

EPISODE 66
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



INSIDE MY HOUSE

My friend has a house on **the outskirts of the city** (= very far from the centre), in a **residential area** (= there are only houses there, but no offices etc). She thinks it is the most fantastic house in the world and I have to agree it looks nice.



There are two **floors** (= two levels) in her house. On the **ground floor** (= the lowest floor) there is **a lounge** (= a living room), a big kitchen and a toilet. And, of course, there is **a hall** (= the first room you are in when you enter a house). There is also **a spare room** (= a room which you usually don't use) where guests can sleep. On the first floor, there is a bedroom with **a closet** (= a special room without windows where you keep your clothes), **a study** (= a room where you work) and **a bathroom**.

More contexts for the new words:

- I live **in the suburbs** .
(= I live in a quiet area with houses, far from the city centre.)
- I **study** at the university.
(= I am a student at the university.)



EXERCISE 1

Match the words and expressions to their definitions.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. the ground floor | a) very far from the centre |
| 2. a lounge | b) a room where you work |
| 3. a spare room | c) a room for guests |
| 4. a study | d) an area with only houses |
| 5. a residential area | e) a living room |
| 6. on the outskirts | f) the lowest floor |



EXERCISE 2

Complete each gap with one word. The first letter is given to help you. Then answer the questions.

1. Would you prefer to live in the city centre or on the o..... of a city? Why?
2. What is more important for you: a big c..... for your clothes, or a s..... to work in? Why?
3. In a block of flats, would you prefer to live on the g..... floor, or on a higher f.....? Why?

ENGLISH IN USE



Today I would like us to analyze this sentence:

*... I have to agree it **looks** nice ...*

We can use the verb 'to look' to talk about appearance (*She **looks** nice today*) and to describe an action which our body does (*She **is looking** at her father now*).

When we use this verb in the first situation, we always use it in a present simple form:

*She **looks** sad./ not: ~~she is looking~~ sad.
He **looks** angry./ not: ~~he is looking~~ angry.*

When we use it in the second context, we can use either present simple or present continuous depending on the situation.

*She **is looking** at his photo now. She **looks at** photos every day.
She **looks** at this building each time she comes back from work./**She is looking** at this building now.*

There are more verbs which are like this; for example:

to think

*I **think** she is beautiful. (my general opinion)
I'm **thinking** of buying a new car. (I haven't decided yet)*

to have

*I **have** two cars. (possessions)
I'm **having** dinner now. (I'm eating dinner now)*

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ Did you really have to wait an hour for a table at that restaurant?

B/ Yes. But then they gave us some drinks **ON THE HOUSE**.

If you get something **on the house**, you don't pay for it, but the restaurant (or business owner) gives it to you for free.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **MOVE IN**, you start living in a new house or flat.

A new family **has moved in** to the flat next door.

We're **moving in** next week.

2. The opposite is to **MOVE OUT**. This is when you stop living in a particular house or flat.

Jane **moved out** of her college room last Monday.

We've sold the house, and we're **moving out**.



EXERCISE 3

Complete the story putting one word into each gap.

When Susan started her studies, she had to move (1) of her family house and travel to a different city. She moved (2) to a student flat, and during their first weekend together they all went out to the local pub. 'Are you new in the area?' asked the bar tender. 'Yes,' answered the girls. 'Then the drinks are (3) the house!'

NEWS



INTERIOR DESIGN

More and more people are **reluctant** to let chance decorate their homes, and they hire interior designers to plan the inside of their new homes in a professional way. The advantages are obvious: you **diminish** the risk of acquiring a **haphazard** collection of objects for your apartment, everything has a consistent style, and the furniture should fit perfectly between the walls. At least that's the theory. In practice, it all depends on the interior designer you choose, as some of them prove to be rather **sloppy** in their work. For instance, it might turn out that the shelves they have planned for your books aren't **sturdy** enough to support your book collection. Or – after buying all the furniture – you might realize that there is half a centimeter too little space for all that! Whichever designer you choose, be sure to have a lot of money, for their services are quite pricey!

GLOSSARY

- **reluctant** – unwilling
- **diminish** – decrease
- **haphazard** – accidental
- **sloppy** – not hard-working
- **sturdy** - strong

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

1. f
2. e
3. c
4. b
5. d
6. a

Ex.2

1. outskirts
2. closet, study
3. ground, floor

Ex.3

1. out
2. in
3. on