

38 Buying and renting

A Buying



Hi Matt

Just wanted to let you know we've sold our **terraced**¹ house, and moved in to a larger **semi-detached**² property further out of town. It doesn't look that big from the outside, but the **interior** is really **spacious**: large **entrance hall**, with a wide **staircase**, and **open-plan** kitchen, dining room and living room. The bedrooms are also a good size, which is great. We need to do some **decorating** and probably **put in** a new kitchen, but **basically** the **overall** condition is quite good. The other **bonus** is that it was actually cheaper than our other house, **largely** because of the location, so we don't need such a big **mortgage**. ...

Send

GLOSSARY

interior	the inside part of sth OPP exterior
spacious	having a lot of space; large in size
entrance hall	the area directly inside the front door of a building
staircase	a set of stairs
open-plan	(of the inside of a building) not divided into separate rooms
decorating	the act of putting paint, etc. on a wall or ceiling of a room or house: do (some / a bit of) decorating
put sth in	fix equipment or furniture into position so it can be used SYN install
basically	used to say what the most important or most basic aspect of sth is SYN essentially
overall	generally; when you consider most things
bonus	sth good that you get in addition to what you expect
largely	mostly
mortgage	money you borrow in order to buy a house or flat: take out a mortgage (= organize a mortgage)

- 1 Find an underlined letter in the right-hand box with the same pronunciation as the underlined letter(s) in the left-hand box. Use the **APP** to help you.

spacious
detached

staircase
entrance

mortgage
overall

camera
flat

late
care

saw
damage

- 2 Complete the sentences.

- There are one or two small differences, but _____ the flats are the same.
- We've got a narrow _____ up to the second floor.
- The _____ of the house needs money spent on it, but the _____ is fine.
- The price is _____ to do with location.
- We didn't need a _____.
- There's also a garage at the back. That's a _____.
- There are a few things wrong with it, but _____ it's fine.
- We are going to do some _____ in the bedrooms.
- The living room is really _____.
- We plan to _____ a new shower.

- 3 Complete the questions.

- Are _____ and semi-_____ houses common?
- Is it common in flats to have a large entrance _____?
- Do people often prefer an open-_____ design?
- Do most people _____ a mortgage to buy a flat or house?
- Do people usually do the _____ themselves, or employ someone to do it for them?
- When people buy a new home, do they often _____ new bathrooms or kitchens?

- 4 **ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY** Write your answers to Exercise 3, or talk to another student.



TEST YOURSELF

B Renting



I've finally found somewhere to rent. It's been difficult as there aren't many **rental** properties **on the market** at the moment. It's on the top floor of a three-storey house – I guess it was originally the **attic** – and I've taken out a one-year **lease**, but the **landlord** is happy for me to **extend** that if I want to. It's **unfurnished**, so I will have to buy a lot of new stuff, but it has recently been redecorated, and there's quite a lot of **storage** space. It's a two-bedroom flat, and I've already got a **flatmate** to share the rent with me, so it's not too expensive. I've just got to sign the **contract** now and pay the **deposit** along with one month's rent. I move in next week.

GLOSSARY

rental	A rental property is a property that you rent rather than buy.	extend	make sth longer or larger, in space or time: extend a building; extend a lease; extension <i>n</i>
on the market	available for sb to buy or rent	unfurnished	without furniture <i>OPP</i> furnished
storey	one floor or level of a building: a multi-storey car park	storage	the process of keeping sth in a particular place until it is needed; space where things can be kept
attic	the space or room under the roof of a house ALSO loft	flatmate	a person who shares a flat with one or more people
lease	a legal agreement that lets you use a building for a fixed period of time in return for rent	contract	a written legal agreement: sign a contract
landlord	a person who rents out a house/flat or room to people for money. A landlord can be a man or a woman; a landlady is a woman only.	deposit	money that you pay when you rent sth and that you get back when you return it without damage

5 Underline the main stress on these words. Use the **APP** to help you.

rental attic landlord extend unfurnished flatmate contract deposit

6 Underline the correct answer. Both answers may be possible.

- Is the flat a **rent** / **rental** property?
- Who is the **landlord** / **landlady**?
- I'm storing stuff in the **attic** / **loft**.
- I need to find a **flatguy** / **flatmate**.
- There's lots of **storey** / **storage** space.
- It's a six-month **rent** / **lease**.
- I'll move in after I **write** / **sign** the contract.
- I hope I can **intend** / **extend** the lease.

7 Complete the dialogues in a suitable way.

- Are you moving in soon? ~ Yes, I just have to sign the _____ tomorrow.
- Are you living there on your own? ~ No, I've got a couple of _____.
- Is there plenty of space to put things? ~ Yes, there's loads of _____ space.
- Do you have to pay anything before move in? ~ Yeah. You pay a _____ – usually about a month's rent.
- What if you want to stay more than a year? ~ I've already asked about an _____ to the lease.
- Do you need to buy much furniture? ~ No, the flat is fully _____.
- Have you bought the flat? ~ No, it's a _____.
- You're on the first floor? ~ Yes, that's right, but it's a four-_____ building.

8 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or talk to another student.

- Is it common to rent flats? _____
- Are they usually furnished or unfurnished? _____
- Is a one-year lease the normal length of a contract? _____
- Are landlords/landladies usually happy to extend a rental contract? _____



TEST YOURSELF