

A House - A home

There are magazines which show us how to furnish and arrange our homes in good taste. Many people follow these magazines and spend a lot of money on expensive furniture, carpets, pictures, etc. The result is often a room furnished in good taste but cold and impersonal. Why is this?

a cottage
a flat
a block of flats
an apartment
an apartment house

the kitchen
the sitting-room
the dining-room
the bedroom
the hall
the bathroom
the balcony

furniture
carpets
rugs
lights
pictures
plants
a TV set

to arrange
an arrangement
to combine two rooms
a combination

comfortable
uncomfortable
old-fashioned
well-furnished
personal
impersonal
informal

space
a private life
tidy
untidy
to make a mess
messy
noise
noisy

1. A modern flat is often too small for the family that lives in it. In what ways can this make the family unhappy? Is it possible for a large family to live happily in a small flat?

2. To make more space in a small house, some rooms can be combined. What do you think of these combinations?

kitchen/ dining room
dinning room/ sitting room
sitting room/ bedroom

3. Houses built in earlier years are arranged differently from modern flats. Would you prefer to live in an old-fashioned house with plenty of space or in a small modern flat?

4. How is the sitting room of your house arranged? What are the uncomfortable features of the room? What would be your ideal sitting room? What kind of furniture, lights, rugs etc. would you choose for it?

5. In what ways are pictures important in a house? Do you prefer original paintings or prints of the great masters?

6. Do you like to spend time in the kitchen? Is the kitchen the best room in the family home for meals? Is it a good place to entertain friends? Is it a more relaxing place than the sitting room? What is your idea of a really good kitchen?

7. Is it important for every member of the family to have a room of his own? What would you do to make your own room, more attractive, more personal?

8. Can a house be beautiful without being cold and impersonal? Is it important for a home to be beautiful? Is it important for a home to be clean and tidy all the time?

9. Why do some houses never feel like home?