

**SOLUTIONS INTERMEDIATE 2**  
**UNIT 4: HOME**  
**4G**

**PEGAH BAHOJB GHASEMI**

4F

Reading

## Alternative living

*I can understand an article about alternative houses.*

**Revision:** Student's Book page 46



1 Complete the compound nouns with the words below. Two are written as one word.

dining front housing rain rubbish  
shipping sky sofa solar studio

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 _____ bed        | 6 _____ flat    |
| 2 _____ containers | 7 _____ panels  |
| 3 _____ door       | 8 _____ scraper |
| 4 _____ dump       | 9 _____ table   |
| 5 _____ estate     | 10 _____ water  |

**2 Complete the sentences with compound nouns from exercise 1.**

- 1 We've had \_\_\_\_\_ fitted on our roof.
- 2 Joe lives on the 20th floor of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 There are about 200 homes on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Can you open the \_\_\_\_\_ for me?
- 5 Our guests slept on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 My uncle's \_\_\_\_\_ is small, but cosy.

3 Read the texts. Look at the photo and match it with the correct text.

**Reading Strategy**

When you find evidence in the text that supports an answer, underline it and note which question it refers to. If you do that, you can find it again easily when you are checking all your answers at the end.



# Strange places to live in ...

## **A** THE SLIDE HOUSE, JAPAN

Did you love going down the slide in the playground as a child? Perhaps you secretly wish you still could? If so, then the Slide House in Japan is the house for you!

Japanese architects have designed an unusual three-storey house with a huge slide that connects each level. This fun house has two staircases on one side going up, and the slide on the other going down, and together they form a circular route around the central area of the house.

The house is in the suburbs of Tokyo, and it functions as a real family home.

## **B** THE SKATEBOARD HOUSE, USA

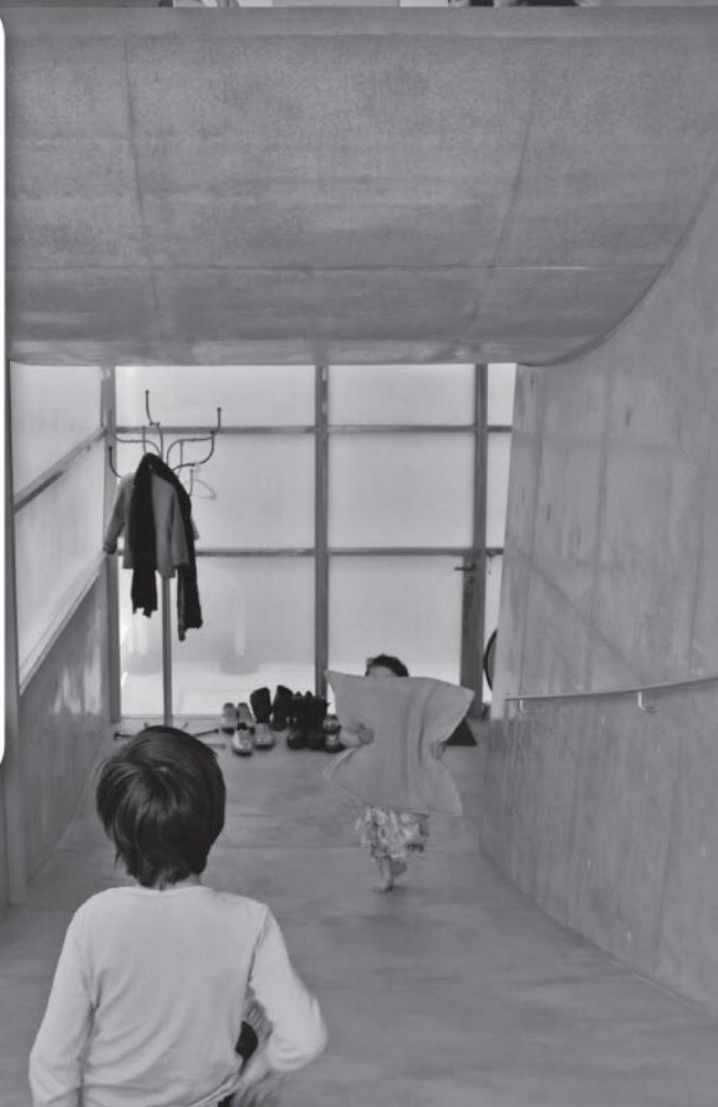
Are you a skateboarding fan? Would you like to live in a house where you could skateboard everywhere? This is exactly what a former skateboard champion wants to build in California. It will be the first house that can be entirely used for skateboarding as well as living in.

