

MY HOME, HOUSING IN BRITAIN

1. What are positives and negatives of living in a town/ in a village (in the country)?

You can live in a town (in a city or in a small town) or in a village.

- A. Living in a town

Advantages: schools (also secondary schools, colleges, universities...), a lot of job opportunities (+ you can travel to school or to work by public transport or just walk), good shopping possibilities, cultural facilities and sports centres, medical care (health centres and hospitals) nearby.

Disadvantages: heavy traffic, a lot of noise, polluted air, a lot of people in the streets, criminality.

- B. Living in the country

Positives: much calmer, living in green, healthier environment, possibilities to keep domestic animals and grow fruit and vegetables.

Negatives: only a primary school or even no school at all, few job opportunities, few shops, often no good bus or train connection, often necessary to go everywhere by car.

MY HOME

2. Give the general description of the building you live in.

- A. Where is it situated?

In the town (village) of ...

In a village: in the village green, at the end of the village ...

In a town: in the centre (in a square, in a noisy main street, in a quiet side street ...);
on the outskirts, in the suburbs, in a new neighbourhood, on a housing estate ...

- B. What kind of building is it?

House (detached, semidetached, terraced), bungalow, block of flats, prefab...

Cottage, farm (farmhouse, outbuildings: farmyard, barn, shed, cowshed, stable, pigsty, hen house, rabbit hutch, kennel/doghouse...)

- C. How many floors are there? What floor is your room/flat situated on?

- D. How old is the building? In what condition is it?

It is in (quite a) good condition. It is in bad condition. It needs renovating (an overhaul).

- E. Have you lived there all your life or did you move house? (When?)

3. Describe the layout of the house (flat).

One-storey(ed)/single-storey(ed), two-storey(ed) ... house

On the ground floor, on the first floor .../ Downstairs, upstairs

One bedroom flat, two bedroom flat...

House: cellar, basement, garage, laundry, junk room, furnace room/boiler room, pantry, workshop, attic, loft, lift, balcony, veranda, terrace, study; central heating

Flat: hall, kitchen/kitchenette, dining room/dining nook = dinette, living room (= sitting room), bedroom, toilet, bathroom/shower bath, pantry, (box room, dressing room).

Do you have a garden? Where? How big is it? Do you ever work there? / Would you like to have one?

Have you got parking in/near your house/building?

4. Describe your room.

General description: big/small, how many windows/doors, a typical colour (?) etc.

Detailed description: most important pieces of furniture + accessories + where:

- There is/ are; you can see; I have (got); is situated
- Try to describe also materials, colours, shapes etc.
- Use prepositions of place (on, in, next to, above/ over, under/ below, in the middle, opposite, in front of, behind, on top of)
- On the floor/ walls/ceiling ... x A chandelier/ lamp swings from the ceiling!!!

Bed/bunk bed, bedside table, table/desk and chairs, (fitted) wardrobe, chest of drawers, bookcase, shelf, lamp, standard lamp, chandelier, poster, photo, curtain, blind, carpet/fitted carpet, computer + stuff, TV set, sofa/couch, armchair.

Do you have your own room or do you share it with anybody?

What do you like best about your room?

Is there anything you would like to change?

What do you usually do in the room?

5. Speak about your household duties. What housework do you do?

There is always a lot to do in a flat and even more in a house of course. That's why it is necessary for all members of the family to do some housework.

I've got a lot of/not so many household duties.

Every day I have to

About once a week

Sometimes

In summer / in winter ...

Vocab:

Maturita Activator p. 75

Take the rubbish out, tidy/clean your bedroom, load/ unload the dishwasher, walk the dog, work in the garden, cut the grass = mow the lawn, saw + chop the wood (dig, weed, hoe), make + repair things, take care of the heating, make fire/put the heating on, clear snow off the pavement / the drive/ yard, hang out the washing, clean the windows, dust the furniture, vacuum the carpets, sweep + mop the floor

HOUSING IN BRITAIN AND IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

6. What types of buildings do people in Czechia live in?

You can live in various kinds of buildings. Many people in this country live in prefabs which belong to typical socialist structures. There are many blocks of flats (= apartment buildings US.E.) too. However, more and more people move to houses (detached, semidetached, and terraced).

If you don't possess a house or flat of your own (especially students and young couples), you have to rent them.

7. Explain the difference between the Czech word "dům" and the English word "house".

In Czech the word "dům" has a lot of meanings (e.g. a villa, a large building for a lot of families, an office building, a school, a department store...).

In English the word "house" means only a home for one family.

8. Compare the number of houses and flats in G.B. and Czechia.

There are many more houses in Britain (only about 1/8 = one eighth people live in flats) because the average Englishman prefers to own his own house, however small. You can find more flats in London and in other big cities.

9. Describe an average British house. What are the main differences from a similar Czech house?

A typical British house has a front and a back garden and two floors. Downstairs there is a hall, toilet, kitchen, dining room and living room. On the private first floor you can find bedrooms and a bathroom.

The houses are usually smaller than Czech ones. There is no cellar, the toilet is mostly situated in the bathroom.