

UNUSUAL HOMES

This learning material is taken from Ready, an English-language magazine. It can be freely copied and distributed.



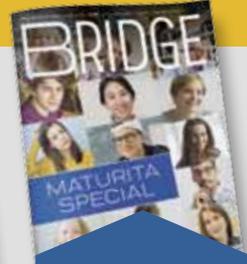
A0–A1
Primary
8–11-year-old students



A1–A2
Primary
10–13-year-old students



A2–B1
Primary and Secondary
13–16-year-old students



B1–B2
Secondary
16–19-year-old students

Unusual Homes

WHAT IS THE MOST UNUSUAL HOME YOU KNOW? I HAVE A FRIEND WHO LIVES ON A BOAT ON A RIVER, ALMOST OPPOSITE A CASTLE². PRETTY COOL, ISN'T IT? HERE ARE SOME OTHER UNUSUAL HOMES.

TASK 1 Match texts 1–4 with pictures A–D.

1 Narrow³ Houses

When I was a little child, my house was between two normal houses, but it was only two metres wide. In Warsaw, in Poland, is an even narrower house. Keret House is only *one* metre wide⁴. Officially it is “art” because it is not legal⁵ as “a home”, but someone lives there.

2 The Big Bus

You live in a house but travel on a bus. Two people in England made a bus into a home. Does that mean they live on a bus, or in a bus? I’m not sure. The bus-house has two bedrooms, a kitchen, a television room, a bar, a toilet and a bathroom.

3 Life Under a Hill⁶

The Hobbit House in Wales is like something from the books by J.R.R. Tolkien. It is under a hill. It was made from natural⁷ materials. It is very beautiful and was very cheap to make.

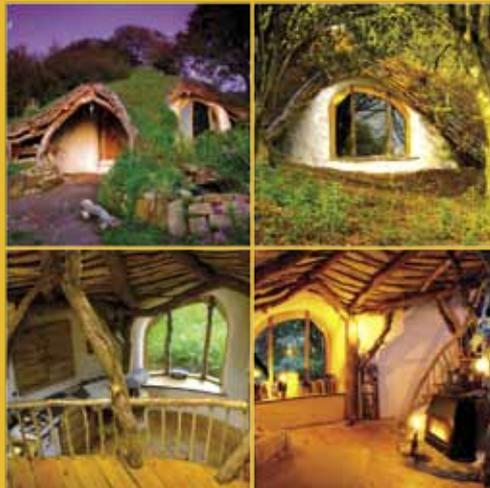
4 Behind the Times

Clock Tower in Brooklyn in New York has a tower⁸ with a big clock on each side. It’s called Clock Tower, so that is not a surprise. But it *is* a surprise that people live behind the clocks. The clock faces⁹ are glass. For the lucky people in this home, the clocks are windows.

A



B



D



C



CLASS CHAT

- ▶ Which house do you like best?
- ▶ Where would you like to live? Why?
- ▶ **Imagine**¹⁰ your dream house. Draw it.

Vocabulary can be found on p. 4.

TASK 2 Read the text. Read the sentences and think about the four houses. For which house is each sentence true? Circle the numbers. Some questions have more than one answer.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A The house can move to different places. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| B The windows of the house can tell you the time. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| C No one should live there (but someone does). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| D The house didn't cost a lot of money to build. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| E The house can be used for something more than living in. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| F The house is (or can be) in the countryside. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

TASK 3 Work with a partner. Choose one of the four unusual houses. Imagine you live there. What is it like? Talk about it with your partner, then answer the questions.

1 What is a typical day like in your new house?

2 What is different about living here compared to your old house?

3 Do you like your new house better than your old one? Why or why not?

TASK 4 **GUESSING GAME**
Work with a partner. Student A thinks about which of the four houses they'd like to live in, but doesn't tell Student B. Student B asks yes/no questions to try to guess the house, but they can't ask about the house! They can only ask questions about what Student A likes and doesn't like.

For example:

Student B: Do you like really big houses?

Student A: No, I don't.

Student B: Do you like living in the city?

Student A: No, I don't.

Student B: Do you like living in the countryside?

Student A: Yes, I do.

Student B: Do you like travelling?

Student A: No, I don't.

Student B: I think you want to live in the Hobbit House.

Student A: Yes, I do!



The instructions for the activities on pp. 1 & 2 can be found on p. 3.

HOW TO WORK WITH THE ACTIVITIES ON PP. 1 & 2

GOAL: Students:

- ✓ learn about different types of houses,
- ✓ practise reading,
- ✓ practise using vocabulary related to houses.

READING TIPS

- The first time you read, don't worry about understanding everything. Underline or circle important words you don't understand and find them in the Vocabulary box on p. 4 or in a dictionary.
- Break into pairs, or small groups and have each read about just one or two of the types of houses. Then teach the others about your houses. Use your own words.
- After you finish reading, tell a friend everything you remember about the four different houses. Use your own words.

TASKS 2-4

- Do the extra activities on p. 2. You can do them one by one, or separately in a random order.
- You can do Task 2 alone, or work with a partner. One person can look at the questions and the other person can look at the magazine. You can also try closing the magazine and answering the questions without looking, then use the magazine to check your answers afterwards.
- After you finish Task 3, talk to your partner about your dream house. Where is it? What does it look like? How big or small is it? What's special about it?
- After you finish Task 4, you can do it again with different partners. You can also think of a character you like from a film, book, TV series, or video game, and imagine you are that character. Choose what house that character would like to live in, and answer the questions as the character.

Teachers ordering a class subscription receive the following free teachers' package: a magazine, a CD, a Teachers' File, a poster and a calendar.



VOCABULARY



- 1 **unusual** [ʌn'ju:zuəl] neobvyklý, zvláštní
- 2 **castle** ['kɑ:səl] hrad, zámek
- 3 **narrow** ['nærəʊ] úzký
- 4 **wide** [waɪd] široký
- 5 **legal** ['li:gəl] zákonný, zákonem dovolený
- 6 **hill** [hɪl] kopec
- 7 **natural** ['nætʃərəl] přírodní
- 8 **tower** [taʊə(r)] věž
- 9 **face** [feɪs] ciferník
- 10 **to imagine** [ɪ'mædʒɪn] představit si

VOCABULARY



- 1 **unusual** [ʌn'ju:zuəl] ungewöhnlich
- 2 **castle** ['kɑ:səl] das Schloss
- 3 **narrow** ['nærəʊ] schmal
- 4 **wide** [waɪd] breit
- 5 **legal** ['li:gəl] legal, gesetzlich zulässig
- 6 **hill** [hɪl] der Hügel
- 7 **natural** ['nætʃərəl] natürlich
- 8 **tower** [taʊə(r)] der Turm
- 9 **face** [feɪs] das Zifferblatt
- 10 **to imagine** [ɪ'mædʒɪn] sich vorstellen