A prototype of the house is currently on display in a French museum. It has three spaces: a living area, a sleeping area and a skateboard practice area. However, you can skateboard everywhere because the floor becomes the wall and then the ceiling in a continuous curve. You can also skate on and off all the furniture!

## **C** THE GIANT SEASHELL HOUSE, MEXICO

If you've ever wondered what it would feel like to live inside a seashell, then this house in Mexico City would be the home for you. This amazing shell-shaped house was designed and built in 2006. As strange as it looks, it's a real home built for a family. The parents were tired of having a traditional house and wanted to live in a home that was inspired by nature.


All the walls and furniture in the house are curved and all the surfaces are smooth. There are round windows and doors, coloured glass walls and even flowers growing in all the rooms.



**4** Read the Reading Strategy. Then match the texts (A–C) with questions 1–4 below. One text matches two questions. Underline the evidence in the text that supports your answers.

In which text does the author ...

- 1 mention that the house isn't built yet?
- 2 refer to an indoor garden?
- 3 make it clear that the house has more than one floor?
- 4 suggest that the house will suit someone with a playful nature?



**IMAGINE YOU ARE GOING  
ABROAD ON YOUR OWN TO  
A COUNTRY YOU HAVE  
NEVER VISITED BEFORE TO  
STAY WITH PEOPLE YOU  
HAVE NEVER MET.**



**HOW WOULD YOU FEEL  
BEFORE AND DURING THE  
JOURNEY?**

**HOW WOULD YOU FEEL  
ONCE YOU HAVE ARRIVED?  
WHAT COULD YOU DO TO  
MAKE YOUR ARRIVAL IN A  
NEW COUNTRY EASIER?**







1 **SPEAKING** Which items from below can you see in the photos?

**In the house** bedside table bookcase bunk bed  
curtains cushion double bed duvet fridge  
hook kitchen cupboard lamp microwave  
pillow shelf sofa

In photo B there's a lamp on the bedside table.

## Speaking Strategy 1

When comparing and contrasting photos, use a variety of comparative and superlative forms, including negative structures like *less comfortable than* and *not as big as*.



2 Read **Speaking Strategy 1**. Then complete the sentences that contrast photos A and B. Use comparative structures.


1 The room in photo A is \_\_\_\_\_ tidy \_\_\_\_\_ the room in photo B.


2 The bed in photo B looks \_\_\_\_\_ comfortable.

3 The room in photo A isn't \_\_\_\_\_ bright \_\_\_\_\_ the room in photo B.

4 The room in photo B is one of \_\_\_\_\_ nicest rooms I've \_\_\_\_\_ seen.

Compare and contrast the photos of student accommodation and say which you would prefer to live in.

- 3  **2.12** Read the task above. Then listen to a student doing the task. Which room does she prefer? Do you agree? Why? / Why not?

4  **2.12** Choose the best words to complete the sentences. Then listen again and check your answers.

- 1 Photo A is of a room in a hostel, I think, **unless / whereas** the second shows a small flat.
- 2 There are bunk beds in the room in the hostel, **but / when** the other room has got a double bed.
- 3 **While / When** photo A shows a rather untidy room, the room in photo B is very tidy.
- 4 The room in the hostel looks quite cosy. **However, / Whereas** the furniture looks a bit old and worn out.
- 5 I like the idea of sharing with other students, **although / despite** the lack of privacy.




