Language Focus

1. a. What can you see in the pictures? Choose from the list.
   - bathroom  •  bedroom  •  patio  •  kitchen
   - porch  •  dining room  •  hall  •  balcony
   - roof garden  •  terrace  •  swimming pool

2. Cross the odd one out.
   1. The roof of the terraced house/cellar/semi-detached was in need of repair.
   2. The farmhouse/maisonette/cottage we bought recently is in a perfect country setting far away from the stress of the city.
   3. Ellie has a luxurious penthouse/council flat/villa by the sea in the south of France.
   4. The hotel suite/bed-sit/room cost £200 per night.
   5. Our country cottage is so typical of those in the area with its thatched/slate/marble roof.
   6. The new apartment included an antique/well-equipped/fitted kitchen.

3. a. Work in pairs. You want to rent out your house/flat. Your partner is a potential tenant. Use the vocabulary below, as well as ideas of your own, to answer his/her questions.

   - location: in a fashionable district, isolated, in the city centre, easily accessible, in the countryside
   - size: spacious, average, small, family-sized, 1-/2-bedroomed
   - cost: affordable, cheap, economical, expensive
   - style: traditional, modern décor, stylish, (semi-)detached, terraced house, cottage, bungalow, villa
   - general description: fully-equipped, fully-furnished, cozy, peaceful, easy to maintain, airy, noisy, secure

   b. Swap roles and ask each other questions about the house/flat you are interested in.

   A: Where exactly is the house located?
   B: It’s on 68, Carnarvon Road, so it’s quite centrally located.

4. Underline the correct item.

   1. The property is within easy stretch/spread/range/reach of the shopping centre.
   2. You wash up and I’ll clear/clean/empty/tidy away the dishes.
   3. Public transport is better in cities than it is in rural areas/places/parts/spots.
   4. There is plenty/ample/full/rich room in the drive to park your car.
   5. It took me a good/fine/nice/fair hour to find your house.

b. Which of these does your house have?
Which is your favourite room in the house?
Describe it to your partner.
Conversational Grammar

5 Circle the correct item.

1. "When was the last time you saw your father?"
   "I spent a week with him ........ the summer holidays."
   A already  B during  C for  D in

2. "Is this Arthur's wallet?"
   "Great! He's been ........ for that everywhere."
   A looked  B look  C looking  D looks

3. "What have you been up to?"
   "Well, ........ the last few weeks it's been work, work, work, I'm afraid!"
   A since  B before  C lately  D over

4. "I haven't seen David for ages."
   "Apparently he ........ off to summer camp three weeks ago."
   A has gone  B went  C has been  D goes

5. "She doesn't seem to be very happy, does she?"
   "Well, she ........ under a lot of pressure lately."
   A is  B was  C has been  D is being

6. "I've never been to Italy. Have you?"
   "Yes, but it's been a long time ........ my last visit."
   A since  B before  C ago  D for

7. "What's the matter with Danny?"
   "He's just ........ some bad news, I'm afraid."
   A been having  B having  C had  D has

8. "How long have you lived at your current address?"
   "Oh, ........ about fifteen years now."
   A during  B before  C since  D for

9. "Have you ever been hang-gliding?"
   "Yes, I actually went ........ ."
   A already  B recently  C lately  D soon

10. "What an amazing story!"
    "Yes, I've never ........ anything like it."
    A hear  B been hearing  C heard  D been heard

English in Use

6 Find the unnecessary word in each sentence.

1. I've just prepared lunch several times, so I think it's only fair that you do it today. ..........

2. What do you think life would have be like without modern appliances? ..........

3. Have you been read any good science fiction novels lately? ..........

4. I have never been doing bungee-jumping but I think I'd like to try it one day. ..........

5. How long is it since Natasha and Becky have left for Paris? ..........

6. I've been travelling in all over the world for years, but there is no place like home. ..........

7 a. In pairs, complete the spidergrams with things that you can redecorate in your house.

   1) ................................................. paint walls
      change curtains

   2) .................................................
      replace tiles

   3) .................................................
      change colour

   4) .................................................
      fit new cupboards

   5) .................................................
      change floor

   6) .................................................
      hang wallpaper

   7) .................................................
      change the lighting

   b. You're visiting a friend who's just finished redecorating his/her house/flat. Act out exchanges commenting on the changes, as in the example.

   A: You've painted the living room walls different colours! It looks great!
   B: Yes! And I've bought new curtains, too.
Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first and includes the word given. Use between two and five words.

