

READING

1 Listen and read. TR: 3.5

High and Dry



A stilt house is a home on “legs.” Families usually put their animals or crops under the house and live upstairs. They live high up so that if it rains, the water can’t enter the rooms. Also, snakes and spiders can’t climb the stilts and visit the family at night! Finally, it is often cooler upstairs. Stilt houses are high, safe, and dry.

Today you can find stilt houses in South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. However, they are not all the same. In some Vietnamese stilt houses, for example, the left side of the house is for the women; the men’s rooms are on the right. Houses often have two staircases, too. In Thailand, the houses are often built on water and face the mountains. They have bigger doors than Vietnamese stilt houses.

Modern stilt houses look the same as they did long ago, but they are very different inside! Today most modern stilt houses have electric lights, for example. They have fridges, TVs, and computers. And of course, most people who live there have cell phones!