READING

1 Look at the photos of the unusual homes. What do you think they are like inside?

A

C

B

D

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the article and match paragraphs 1–4 to the photos.

track 29

STRANGE HOUSES

Most of us live in an apartment or in a house. Our homes often look similar to our neighbours' from the outside, but on the inside they can be very different. Most of us like our homes to be cosy and comfortable, but we have very different ideas about what that means. Some people like to have bright colours and lots of furniture, others prefer a cool, modern-looking home.

However, some houses look very unusual from the outside. Have a look at these four photos.

1 Do you like flying? Then, this attractive house is for you. It's in Lebanon and is the shape of a plane. It's got small windows, so it's not very light inside, but in a warm country, small windows keep a house cool in summer.

2 This very unusual house is in Mexico. It looks like part of the rock – and it is! The walls and the roof of the house are part of a very big rock. The family made the house more than 30 years ago. We can't see inside, but it looks quite dark, cool and peaceful.

3 In 1968, a group of swimmers first had the idea to build this tiny house on a rock in the middle of the River Drina in Serbia. It's not only small but, as you can see, it's also not easy to get there. In winter it can be quite cold, so people use it mostly in summer.

4 A Japanese company designed this football-shaped house in 2006. It's got 32 sides and four legs and can sit on top of water. It's very small but has big windows, so there is lots of light. What a great place to live!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 What does the house in Lebanon look like?

2 Why are small windows important in a warm country?

3 What is the Mexican house made of?

4 How old is the house?

5 What can you find in the middle of the River Drina?

6 When do most people use the house? Why?

7 What does the Japanese house look like?

8 Why is it very bright inside?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

TALKING POINTS

Which of these houses would you like to live in? Why?
Which of these houses would you not like to live in? Why?
Do you know about any other unusual homes? Tell your partner about them.

3 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1 The weather in my country is really hot in the summer, so it is difficult to keep our house *warm* / *cool*.
2 You can't hear anything in my bedroom, only the birds in the garden – it's very *unusual* / *peaceful*.
3 It is *cosy* / *unusual* for a 15-year-old to have their own flat.
4 It's always very *light* / *dark* in our house because all the rooms have really big windows.
5 Tourists often take photos of my uncle and aunt's house because it is so big and *cosy* / *attractive*.
6 I always sit on our big sofa to watch TV because it is the most *comfortable* / *unusual* place to sit in our flat.
7 My sister is painting her apartment yellow and pink. She loves *bright* / *dark* colours.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Read the descriptions of the houses 1–3 and match them to the photos A–C.

1 My cousin lives in this home with her mother, father and grandma. It's in a quiet part of a large city. The rooms inside it are not big, and it is not the best place for very tall people. But my cousin likes living there because she can travel and be at home at the same time! I love visiting them. I sleep on a sofa in the sitting room because the bedrooms are so small.

2 My brother and his wife live on the top floor of an apartment block in the city centre. It's a very attractive apartment and they really like it. They have a balcony outside the living room, and they often sit there in the evenings to eat their dinner. Their home is small, but from the windows you can see all of the city and the mountains and forest a long way away. We live near them, so I often visit them on Saturday mornings.

3 My grandfather built this house with his father 50 years ago. It is the first house my grandparents lived in after they got married in 1975, and they still live there. My mum lived there when she was a girl. It's a big, quiet house, and it's cosy and warm in the winter when it's cold outside. The garden is really big and is full of trees. My grandparents love living in the house and I enjoy staying there. I spend two weeks there every summer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 **Which home does each sentence refer to? Write *1*, *2* or *3*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.**

0 There is a garden here. *3*

0 Members of the writer's family live here. *1, 2, 3*

1 You can go from place to place in this home. ____

2 We know the age of this home. ____

3 Two people live in this home. ____

4 This home is on land. ____

5 This home is in a city. ____

6 The writer goes and stays here. ____

7 This home is large. ____

8 You need a lift to get to this home. ____

1

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