1. This has to be the spookiest castle I've ever been in! **such** I ................. a spooky castle before.
2. The bedroom was too small to add a second wardrobe. **not** The bedroom ................. add a second wardrobe.
3. It is a building company with great prestige. **very** It is ................. building company.
4. Lyn's hairstyle is different now. **changed** Lyn ................. recently.
5. We bought this house years ago. **had** We ................. ages.
6. The last time we decorated the flat was about three years ago. **redecorated** We ................. for three years now.
7. This is the first time I've actually been to their new house. **never** I ................. their new house before.
8. I'm still waiting for the building company to get back to me about the repairs. **contacted** The building company hasn't ................. about the repairs.
9. 'How long have you actually had solar heating?' **get** 'When ................. solar heating installed?'
10. We've had this car for six years, and it still looks brand new. **ago** We bought ................., and it still looks brand new.

9. Fill in the correct word derived from the word in bold.

1. Without any ................. he managed to decorate the whole house. **ASSIST**
2. The ................. they needed to build the greenhouse cost less than £200. **EQUIP**
3. They moved away from the ................. city, to a quiet life in the country. **CROWD**
4. The house was so big that they couldn't afford to ................. it. **HOT**
5. You should always keep ................. products away from children. **POISON**
6. The storm caused a ................. amount of damage to the garden. **CONSIDER**
7. Pollution is only one of the ................. of living in the city. **ADVANTAGE**

10. Fill in the missing word.

1. They have been redecorating the house over ................. few weeks.
2. Please, ................. away your clothes before you go out, Jenny.
3. Mike's finished painting the walls but he hasn't started on the ceiling .................
4. We've been ................. at this address for several years.
5. William has ................. lived here, so he knows everything about this place.
6. Please hang your jacket ................. in the wardrobe.
7. How long is it ................. you last had the roof repaired?
8. Have you ................. thought of selling your house?
9. She used to ................. really homesick when she first moved here.
10. The spare room hasn't been cleared ................. for ages.

11. Circle the correct item.

1. Come outside; it's lovely on the .................
   A garden  B drive  C landing  D patio
2. My rented flat is .................
   A well-worn  B semi-detached  C fully-furnished  D home-made
3. The cottage in the country felt like home ................. home.
   A at  B in  C for  D from
4. Although the house is in a fashionable district, it's .................
   A spacious  B modern  C big  D affordable
5. The farmhouse is ................. in a very beautiful area.
   A situated  B isolated  C rushed  D found
6. Don't hang ................. the washing now; it's going to rain.
   A up  B around  C out  D on
7. The biggest advantage is that the shops are within easy .................
   A touch  B contact  C access  D reach
8. It's very ................. in here by the fire during the winter.
   A remote  B traditional  C stylish  D cosy
9. My grandmother lives in a ................., so she doesn't have any stairs to climb.
   A mansion  B bungalow  C maisonette  D penthouse
10. The owners of the property really made us feel ................. home.
    A at  B as  C like  D in
Open Cloze

12 Read the text and fill in the word which fits best. Use only one word only. There is one example at the beginning (0).

Skara Brae

The Neolithic village at Skara Brae was inhabited continually for at least six hundred years. 0) During this period there seems to have 1) .................. two different stages of construction. 2) .................. earliest houses in the village were circular with one main room containing the central fireplace. Beds 3) .................. set into the walls on either side of the fireplace and opposite the main entrance were the stone shelves 4) .................. characterise Skara Brae. The remains of these buildings 5) .................. still be seen on the site as rough stone outlines.

The later houses more 6) .................. less followed the same design though they were 7) .................. larger. The shape 8) .................. the houses changed slightly, becoming more rectangular with rounded internal corners, and the beds were 9) .................. longer built into the wall but extended into the main living area.

Although 10) .................. was in use for seven generations, Skara Brae 11) .................. not grow any larger 12) .................. eight buildings. The maximum 13) .................. of dwellings during any single period was probably six or eight and 14) .................. housed between fifty 15) .................. one hundred villagers at any particular time.

Error Correction

13 Read the text below and look carefully at each line. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by it. If it has a word which should not be there, write the word at the end of the line. There are two examples at the beginning (0) and (00).

Tip You can check if you have chosen the right word to take out, by reading the sentence to yourself without this word. If it makes sense, you’re right!

A House with a Difference

This amazing windmill, standing up on a hill, is all most certainly a house with a difference. The 19th century windmill has a unique position is overlooking the town, with views of the surrounding countryside. The windmill was been converted in 1978 by a local builder into a luxurious family house and has recently been extended to include four double bedrooms. The property also has full gas central heating and is double-glazed. On the ground floor there is a spacious entrance hall with lot storage space and windows looking onto beautiful gardens. At the side of the house there is a patio area for barbecues and a small pond had built of Cornish stone. There are two double garages at the back of the property and parking space for an approximately seven cars. The huge lounge on the first floor leads onto a balcony with panoramic views of farmland. In addition to, there is also a fully fitted, open-plan kitchen with patio doors, are leading to an oak-beamed dining room. A large spiral staircase gives access to the four double bedrooms on the second floor. Apart from this the master bedroom, which includes an en-suite bathroom and fitted walk-in wardrobes, there are two additional bathrooms on this floor. This much unusual family home offers relaxed, high quality, stylish living.
14 Look at the pictures and compare the different types of houses. Which is closer to your ideal house and why?

