

Test 2: Houses, Accommodation, Tenses, Infinitives & Gerunds

Task 1.

Read the adverts (A–H) and match each person (1–5) with the most suitable advert. There are **three extra** adverts.

A. Mountain chalet in the Carpathians. A spacious wooden chalet with 4 bedrooms that sleeps up to 8 people. Stone fireplace, sauna and a big kitchen with a dining table for the whole group. The ski lift is only 200 metres away, and ski equipment can be rented in the village. Available from December to March, weekly rent only (minimum 7 nights). Advance booking and a 30% deposit are required. No pets, please.

B. Room in a friendly shared flat. One bright room is free in a three-bedroom flat in the Lviv student district, 5 minutes' walk from the university. The price, 4,500 UAH a month, includes electricity, water, heating and fast Wi-Fi. You will share the kitchen and bathroom with two other students. Non-smokers only. Quiet after 10 p.m. One month's rent as a deposit.

C. Country house for sale. A solid brick house with 5 rooms and a large orchard, 40 km from Lviv. The roof and the heating system need repair, so the price is negotiable. There is a well in the yard, a garage and a small barn. The nearest shop is 3 km away. Suitable for a big family or for someone who wants to start a farm. Viewings by appointment only.

D. Studio apartment in the city centre. A modern, fully furnished studio on the 6th floor with a lift, a washing machine, a dishwasher and air conditioning. Suitable for one or two people. Close to the metro, cafés and offices. Minimum rental period is 6 months, and the rent is 14,000 UAH a month. Bills and internet are not included. Two months' rent as a deposit.

E. "Green Door" Hostel. A cheap and cheerful place for travellers. Beds in mixed dormitories from 300 UAH a night; free breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m.; a shared kitchen, lockers and a laundry room. The reception is open 24 hours, so you can check in at any time of the night. No booking is necessary: just come and ask for a free bed. Young travellers from all over the world stay here.

F. Cottage by the lake. A cosy wooden cottage on the shore of a quiet lake, 60 km from Kyiv. Two bedrooms, a small kitchen, a terrace and a private jetty with a rowing boat. There are no neighbours for 500 metres, so it is very peaceful. Dogs and cats are welcome. The cottage is rented for weekends and public holidays only, from Friday evening to Sunday evening.

G. Luxury penthouse for sale. A stylish two-level penthouse on the 18th floor with 3 bedrooms, two bathrooms and a huge terrace with panoramic views of the city. The price of \$85,000 includes a place in the underground car park and a storage room. The building has a concierge and a security system. Mortgage available.

H. Family house to let. A large house in a green suburb with 4 bedrooms, a garage and a garden, close to a primary school and a playground. The house is unfurnished, so tenants bring their own furniture. The rent is 25,000 UAH a month, and the contract is for at least one year. Families with children preferred.

1. Anna is a first-year student. She wants a cheap place to share and doesn't want to pay extra for the internet. _____
2. Mr and Mrs Kovalenko will work in another city for half a year. They need a furnished place for two. _____
3. A group of eight friends wants to go skiing in winter. _____
4. A backpacker arrives in town late at night without a reservation and needs a cheap bed. _____
5. A retired couple with a dog wants a quiet place near water for weekends. _____

Task 2.

Read the text and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–5.

My first flat

When I was eighteen, I left my parents' house in a small village and moved to Kharkiv to study architecture. My first home there was a tiny flat on the fifth floor of an old block, and there was no lift. I found it through an advert on a notice board at the university. The rent was low, but the landlady, Mrs Petrenko, warned me about the rules: no loud music after ten, no guests staying overnight, and all the windows had to be closed when I left.

At first I hated the place. The kitchen was so small that two people could not stand in it together, and the bathroom heater worked only when it wanted to. However, the flat had one great advantage: a wide balcony with a view of the park. In the evenings I used to sit there with my drawings and watch the neighbours walking their dogs.

After a few months, I made friends with Mrs Petrenko. She started inviting me for tea and telling stories about the building, which had been built in 1958. When I finished my first year, she even lowered the rent, because she said I was the quietest tenant she had ever had. Now I live in a modern apartment, but I often think that the old flat taught me how to be independent.

6. Why did the author move to Kharkiv?

- A. He wanted to stay with family members
- B. He went there for his university degree in a design-related field
- C. He had been offered a job drawing buildings
- D. He was looking for a larger place to live than his village home

7. How did the author find the flat?

- A. He saw a notice posted at his place of study
- B. A classmate recommended it to him
- C. An acquaintance of the owner told him about it
- D. He came across a listing online

8. Which rule did Mrs Petrenko mention?

- A. Tenants may not keep animals
- B. Nobody should be cooking late in the evening
- C. The flat must be shut up properly whenever the tenant goes out
- D. Payment has to be made before the month begins

9. What did the author like most about the flat?

- A. The compact cooking area
- B. The place where he washed
- C. The open outdoor space overlooking greenery
- D. The elevator that carried him upstairs

10. Why did Mrs Petrenko lower the rent?

- A. The apartment had fallen into poor condition
- B. The tenant caused less noise than anyone before him
- C. The tenant assisted with looking after the property
- D. The tenant was struggling financially

Task 3.

