UNIT / 02: PLACES AND BUILDINGS

READING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

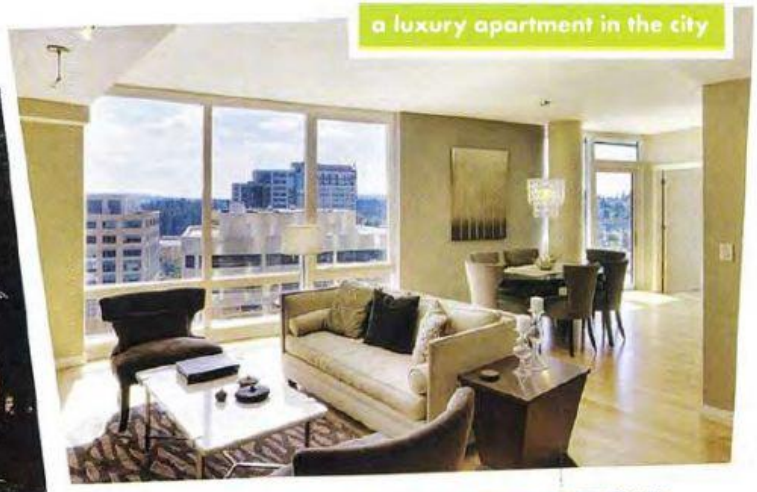
- respond to sentence completion questions
- skim read a text
- recognise paraphrase
- practise using the present simple and past simple.