In his / her gap year, a friend is going to spend three months studying English at a British university. He / She can stay with a host family or in university accommodation with other foreign students. Your friend asks you for advice on the best option. Discuss these points:

- convenience and cost
- social life
- opportunities to practise your English
- getting to know Britain and British culture

**5 Read the task above. For each of the four points, think of one advantage of staying with a host family and one advantage of staying in university accommodation.**

From the point of view of location and convenience, the university accommodation would be better because ...

From the point of view of cost, a host family would be better because ...

6  2.13 Listen to two students doing the task. Did they mention any of your ideas from exercise 5? Do you agree with their opinions? Why? / Why not?

- Both photos show rooms. Ummmmm ... Photo A is of a room in hostel, I think, whereas the second shows a small flat. Ummmmmm ... There are bunk beds in the room in the hostel, but the other room has got a double bed. Ummmmm ... In photo A, I can also see some clothes and bags. I think photo B shows a one-bedroom flat because ummmmm ... I can see a kitchen at the end of the room. While photo A shows a rather untidy room, the room in photo B is very tidy.

- Both photos show rooms. **Ummmmm** ... Photo A is of a room in hostel, I think, whereas the second shows a small flat. **Ummmmmm** ... There are bunk beds in the room in the hostel, but the other room has got a double bed. **Ummmmm** ... In photo A, I can also see some clothes and bags. I think photo B shows a one-bedroom flat because **ummmmm** ... I can see a kitchen at the end of the room. While photo A shows a rather untidy room, the room in photo B is very tidy.

## **Speaking Strategy 2**

When giving your opinion, you will have to think as you speak. Learn phrases that create time for you to formulate opinions. They will also make you sound more fluent.

**7 KEY PHRASES** Read **Speaking Strategy 2**. Then complete the phrases with the words below.

considered else point see suppose think thinking

### Phrases for gaining time

Let me <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ .

Actually, now I come to <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about it, ...

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about it, ...


All things <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ , ...

I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the thing is, ...

What <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ? Well, ...

That's a good <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ .



8  2.13 Listen again to both answers. Which phrases from exercise 7 did the students use?

In your gap year, you are going to spend three months in the UK studying English. You are looking for a flat to rent. Ask your friend for advice. Discuss these points:

- location
- cost
- meals
- sharing with other students

**9** Work in pairs. Read the task above and make notes for each of the four points that you have to cover.

**10** **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Do the task in exercise 9.

# 11 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Turn to page 144 and do the photo comparison task.

1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Take turns to do the task below.



You are going to study in the UK. You are looking for a flat to rent with a friend. Compare and contrast the photos above and say which flat you would choose and why.

**Work in groups to play the game.**

- 1 This is the tiniest kitchen I've ever seen.
- 2 You can renovate your house if you had more time.
- 3 The shops in this area are getting worse and worse.
- 4 The more John talks about his house, less I want to see it.
- 5 I wish the trains were more reliable.
- 6 It's the least expensive house in the street, but I think it's the most charming.
- 7 My bedroom is less messier than my sister's.
- 8 The trains are faster during the week than at the weekends.
- 9 If only we had a garden, we could have a party outside.
- 10 There are less rooms in this apartment than in the one we saw yesterday.
- 11 I wish you don't use my phone. It's really annoying!
- 12 If I wouldn't live near the school, I would probably buy a bike.
- 13 If only my neighbour wouldn't play her music so late at night!
- 14 The bigger your garden is, the more time you have to spend looking after it!
- 15 Your brother runs slower than you.
- 16 You wouldn't sell this house if you didn't need the money.
- 17 If I were at the beach now, I swam in the sea.
- 18 He's much friendlier than he used to be.
- 19 I wish we lived nearer the park.
- 20 She's got fewer books than her friend.

**ASSIGNMENT:  
WORKBOOK 4G**

**DEADLINE: SUNDAY**