15 a. You are going to read some information about various houses which are for sale. Before you read the texts, answer the questions 0-15 about yourself. Start like this: Are you someone who …

b. Read the questions and underline the key words. In pairs, try to think of two words related to each one. Then skim the text and see if it contains any of these words.

c. For questions 1-15, choose from the houses (A-E). Some houses may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Which house would you recommend for someone who:

- likes the idea of a room that reminds them of the sea?
- generally has rather extreme tastes?
- enjoys gardening?
- wants to have a bathroom as part of each bedroom?
- insists on a private lifestyle?
- is in a hurry to change homes?
- likes a lot of natural sunlight?
- needs a more natural environment despite their urban lifestyle?
- needs two individual houses attached to each other?
- prefers a more unusual design?
- enjoys heat from a natural fire?
- appreciates the work of skilled carpenters?
- wants a house they can use as a business for tourists?

A A smart, local builder decided this small, unused Victorian hospital was an opportunity not to be missed! He set about changing it into two large, separate houses. If you are looking for something out of the ordinary, then you need to check these two exceptional developments. Each house has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a luxury open-plan kitchen and huge living room. Buy one of these houses and you're ready to move in immediately, without any delays, as they are already fitted with everything you will ever need, from a Jacuzzi to a dishwasher!

B This is a three-storey stone-built house enclosed within a walled garden, where a new buyer could grow his own vegetables. In 1980 the building was turned into a guesthouse with a lounge, and a large dining room with wooden walls. The kitchen is spacious and fully fitted with the latest equipment, having a small extra room leading from it which could be used as storage space. There are also five double bedrooms, each with its own bathroom.

C The outside of this particular house remains the same as when it was originally built. It is a large but simple building, typical of the period, with a twin staircase on either side of the main entrance. Its many windows give the building a really light, airy quality. It is a building of impressive architecture that adds a certain character to the area as a whole. On the ground floor, there is a long, open-plan kitchen-dining room which is fully equipped, as well as a luxurious sitting room. Meanwhile, the upstairs

All shapes and sizes

Have you ever considered moving away from the ordinary to the eccentric? Well, now is your chance to view a variety of unusual homes, from stone towers to Victorian hospitals.
16 Which one of the houses described in the texts is illustrated in the pictures? Which words in the description helped you decide?

17 a. Match column A with column B to form the collocations, then read the text again and check your answers.

A
- open-plan
- storage
- double
- main
- ground
- en-suite
- electronic
- open
- wall
- single

B
- fire
- floor
- lights
- gates
- kitchen
- entrance
- bathroom
- bedroom
- staircase
- wardrobe
- space

b. Use five of the collocations in Ex. 18a and make sentences about your ideal house.

35 consists of four, en-suite bedrooms which make life easier and more comfortable for any buyer. Each en-suite bathroom is in a different colour, according to the design and colour scheme of each bedroom.

D There is no other house like it in town! Here is the kind of unique building that the more eccentric buyer would be looking for. It is an unusual, round tower, which appears tiny from the outside, but on taking a closer look, one will notice three spacious bedrooms, flooded in light from the Gothic windows, two large bathrooms in which the traditional style has been kept. Meanwhile, downstairs, the kitchen, with its large workspaces and locally made-to-order cupboards, would please anyone with a keen interest in cookery. The high-ceilinged living room looks out over the local park area and so allows the owner his own little area of greenery while still living in the heart of the city.

E The outside of this house, which is covered in York stone, is approached from the road through electronic gates, allowing the buyer to have a high level of privacy. The downstairs includes a long kitchen with old wooden floors and matching shelves made by local craftsmen, which add to the general warmth of this home. The lounge has an extremely large, open fire from ceiling to floor for those winter nights! Upstairs, meanwhile, there are three, rather small bedrooms with single wardrobes and wall lights as well as a gleaming white bathroom with porthole windows giving the impression of being on board a ship!

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Listening

Tip

- When you complete sentences you should always make sure that the sentence is grammatically correct.
- You will need to fill in no more than 3 or 4 words, which should be taken from the recording exactly as you hear them.
- Numbers can be written either in words or as figures, e.g. two or 2.

18 a. You will hear part of a radio talk about how to choose houseplants. Before you listen, read the sentences and, in pairs try to complete them.

b. Now listen, and for questions 1–10, complete the sentences that summarise what the speaker says. You will need to write a word or short phrase in each box.

Before you get the plant, choose the

You must make sure there is enough

Check that plants have been well looked after at

Plants in poor condition mean the garden centre might not be

Choose plants with healthy

It could take for a plant to reach the size you want.

It may be better to buy a large plant even if it is

Do not buy plants that have just been put

It is not a good idea to buy plants in

You should look under the leaves for unwanted

c. Do you like the idea of houseplants in your house? Why (not)?