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Speaking and Listening – Discussion

Let's Talk About... Moving Home

New Vocabulary Mark the stressed vowel sound in each word or phrase:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. apartment | 6. first-time buyer | 11. mortgage | 16. self-storage unit |
| 2. deposit | 7. furnishings | 12. neighbour | 17. subletting |
| 3. downsizing | 8. housewarming | 13. packing | 18. tenant |
| 4. dream home | 9. inventory | 14. relocation | 19. utilities |
| 5. estate agent | 10. landlord | 15. removals company | 20. viewing |

Discussion Questions Ask and answer them with a partner or small group:

- How many times have you moved home? What was the reason for each move? How long did it take? How easy was it? How much did it cost? Do you have any funny stories about moving home? Is there a memorable moving tale from your childhood? What are some of the reasons that people move home? Why don't people stay in one place for life? What should a **first-time buyer** know about property?
- Where do you start when you want to move home? How do you find a new place? What kind of home do you prefer: an **apartment**, house, or bungalow? Why? What websites and/or apps do you use? What criteria do you use when searching for a home, e.g. price, location, rooms, features, garden, etc.?
- Which questions do you usually ask at a **viewing**? What do you need to know? Have you ever been to see a house or flat and the place was totally different from the advert / photos? How did you react?
- Have you ever **relocated** to another city or country, e.g. for work? Would you consider moving abroad? What particular challenges would such a move involve? Would you buy a property without viewing it?
- Describe your **dream home**. What would it look like? If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? Why? Have you ever thought about buying some land and building a home to your own specifications? What would be the main challenges and rewards? What about renovating an old building?
- Do you rent or do you have a **mortgage**? Maybe you own your own home outright. How easy is / was it to get financing to buy your own home. If you have a mortgage, why did you decide to buy instead of renting?
- When planning your move, do you have a checklist or just follow your gut instinct?
- Do you enjoy **packing**? Do you lovingly wrap each plate and bowl, or just chuck them into a packing box and hope for the best? Do you feel that moving home is a good opportunity to get rid of superfluous junk that you have accumulated? How do you decide what to keep and what to throw out, give away, or recycle?
- How do you move your belongings? Hire a **removals company** or maybe you have a mate with a van?

English Idioms about Moving Home

Say a new sentence with each idiom:

- be beyond your wildest dreams
- be / live beyond your means
- break the bank
- (not) enter into sth [*something*] lightly
- feel at home
- find your dream home
- fork out a lot of money for sth
- get used to sth
- get your foot on the property ladder
- home is where the heart is
- home sweet home
- make a new / fresh start
- move heaven and earth to do sth
- not know where to start
- nothing ventured, nothing gained
- pay through the nose for sth
- settle down
- take a [calculated] risk
- there's no place like home
- wherever I lay my hat, that's my home

Discussion Situations about Moving Home

What would you do if...?

- When viewing the property the **neighbours** are a sweet, kindly old couple, but on moving day you find new neighbours have moved in – with five kids and a dog that barks all the time.
- During your **housewarming** party the police arrive and order you to turn down the volume following numerous complaints.
- When leaving your rental property your **landlord** appears and points out that there are several items missing from the **inventory**, including some antique **furnishings**.
- Your dream is to become an **estate agent**, but your parents demand that you take a law degree.
- You need to store most of your furniture temporarily, but there isn't a reliable **self-storage unit** facility in the vicinity.
- You've been on the phone trying to register with various **utilities** for hours, but you haven't spoken to a real person yet.
- Your **tenant** is four months behind with their rent and appears to be **subletting** the apartment to a family with exotic animals.
- You enjoy your job as a letting agent, but this is the fifth time this week that the client has failed to show up for the viewing.
- Your partner persuaded you to **downsize** your house to a bungalow to save money, but now you've moved, you hate it.
- Your landlord refuses to return your **deposit** due to "negligible" marks on the walls.

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1. Describe the pictures. 2. Discuss them. 3. Compare them. 4. Create a quiz about them using different question types: comprehension, wh-, yes/no, true/false/unknown, etc. 5. Improvise a dialogue or story.
Extension: Now try each exercise again without using any of the 20 keywords!

Picture A



Picture B



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Answers:

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Note: vowel sounds are indicated with Clear Alphabet. For more about Clear Alphabet, please visit: <https://purlandtraining.com/>

Images:

Devolk: <https://pixabay.com/>

John Fornander: <https://unsplash.com/>