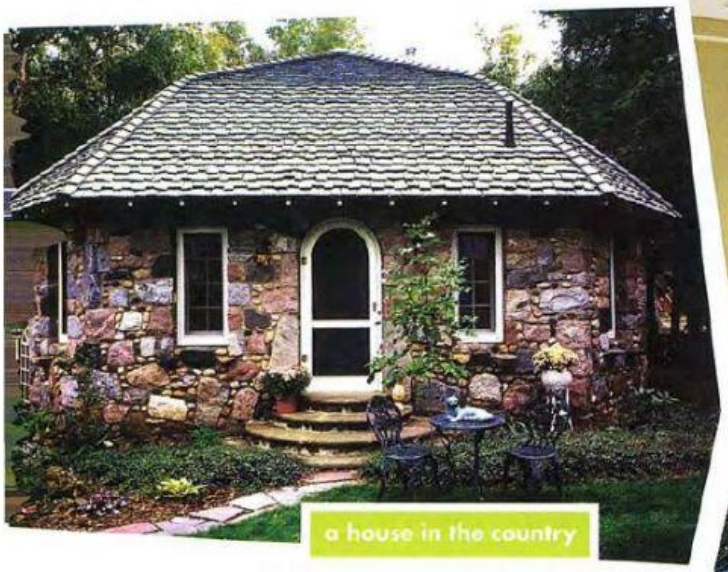
LEAD-IN

01 Tell your partner about the house or apartment you live in.

Is it big or | How many bedrooms | Is it old or | Does it have a

02 What kind of house would you like to live in?


a luxury apartment in the city


a house in the country


a caravan

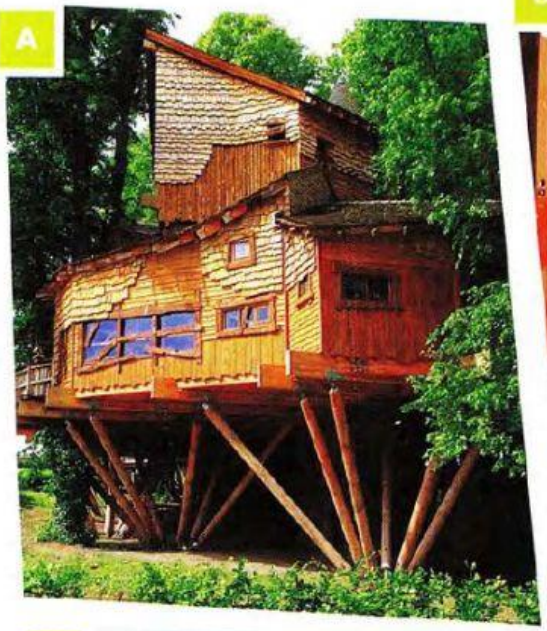
LIVEWORKSHEETS

03 Find these in the pictures on this page.

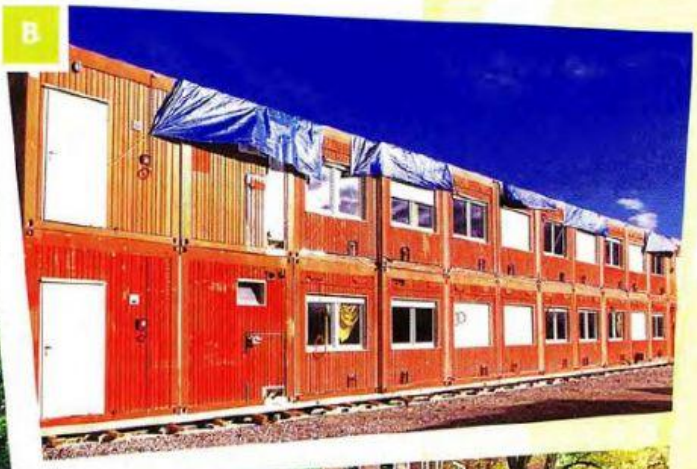
igloo | treehouse | houseboat | shipping container homes

Which ones would you like to live in?

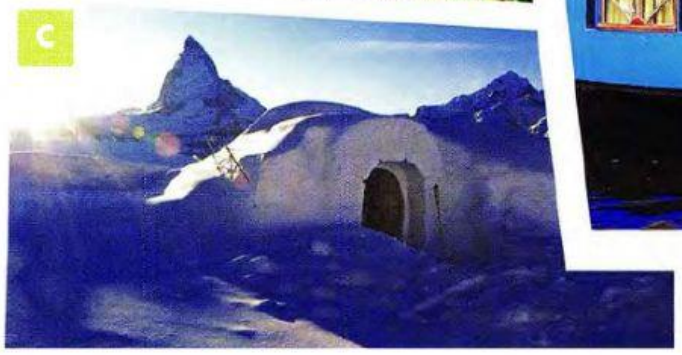
A



B



C



D



SKIMMING AND SCANNING A TEXT

The skills of skimming and scanning are very important in the Reading test.

Skimming is reading the passage quickly to get an idea of what it is about.

Scanning is also reading the passage quickly, but this time looking for particular information in the text, for example, the answer to a question.

- Before you look at the questions, read through the passage quickly. Don't spend more than a minute on this.
- *Skim* over (don't spend time on) words like *the, they, our, through.*
- Notice the 'content' words, such as nouns and verbs, to get an idea of what the passage is about.
- Read the questions.
- *Scan* the passage for the answers. Let your eyes move quickly over the text until you see one of the key words from the question, or words that have a similar meaning.
- Read that part of the passage carefully until you find the answer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

04 **What is the passage about? Read it in ONE minute and choose one of the options.**

a Life in different cities around the world
b Unusual places to live or stay around the world
c The type of houses and flats most people live in

05 **Read the passage again to find the words from the box in exercise 3 as quickly as you can.**

06 **Which of the two activities you have just done practised scanning? Which practised skimming?**

AMAZING HOMES

Most people live in a house or a flat. When they go on holiday they stay in a hotel or a guest house. But some places where you can live or stay are a bit different.

A One unusual place to live is a houseboat. Amsterdam in Holland is famous for its houseboats – there are about 2,500 of them. They have everything that a normal house has: a living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and even sometimes a terrace on the roof. They are cheaper than houses and people who live on houseboats enjoy being close to nature. Some houseboats can be moved to other parts of the river, while others are permanently in one place.

