

# Home, sweet home

## Language focus

- Housing vocabulary
- Taking a stand
- Language for cause and effect

1

## A home away from home

When we've travelled away from home, most of us have had both good and bad experiences sleeping in other places. Decide if the following adjectives and nouns have a positive or negative connotation.

pokey

opulent

dilapidated

hovel

pad

garret

draughty

snazzy

chilly

Describe a memorable stay in a hotel or rented flat. What was it like?



## Useful language

- I remember my student digs in my first year at university. They were pretty basic, but they were great!
- I once stayed at a hotel in London which was pretty awful. The walls were paper thin and I could hear the pipes clanging all night long!
- There was this one time I stayed in a five-star hotel for free because my friend was one of the bellhops.

2

## The ways we think about the city and the country

### a) Are these words associated with the city or the country?

- Rustic charm
- A quiet backwater
- The back of beyond
- Hustle and bustle
- The concrete jungle
- Derelict buildings
- Hedgerows
- Graveyard
- Cemetery



### b) Climate change is beginning to affect agriculture and food production. How might this affect the way city people see the countryside? How might it affect farmers' lives?

#### Useful language

- *City dwellers may start to see the countryside in another light.*
- *Many people may decide they would rather live outside the cities.*
- *Many farmers may no longer be able to make a living from the land.*

3

## Going the hard sell

Imagine you are a real estate agent who is trying to sell a run-down country cottage. Explain what it's like to the other students. Try to put a positive spin on the following features.

- It needs to be completely refurbished.
- It was once famous for its beautiful garden and gazebo. The garden's now overgrown and the gazebo's falling down.
- It's seven kilometres from the nearest train station and there are no buses.
- The cottage comes with a vegetable garden but nobody's grown vegetables there since 1970.

#### Useful language

- *Someone who wanted a challenge might like the first as a project.*
- *An artist might like the faded glamour of the second.*
- *My best friend is a total hermit and would probably love the third.*



4

#### Smartening up the neighbourhood

The process by which a neighbourhood increases in popularity and becomes more expensive is called **gentrification**.

Do you think **gentrification** is good for the local community?

#### Useful language

- Gentrification **causes** prices to go up and forces local people to leave.
- It's good for local businesses **because** it brings in more money.
- One problem with gentrification can come with the people we call **digital nomads**: young professionals who often only stay in the same place for a short time and **therefore** don't really create any ties with the local community.
- **Inasmuch as** gentrification involves the arrival of people from other countries, it can **lead to** the gradual disappearance of the local culture.
- Gentrification **makes** cities more cosmopolitan and international.

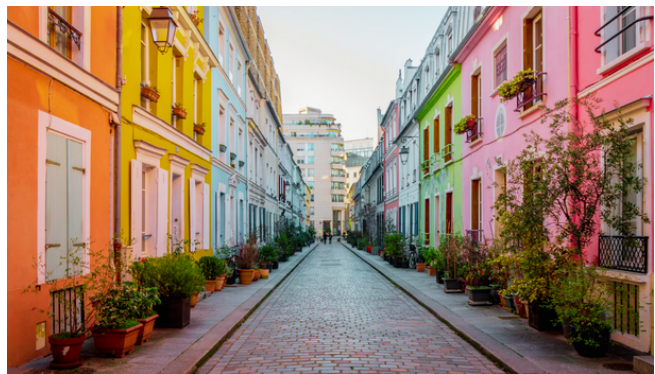


5

#### The law of the land

What are the laws in your country regarding the following?

- Squatting
- Building extensions
- Parties and noise
- Leaving rubbish on the street



[ub.edu/grups-conversa](http://ub.edu/grups-conversa)

Continguts de James Haden i Serveis Lingüístics

Disseny gràfic dels Serveis Lingüístics

Imatges del Canva, Freepik, Unsplash, Pexels i Pixabay



Universitat de Barcelona. Serveis Lingüístics