4 Unusual houses

Reading

Before reading

1 Discuss these questions.
   1 Do you live in a house or a flat?
   2 How many rooms are there? What are they?
   3 Look at the picture. Does this look like your home? What's different?

2 04 Read and listen.



All around the world, houses look similar – doors, windows, a roof – but here are three houses that are very unusual and would look out of place in any country!

Welcome to a home with a difference. In most ways, this is a normal house. It's quite big. There's a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom and three bedrooms. But every week hundreds of people come to see this house.

What's unusual about it? It's upside down! You walk in through a window and the first room you come to is the attic. When you go upstairs to the bedrooms, there are more surprises. Look up and you'll see beds and wardrobes stuck to the ceiling. Look down and you'll see lights that come up from the floor.

At the top of the house there's a living room and a kitchen. Where's the sofa? Where's the cooker? They're on the ceiling, of course. Everything in this house is upside down. Only the stairs are the right way up, because visitors have to use them.

The house is a favourite tourist attraction, but nobody lives there. That would be impossible. Nobody could sleep upside down in a bed that's stuck to the ceiling.

This strange house is in Germany. Its name is unusual too. The house is called *The World Stands on its Head.*

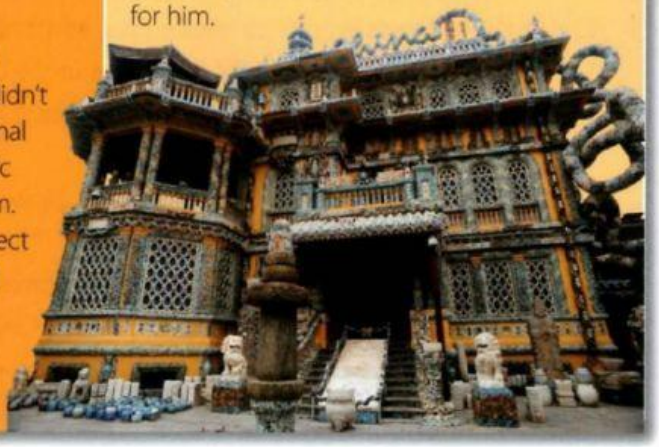
LIVEWORKSHEETS



Here's a more normal house. Firstly, it's the right way up. Secondly, the person who built it really lives there. However, the unusual thing about this house is that it's made of plastic bottles.

Maria Ponce's house is in a village in El Salvador in Central America. She didn't have enough money to build a normal house, so she collected empty plastic bottles and made a house with them. It took Maria nearly two years to collect the bottles and build her house and she is proud of it. It's only got one room but Maria hopes to build another room one day.

Zhang Lianzhi's house in north China is bigger than Maria Ponce's. However, like Maria, he has used his imagination to make a house that is unlike any other. His house is covered with pieces of beautiful cups and plates which he collected for more than twenty years. He has also stuck small sculptures onto his house, and pieces of coloured crystal. All these beautiful things have cost Zhang 65 million dollars. Fortunately, Zhang is a rich businessman, so money isn't a problem for him.



Vocabulary

3 Match the words from the text to the definitions.

1 tourist attraction — *(noun)* something that tourists want to visit

2 _____ — *(adjective)* with the top part at the bottom; these words are upside down

3 _____ — *(adjective)* in the correct position; not upside down

4 _____ — *(adjective)* usual and ordinary; not different

5 _____ — *(adjective)* not usual; strange or different

6 _____ — *(noun)* the top part of a room

7 _____ — *(noun)* the room or space under the roof of a house

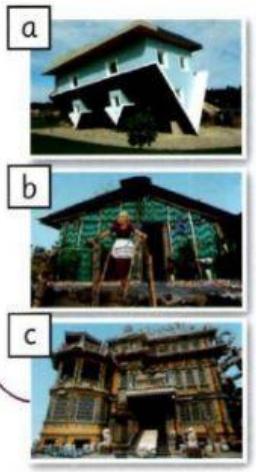
8 _____ — *(noun)* a kind of rock that looks like glass

9 _____ — *(adjective)* different from

10 _____ — *(adjective)* something you can't do

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading comprehension



4 Match the sentences with the correct pictures.

1 This house is covered with beautiful things.
2 Nobody lives in this house.
3 This house belongs to a rich businessman.
4 There is only one room in this house.
5 The furniture in this house is stuck to the ceiling.
6 The woman who lives in this house is poor.
7 When you visit this house, you don't go in through a door.
8 If you want to visit this house, you'll have to go to China.

5 Circle the correct words to make true sentences.

1 *The World Stands on its Head* is a house in *the USA* / *Germany*.
2 The kitchen in *The World Stands on its Head* is at the *top* / *bottom* of the house.
3 The lights are in the *ceiling* / *floor*.
4 Maria Ponce's house is made of *crystal* / *plastic bottles*.
5 Her house has *two rooms* / *one room*.
6 *Maria Ponce* / *Zhang Lianzhi* has a lot of money.
7 Zhang Lianzhi has small *sculptures* / *pictures* stuck onto his house.
8 It took him *two* / *twenty* years to collect materials for his house.

6 Match the two parts of the sentence.

1 Money isn't a problem	a the right way up.
2 He has paid	b in El Salvador.
3 Zhang Lianzhi collected cups and plates	c 65 million dollars.
4 *The World Stands on its Head* is	d for Zhang Lianzhi.
5 The first room you go into is	e the attic.
6 In *The World Stands on its Head*, the stairs are	f very small.
7 Maria Ponce lives	g a tourist attraction.
8 Her house is	h for many years.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing

More words: *Buildings, page 53*



An interesting house

When we visit my uncle and aunt in the countryside, we pass a very unusual house. It's quite big and very pretty, but the strange thing about this house is that it's got grass on the roof. It looks like a garden on top of the house.

Dad saw an article about this house in the newspaper. It's a good idea to put soil and grass on the roof because it saves energy and it is extremely good for the environment. The soil keeps the house quite warm in winter. In summer, it feels quite cool inside.

I would love to live in this house. It's not very close to the town, but it's interesting and fun, and we could play on the roof!

When you write about a building, use it's got to describe its different parts:

It's got a red door. **It's got grass on the roof.** **It's only got one room.**

Use extremely, very, quite and not very to describe the house:

It's very big. **It's quite big.**

Say why the building is interesting:

The unusual / strange thing about this building is that ...

8 Complete the sentences using *extremely*, *very*, *quite* and *not very*.

1 Mount Everest is _____ high.
2 My building's got eight floors. It's _____ tall.
3 Sardines _____ big fish– they are only about 10 cm long.
4 Blue whales are _____ big – they can be up to 27 metres long.
5 Summer in England is _____ warm.
6 It is usually _____ hot in Antarctica.

LIVEWORKSHEETS