B In Tokyo, Japan, there is a see-through house. It is like a normal Japanese house but all the walls are made of glass. There is plenty of daylight but no privacy. Architect Sou Fujimoto designed it for a couple to make their home. He based his ideas on early man living in trees. It wouldn't suit everyone but the couple who live there love the feeling of being surrounded by the natural world.

C All around the world, people live in homes made from shipping containers. Some use only one container, while others are made from several containers joined together. One house in Chile was built from 12 containers. They are cheap to buy and eco-friendly. They can also be placed in the garden or drive as guest rooms, studies or utility rooms.

D In Germany, you can stay in a one-metre-square house, the smallest house in the world, called the House NA. Van Bo Le-Mentzel, a refugee from Laos, built it to draw attention to the world housing shortage. It is a wooden structure on wheels and weighs 40 kg. It has a locking door and a window. You can turn it onto its side when you want to lie down. Franz from Munich spent the night in one recently 'just to see what it was like'. He found it a bit uncomfortable!

E For an unusual holiday you can stay in an igloo, a house made of ice. These can be found in several countries including Sweden, Norway and Finland. They are built new every winter. Jenny and Callum, visitors from Australia, told us, 'We slept in an igloo last night. It's so cold here – minus 5 degrees centigrade. We used reindeer skins to keep warm!'

F Another couple, Shaun and Rachel from Manchester, enjoyed a recent holiday in a treehouse in Sussex, England. They said, 'It was right up in the trees and had everything we needed, even wifi! It had a small kitchen and we did our own cooking. It was the perfect place to get away from our busy lives.'



LIVEWORKSHEETS

UNDERSTANDING PARAPHRASE

In the Reading paper, it is very important to be able to understand paraphrase (when the same idea is given using different words). The words used in the questions won't be exactly the same as the ones in the passage.

07 **Match these words and phrases from the text (1–6) with their paraphrases (a–f).**

1 houseboats	a not being watched by others
2 permanently	b not feeling pleasant
3 privacy	c homes on the water
4 surrounded by the natural world	d Nordic countries
5 uncomfortable	e forever, always
6 Sweden, Norway and Finland	f having nature all around

08 **Choose the best paraphrase for these sentences from the text.**

1 The treehouse had everything we needed.
- A We needed some more things for our stay in the treehouse.
- B The treehouse was very well equipped.
- C We need everything for the treehouse.

2 Some houseboats can be moved to other parts of the river.
- A Not all houseboats are permanently fixed in one place.
- B Only some parts of the river have houseboats.
- C You can move to a houseboat in another part of the river.

3 One house in Chile was built from 12 containers.
- A There are 12 houses in Chile made from containers.
- B 12 containers were used to make one house.
- C You need 12 containers to make a house in Chile.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

SENTENCE COMPLETION

In this task type you will have to complete a sentence with up to three words (or two words and/or a number) taken from the passage. The instructions will tell you how many words you are allowed to use.

Look at this example: *Houseboat occupants like living* _____ .

This is a paraphrase of the following sentence from the passage:

People who live on houseboats enjoy being close to nature.

Because you have to use words from the passage in your answer, the answer is *close to nature*.

09 **Follow the steps in the box opposite and complete the sentences. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.**

1 The two people who live in the transparent house love it, but it wouldn't _____ .

2 The designer of the smallest house hopes to _____ to the lack of houses all over the world.

3 People who stay in igloos sometimes protect themselves from the cold by making use of _____ .

4 People who have _____ would find a holiday in a treehouse ideal.

How to do sentence completion questions

- Underline key words from the sentence (*houseboat occupants*, in the above example).
- Scan the text for the key words or words that mean something similar (*people who live on houseboats* has a similar meaning to *houseboat occupants*).
- Read the sentences near the key words carefully – *like living* means the same as *enjoy being*.
- Find the words that seem to fit the sentence.
- Check that the meaning of the sentence matches the meaning of the text.
- Check the grammar of the completed sentence.
- Check if the word(s) should be singular or plural.
- Check that you have used the correct number of words.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: PAST SIMPLE AND PRESENT SIMPLE

