

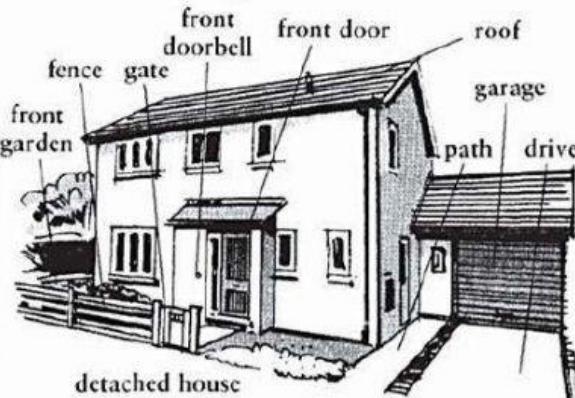
C. HOMEWORK - VOCABULARY

49 Homes and buildings

A Houses



semi-detached house

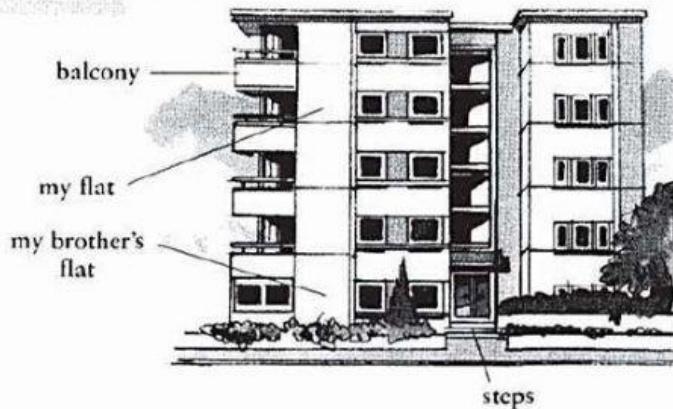


detached house



terraced houses

B Flats



I live in a **block of flats**.

My brother lives on the **ground floor**, and I have a flat on the **third floor**. Unfortunately there is no **lift**, so I have to climb three flights of stairs to reach my flat. But I do have a **balcony** with a wonderful view of the park opposite the flats.

Note: Steps are usually outside a building or inside a public building; they are stone or wooden. Stairs (*pl*) connect floors inside a building and are often covered with a carpet.

C Buying and renting

Some people buy a flat or house (= they own it / it belongs to them). When they do this in Britain, people usually borrow money from a bank or an organisation called a Building Society. This money, which is called a **mortgage**, is often paid back over 25 years. Other people rent a house or flat (= they pay money every week or month to the person who owns the house). When they do this, the **money** they pay is called the **rent**, and the person who owns the house or flat is the **landlord**.

D Describing a flat or house

The rooms on the ground floor are quite **dark** (\neq light) because they don't **get** (= receive) very much sun. They are also quite **noisy** (\neq quiet) because they are near the roads and the traffic. The other negative thing is that the rooms are **draughty** (= cold air comes into the room through the windows and under the doors because they don't fit very well). This means it is expensive to heat the rooms (= to keep the rooms warm). Fortunately I have a very good **central heating** system. In other ways, it is also very nice: it's in **good condition** (= in a good state/doesn't need to be repaired; \neq in bad condition), and the rooms are **huge/enormous** (= very, very big; \neq tiny / very, very small)

Exercises

49.1 What can you remember about the house and block of flats on the opposite page? Without looking, try to answer these questions. If you think an answer is false, correct it. Finally, check your answers by looking at the opposite page.

- 1 Does the house have a garage?
- 2 Does it have a fence around the front garden?
- 3 Is there a window in the roof?
- 4 Is the gate open or shut?
- 5 How many steps are there in front of the entrance to the block of flats?
- 6 Does each flat have a balcony?
- 7 Does the brother live on the first floor?
- 8 Do the flats have a view of the countryside?

49.2 Complete these sentences with a suitable noun or verb.

- 1 I opened the , walked up the and rang the
- 2 We had to six flights of stairs to get to her flat because the wasn't working.
- 3 I've got a great from my balcony.
- 4 Do you own the flat or do you it?
- 5 I'm living in the house now but it actually to my brother. He bought it two years ago. It was in very bad then, but he spent a lot of money on it.
- 6 It costs a lot of money to a house when you live in a cold climate. Central is usually quite expensive.

49.3 Write down four more positive things and four more negative things you could say about a house/flat or the rooms in a house/flat. When you have finished, compare your answers with section D opposite.

Positive

...the rooms are very light...

Negative

...the rooms are very dark...

.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now think about your answers again. Which positive features are the most important for you? Which negative features do you hate the most?

