

UNIT 56

Different lifestyles

A Match the words to make common expressions connected with different lifestyles. Use each word only once.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1 fast | A tension |
| 2 standard | B image |
| 3 poverty | C of living |
| 4 child | D durables |
| 5 welfare | E level |
| 6 nuclear | F state |
| 7 working | G flyer |
| 8 disposable | H parent |
| 9 consumer | I benefit |
| 10 single | J family |
| 11 subsistence | K class |
| 12 racial | L income |
| 13 self | M pace |
| 14 high | N trap |

B Complete the passage with these words. There is one more than you need.

renovation habitation bare necessities polarised threats
brave victimising plight support demolish
sympathise cottage belongs survival evict

A Welsh district council has refused to pay for the 1) _____ of a tiny two-room stone 2) _____, and has declared it unfit for human 3) _____. The cottage 4) _____ to Miss Heather Morton, who has lived there since her childhood. She manages with only the 5) _____ of life, as there is no electricity or piped water. She wants to stay in the 150-year-old cottage, but the council is determined to 6) _____ her and 7) _____ the building. Her 8) _____ has 9) _____ the community. A few of her neighbours 10) _____ the council's decision, but most 11) _____ with Miss Morton and accuse the council of 12) _____ an elderly lady. Despite the council's 13) _____, Miss Morton intends to 14) _____ out the winter in her home, with her five dogs for company.

C Decide whether the definitions are true (T) or false (F). Give the correct definition if necessary.

- 1 *Materialism* is an excessive interest in money and material possessions.
- 2 A *status symbol* is a possession which is regarded as proof of the owner's social position.
- 3 An *acquisitive* person is someone who asks too many questions.
- 4 *Affluence* is the power exerted by one person over another.
- 5 *Slums* are squalid, overcrowded areas of a city.

- 6 *Squatters* are people who **illegally** occupy houses or land.
- 7 The *metropolis* is the capital or main city of a country.
- 8 *Tramps* are people who travel around on foot, with no permanent home.
- 9 *Priorities* are young couples who are buying their first home.
- 10 An *au pair* is a person who insists on equal opportunities.
- 11 A *busker* is someone who plays an instrument in a public place and asks passers-by for money.
- 12 A *New Age traveller* is a person who travels around the country, camping wherever he/she feels like it.

D Choose the correct word or phrase from the pair in brackets to complete each sentence.

- 1 Many housing estates and blocks of flats were put up in the building _____ of the 1980s. (surge/boom)
- 2 People are encouraged to live _____ these days, by making excessive use of credit facilities. (in the red/beyond their means)
- 3 Residents of the _____ enjoy good social amenities without the noise and bustle of living in the town centre. (downtown/suburbs)
- 4 It is becoming fashionable to dress in _____ clothes snapped up from junk shops and jumble sales. (second-hand/antique)
- 5 Some people opt out of the _____ and take early retirement. (rat race/grindstone)
- 6 A house can be seen as a comfortable dwelling to bring the family up in, or as a lucrative _____. (investment/profit)
- 7 While some householders have open-plan gardens, others feel the need for high fences, guard dogs and _____ lights. (privacy/security)
- 8 Tastes in interior decoration vary from the plain, simple, farmhouse style to the _____, expensive decor you find in many town houses. (tasty/sophisticated)
- 9 If a marriage does not work out, the couple often split up, share out their assets, and live _____. (separated/apart)
- 10 So many celebrities have a private life which is quite different from their public _____. (picture/image)
- 11 In certain countries, _____ visitors is always done in hotels or restaurants, while in others it is considered more hospitable to invite guests to the home. (entertaining/greeting)
- 12 It is difficult for people in serious _____ to get out of the spiral of borrowing and paying interest on ever-increasing loans. (credit/debt)

E Answer these questions as fully as you can, in conversation or in writing.

- 1 What factors make a lifestyle challenging or rewarding?
- 2 How do you account for the current interest in the material aspects of life, rather than the spiritual? Do you think this is a temporary aberration, or purely a more realistic approach which will last?
- 3 Can you give reasons for the widening gap between rich and poor in developed countries as well as the Third World? Is there a long-term solution to this problem?
- 4 What would your ideal lifestyle be, if you had no financial considerations or family responsibilities to take into account?