10 **Answer these questions about the *Amazing homes* passage.**

1 Which tenses does the passage use?
   a present tenses
   b past tenses
   c both present and past tenses

2 Which tenses are used:
   a to describe the houses?
   b to describe habit or things that are always true?
   c to describe people's experiences on holidays?
   d to talk about designing or building the house?

TIP 10

As part of your first quick look at the passage, identify whether it is written mainly in the past, present or future, and if the tense changes. This may help you understand the passage.

11 **Choose the correct verb, present simple or past simple.**

1 Most people in China **live / lived** in flats.
2 In the UK most houses **have / had** gardens.
3 In 2010, my parents **move / moved** to Australia.
4 Nowadays Sarah usually **spends / spent** her holidays in cities.
5 In the past she **prefers / preferred** beach holidays.

12 **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.**

1 Farid now _____ (**share**) a flat with some other students.
2 Last year he _____ (**live**) at home with his parents.
3 Once I _____ (**stay**) on a campsite next to a lake in Italy.
4 My flat _____ (**have**) two balconies.
5 In 2014 we _____ (**move**) into our new house.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXAM SKILLS

HOME FROM HOME

I remember feeling the first time I left home that I would never be able to feel at home anywhere but in my home. No other place would have my mum and dad, my annoying little brother and my cat, Tilly. Nowhere would smell like my home – my mum's roast chicken in the oven and the salty, seaweed smell that drifted in from the nearby beach. The sound of seagulls squawking was the sound of home. Nowhere else would I feel comfortable enough to put my feet up under me and gaze into the log fire dreaming of the future.

I was 15 when I first went away from home on a school trip to Germany. My friends were going too, but we would all stay with different families. I was nervous about this. I knew the home I was going to would not be as comfortable as mine, the family would not be as kind, and who knew what the German food would be like? I knew I would spend three weeks, homesick and sad, missing my family back home.

We arrived in Germany late at night after a long journey by coach and boat. I was tired and hungry. We went into the school hall, where the host families were waiting to meet us. I wondered which one would be mine. Would they give me dinner at this time and would I be able to eat the unfamiliar food? Suddenly I heard my name called and the name of my exchange partner, Brigitte Schmitt. A pretty, blonde girl stepped forward, smiling widely. Behind her stood her parents, a pleasant-looking couple who were also smiling. They held out their hands and said, 'Wilkommen in Deutschland. Welcome to Germany.'

I spent three happy weeks with the Schmitt family. Brigitte had an elder brother, Hendrik, and a younger sister, Lisa. They had two cats, Ping and Pong, who sat on my lap as I looked into the fire in the evenings. The whole family were kind and welcoming. My room was cosy and warm and looked out onto a forest. The fresh clean smell of the trees and of apples baking in the oven became familiar and comforting, like the smells of home. I learnt in those three weeks that you can feel at home anywhere that people are kind to you.

Later that year, Brigitte came to stay with me in the UK. I gave her my room and moved in with my brother. I cleared space for her clothes and put fresh flowers in a vase by the bed. I asked my mum to make her famous roast chicken and an apple pie to make our guest feel at home. We made a welcome banner and put it up on the front door. I did everything I could to help Brigitte feel at home with us. I now understood the importance of a warm welcome.



13 **Read the passage and complete the sentences below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.**

1 The writer's mother often cooks _____.
2 She thought the visit to Germany would make her feel _____.
3 Brigitte came to pick up the girl with _____.
4 The Schmitt family's pets' names are _____.
5 From her bedroom the girl could see a _____.
6 The girl and her family tried hard to make Brigitte _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS