

Reading

F Read the text and match the headings (A-F) to the paragraphs (42-46). There is one heading you do not need to use.

- A A CREATIVE USE OF SPACE
- B NOT FOR MESSY PEOPLE
- C TOO MANY CHORES

- D THE ANSWER TO A PROBLEM
- E PERFECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
- F TINY HOUSES

Micro HOMES

ROOM FOR JUST ONE!

42

How would you feel about living in a house that was only 2.6m long by 2.6m wide by 2.6m high? Well, in Europe some people are doing just that. Micro compact ('m-ch') homes are very small homes that are no bigger than the size of a small room!

43

So how do you fit not just a sleeping and living area, but also a study and bathing area into a space that is only 2.6m³? Well, in m-ch homes, each area has more than one uses, because you can change the place of the seats, beds and kitchen appliances. So, the dining area (which is also the study area) becomes a sleeping space by sliding the dining table into a wall. And the entrance way doubles as a bathroom - the front door becomes the shower door!

44

The company that makes these tiny homes says that they designed them to solve the difficulty many Europeans have in getting their own home. Too many people cannot afford accommodation in Europe and these low-cost homes are perfect for someone who wants a place where they can live for a short time.

45

The first people to try living in m-ch homes were university students. Students love them because although small, they are very modern with flatscreen TVs and comfortable furniture.

46

So what's 'micro living' like? Well, you have to be a very neat, tidy and organised person, because in order to do one thing, you have to first finish another and put everything away. Also, the lack of space means you can't have many personal items. But if you want a cheap, cosy, modern space that you can call your own, a micro home may be for you!