

1B2 Describing your favourite room/ spot in the house

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Warm Up

A) Think of 3 rooms or areas in your house and what you love doing there. Challenge your partner to guess the room / area.

E.g. - That's my favourite spot in the house where I unwind by reading and listening to music.
- Is it your living room?
- Yes, it is.// No, it isn't. It's my terrace.



(Source: <https://www.freepik.com>)

B) Watch the first video (<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/sMsEjhWGVg>) in which someone's describing their favourite rooms in three different formats (beginner, intermediate and advanced). Analyse what happens at each level:

Beginner: short, simple sentences

Intermediate:

Advanced:

C) Watch the second video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAmUuHnbzWk>) . Can you say why these people love that particular spot in their house?

People	Favourite room / area	Reason(s)
Suzi Perry		
George Clark		

D) Describing your favourite room/ spot in the house

Analysis of a sample (English File, B2.1, 4th Edition, Oxford University Press)



My pink room

1 I've just finished university, so I'm living ¹at my parents' house at the moment, ²in my old bedroom. It hasn't changed since I was a teenager.

2 It's quite a big room, with one window. The walls are pale pink and the door and the window frame are much darker pink. We painted the room when we first moved there when I was 13, and I'm 23 now but I still love the colour. Along one wall there's a huge wardrobe with a full-length mirror ³inside the door, so I have plenty of space for all my clothes and shoes and jewellery. There's a glittery disco ball hanging ⁴from the ceiling ⁵in the middle of the room.



3 My bed is painted bright pink, and has lots of cushions ⁶on it. I have the same desk I've had since I was really little. It's pushed right up against the wall and ⁷above the desk there are some wooden shelves that my dad put up. That's where I keep my diaries, books, and some plants. There's also a big pink and yellow rug ⁸on the floor. There's an armchair ⁹in the corner which my mum didn't want any more. It's got yellow and blue stripes. It's really comfortable but quite ugly, and the colours don't match the rest of the room. I've covered it ¹⁰with a blanket which is also pink to hide it.

4 Some people might think my room is quite girly because it has so many pink things. It's a bit like me, I suppose, and that's probably why I still like it!

1. Structure

First paragraph/ Introduction:
Background information

Where do you live and what's your favourite room (only what room, not why you like it)?

Second paragraph
A bird's eye view (space, light, colours, general distribution of main furniture)

Focus on the room you have chosen. Avoid using basic vocabulary. Try to write balanced sentences (nor too long or too short) and include varied tenses and structures.

Third paragraph

Small details that make this room unique/ different / pleasant and enjoyable.

Fourth paragraph/ Conclusion:

Wrap it up! **Why is it so special for you?**

That's just a suggestion!

Feel free to personalise your writing but keep in mind the main goal: it's a **descriptive text** (main basic structure: Introduction, Body and Conclusion + specific language – grammar and vocabulary) **about a favourite room / spot in your old or current house.**

2. Language

VARIETY OF TENSES AND STRUCTURES:

Have a look at the **first paragraph** in the sample text on page 187 (*present perfect, present continuous and past tense*).

In the **second paragraph**, even if it is a general description, we can easily spot modifiers and colourful details (*much darker, plenty of + noun; pale pink, full-length*); more advanced prepositions (*along one wall; inside the wardrobe; hanging from*); subordinates (*we painted it when...; so I have plenty of space; disco ball hanging from – reduced relative clause*)

In the **third paragraph**, we can easily detect samples of passive voice (*is painted, is pushed against*) and loads of relative clauses (*the same desk I've had; wooden shelves that my dad...; That's where I keep...; which my mom didn't...; which is also pink*)

These structures (passive voice and relative clauses) are common in descriptive texts (reviews, complaints, Airbnb experiences etc.), so try to include them whenever you are asked to describe something (a room/ a city/ a restaurant etc.).

In the **fourth paragraph**, the shortest one, we can see again a display of more advanced structures: modal verbs (*some people might think*) and structures (*that's probably why...*) + again modifiers (*quite girlie; a bit like me; so many*).

VOCABULARY

- more specific items of furniture (*full-length mirror; the door and window frame; wooden shelves*);
- prepositions + specific positions in the room (*against/along the wall; in the corner; hanging from the ceiling*);
- variety of adjective modifiers used in the description (*really comfortable but quite ugly*)
- combinations of adjectives [*a big pink and yellow rug* – adjective order SIZE (1)/ SHAPE (2)/ COLOUR (3)];
- phrasal verbs (*put up*)

E) Check out this podcast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKsmLVyxtWE>) where two language coaches analyse another sample:

F) Now it's your turn to describe your favourite spot in the house!



(Source: <https://www.freepik.com>)