

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 <small>OPP exterior</small>
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 <small>SYN install</small>
basically	used to say what the most important or most basic aspect of sth is <small>SYN essentially</small>
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 n
on the market	available for sb to buy or rent	unfurnished	without furniture OPP 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 to help you.

rental attic landlord extend unfurnished flatmate contract deposit

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

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

7 Complete the dialogues in a suitable way.

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

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

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

TEST YOURSELF