49.4 What about your home? Answer these questions.

- 1 Do you live in a house or flat?
- 2 If you live in a flat, what floor is it on?
- 3 If you live in a house, do you have a garden?
- 4 Does the house/flat belong to you (or your family), or do you rent it?
- 5 Do you have your own garage or personal parking space?
- 6 Would you describe your house/flat as dark or light?
- 7 Is it noisy or quiet?
- 8 Do you have central heating?

60 Town and country

A Towns

Here are some of the things you will find in most big towns.

a commercial centre: an area with lots of banks and company offices

shopping centres: places with many shops, either indoors or outdoors

car parks: places to leave many cars

factories: buildings where you make/manufacture things, e.g. cars

suburbs: areas outside the centre of town where people live

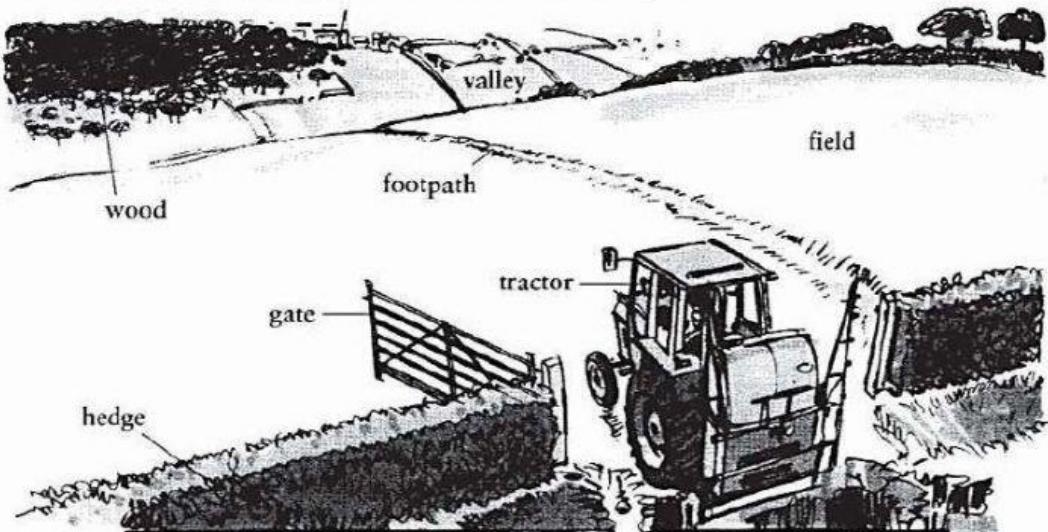
libraries: places where you can borrow books

pollution: dirty air because of smoke and petrol fumes

night-life: places to go at night, e.g. bars, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, discos, etc.

B The country

Here are some of the things you will find in the countryside.



C Advantages and disadvantages

People who prefer the countryside to big towns, often say this:

Towns:

are noisy

are dirty and polluted

are stressful

are crowded (= full of people)

are dangerous

The countryside:

is quiet and peaceful

is clean

is calm and relaxing

has lots of open space

is safe

People who prefer big towns have a different point of view:

In towns:

there are plenty (= lots) of things to do

it's exciting

there's a wide range of shops (= many different shops)

there's lots of night-life, e.g. bars, cinemas, discos

In the countryside:

there's nothing to do

it's boring

there are only a few shops

there's no night-life

Exercises

60.1 Complete this table of opposites.

Big towns and cities	Village life and the countryside
.....	quiet and peaceful
.....	clean air
exciting
stressful
.....	lots of open spaces
.....	nothing to do in the evening
dangerous

Do you agree with everything in the table above? Put a tick (✓) beside each answer you do, and a (✗) beside each answer you don't. If possible compare and discuss your answers with someone else.

60.2 Organise the words in the box into three groups: things that you usually find in towns (in your country), things you usually find in the country, and things you often find in both town and country.

fields	factories	gates	car parks
libraries	tractors	suburbs	villages
traffic	Town Hall	shopping centres	footpaths
pollution	valleys	night-life	woods

Town

Country

Town and country

60.3 Look at the picture on the opposite page for one minute, then cover it and complete this text based on the picture.

We opened the (1)....., said 'hello' to the man on the (2)....., and then followed the (3)..... across the (4)..... and down into the (5)..... We stopped and had a picnic by the river and then walked up through the (6)..... on the other side of the (7)..... A bit later we came to a (8)..... where we stopped and bought some bread.

60.4 Think of your journey to school, college or work. How many of these things do you see or pass?

a car park factories woods a library a museum parking meters
lots of traffic commuters a night club fields suburbs a railway station