"There's no place like home."

From *Home Sweet Home* (1823), by John Howard Payne

1. The Home Discussion

1. What is the difference between a house and a home? How can you make a house your home?
2. Can you describe your home? What rooms does it have? How is it decorated? Do you have ornaments on display?
3. How long have you lived there? Why did you choose to live there?
4. What do you like to do when you are at home?
5. Do you get on with your neighbours? What problems can people have with their neighbours?
6. What are the main reasons people move house?
7. Would you like to move house? Why or why not? What are the most important things to take into consideration when choosing a new home? What would your dream home be?
8. Would you prefer to live in the city centre, the suburbs or in the countryside? Why?

© yourENGLISHPAL.com

2. The Home Vocabulary

- **mortgage** (noun) – *a loan taken out to buy a house.*
- **second home** (noun) – *a home in additional to the primary residence, often used for holidays/vacations (which can be called a **holiday/vacation home**).*
- **home improvements** (noun) – *projects to change a home to make it better in some way.*
- **chores/housework** (noun) – *repetitive, routine, necessary or tedious jobs; jobs in the house such as cleaning or tidying.*
- **social housing** (noun) – *housing provided by the government for poorer people to rent at a lower cost.*
- **homeless** (adjective) – *without a home, often living on the streets.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. A local charity called on the government to build more _____ to alleviate the demand caused by the growing population.
2. I only got pocket money when I was a kid if I helped with the _____.
3. Negative equity is when the value of your house is less than the amount you still have to pay off your _____.
4. Residents in Cornwall voted to ban _____, claiming that they pushed up house prices making it impossible for local people to get on the property ladder.
5. The number of _____ people increased massively during the 2008 financial crisis as people lost their jobs and houses.
6. With my retirement money, I was thinking about making some _____, starting with converting the loft into an additional bedroom.

The Home vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What are the requirements to get a mortgage in your country? Is it easy or difficult?
2. Which people tend to have second homes in your country? Where do they usually have these? If you had a second home, where would you like it to be? What are the problems associated with second homes?
3. What home improvements would you like to make to your home?
4. What chores do you do in the house? Who usually does the housework where you live?
5. Is there enough social housing near where you live? Should the government provide more social housing? Why or why not? Would you be happy if the government planned to build social housing in your neighbourhood? Why or why not?
6. What are the main reasons people become homeless? How can we help homeless people?

© yourENGLISHPAL.com

3. Video: The Best Homes In The World

You are going to watch a video by Top 5 Best called "10 Incredible Houses You Won't Believe Exist."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-home/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Where is home?
   a) where you buy it *b) where you make it* *c) where you build it*
2. When did people start constructing the House on the Rock?
   a) 1968 *b) 1978* *c) 1988*
3. How wide is the Carrot House?
   a) 120cm *b) 121cm* *c) 122cm*
4. In which country is the Hobbit House?
   a) New Zealand *b) Australia* *c) Wales*

Sentence completion

5. You might have a few _____ worries living in the Glass House.
6. Frank Lloyd built a house into an existing _____.
7. The Airplane House has _____ bedrooms.
8. The Clocktower House was originally valued at _____.

Short answer

9. In which age did the Flintstones live?
10. What did neighbours want removing from outside the Flintstone House?
11. The Floating Seahorse is located near the island that represents which country?
12. How much did it cost to build the Egg House?

© yourENGLISHPAL.com

4. The Home Conversation Questions

1. What type of houses do people in your country tend to live in?
2. What are all the different types of places people can make a home?
3. What are the pros and cons of living in an apartment compared to a house?
4. Is it better to buy a house or rent? Why?
5. What risks do homes face? How can you keep your home safe and secure?
6. What do you think the phrase "an Englishman's home is his castle" means? Do you agree with this?
7. Do you agree that "home is where the heart is"? What does this phrase mean?
8. How will the homes of the future be different to those of today?

5. The Home Writing Task

Write about your dream home. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Where it would be.
- What kind of house it would be.
- What you would have in the house.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people prefer to live in an apartment near the city centre; others prefer to live in a house in the countryside. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

© yourENGLISHPAL.com