.

- 1 People in my country usually live in a _____.
- 2 The typical home has got _____ bedrooms.
- 3 Most homes are rather _____ and _____.
- 4 Most people _____ a garage.
- 5 Nearly everybody has got a TV, a _____ and _____.