Read the text. Choose a heading (1–9) for each paragraph (A–F). There are **three extra** headings.

- A.** Living in the city centre means that shops, cafés, hospitals and public transport are just a few minutes away. You rarely need a car. On the other hand, flats there are small and expensive, and the streets are noisy day and night.
- B.** Many families choose the suburbs. They offer gardens, good schools and safer streets for children. The main problem is the journey to work, which can take more than an hour in the morning traffic.
- C.** Houses in villages cost much less, and the air is clean. However, there are few jobs, and in some places even a stable internet connection is hard to find, so young people often leave.
- D.** Some people dream of owning a home, while others prefer to pay rent. A tenant can move easily and does not pay for repairs, but an owner builds something for the future and can decorate rooms as he or she likes.
- E.** For students and young workers, sharing a flat is often the only way to afford a good area. They divide the rent and the bills, although they must agree on rules about cleaning and guests.
- F.** Modern eco-houses have solar panels, thick walls and special windows. They are more expensive to build, but they use much less electricity and gas, so monthly bills are lower.

Headings

1. To rent or to buy?
2. Saving money by sharing
3. Everything close at hand
4. Houses that save energy
5. Old buildings and their problems
6. Quiet streets but long journeys
7. Clean air but few opportunities
8. Neighbours who make life difficult
9. The history of the skyscraper

Task 4.

Read the text. Choose a part of the sentence (A–I) for each gap (1–6). There are **three extra** parts.

My grandparents' house

My grandparents' house stands at the end of a quiet street, (17) _____. The neighbours say that its walls are older than the village library. The garden is full of apple trees, (18) _____. Next to them my grandmother grows tomatoes, cucumbers and a few rows of strawberries, which disappear very quickly once the children arrive.

(19) _____, the rooms are not large, but they are always warm. The floors creak, the windows are small, and every wall is covered with family photographs. In the kitchen there is an old stove, (20) _____. On cold mornings it is the best place in the house, and the cat usually sleeps beside it. My grandmother, (21) _____, never lets anyone leave without eating something. Even the postman has to taste her pie.

In the evenings we usually sit on the porch and drink tea with honey. My grandfather tells stories about his youth, and we listen until it gets too dark to see each other's faces. Every summer I spend a month there, and when I go back to the city, (22) _____.

- A. just before the road turns into a path through the fields
- B. where we pick fruit in September
- C. Although it was built almost a hundred years ago
- D. which my grandfather built himself forty years ago
- E. who thinks that every guest looks too thin
- F. I always feel that I am leaving a part of myself there
- G. who works as a doctor in the city
- H. When the roof was damaged by the storm
- I. because it was too expensive to repair

Task 5.

Choose the correct word (A, B, C or D) to complete each sentence.

Our new home

When we got married, we couldn't afford to buy a flat, so we decided to (23) ____ one. We looked at about ten places before we found the right one. The apartment has a wonderful (24) ____ over the sea, and in the evenings we often sit on the balcony and watch the ships.

Before moving in, we had to pay a (25) ____ to the owner, and we will get the money back when we leave. The building is quite modern: it has central heating and air (26) ____, so we are comfortable in both winter and summer. The flat was fully (27) ____ when we arrived. It had a sofa, beds, a fridge and even a TV, so we only had to bring our clothes and a few books.

1. A. lend B. hire C. rent D. borrow
2. A. view B. sight C. look D. scene
3. A. fine B. deposit C. tax D. ticket
4. A. cooling B. conditioning C. condition D. freezing
5. A. unfurnished B. empty C. furnished D. decorating

Task 6.

Choose the correct variant (A, B, C or D) to complete each sentence.

A visit to Kyiv

Last Sunday my friend Olena invited me to see her new flat. When I arrived, she (28) ____ the rooms because she wanted everything to look perfect, and she didn't hear me knock at first. She told me that by next June, her family (29) ____ the flat for exactly twenty years, since her parents bought it long before she was born, and now she has decided to live there herself.

I was really glad to see her, and she said she was also happy to hear from me. "I'm looking forward to (30) ____ you more often," she said. She wanted to make the place cheaper to live in, but the landlord, who owns the building next door, refused (31) ____ the rent for the neighbouring flats, so she decided to stay in her parents' place. When we sat down, it was very cold in the room, and I asked, "Would you mind (32) ____ the window? It's freezing."

1. A. cleaned B. has cleaned C. was cleaning D. cleans
2. A. will own B. will be owning C. will have owned D. own
3. A. to see B. seeing C. seen D. see
4. A. reducing B. to reduce C. reduce D. to reducing
5. A. to close B. close C. closing D. to have closed