

**Types of houses:**

- a detached house - house not joined to other houses.
- a semi-detached house - house joined to one house.
- a bungalow - house with only one floor/storey.
- a terraced house - house joined to several houses to form a row.
- a cottage - small house in the country or village.
- a flat / an apartment (AmE) - a set of rooms for living in, especially on one floor of a building.
- a caravan - a wheeled vehicle for living or travelling in.

**Rooms/ parts at a home:**

balcony, bathroom, en-suite bathroom (=joined onto a bedroom), bedroom, dining room, hall, garage, (front/back) garden, gym, kitchen, kitchenette, library, living room/lounge/sitting-room, patio/terrace (=paved area between house and garden for sitting, eating, etc.), sauna, study/office, swimming-pool, toilet/WC.

door, window, the ceiling, the floor, a wall, a corridor, the roof, chimney, staircase, the ground/first/ second floor.

upstairs/ downstairs (adverbs): [The bedrooms upstairs have a lot of light.](#)

upstairs/ downstairs (adjectives): [There is a downstairs bathroom.](#)

**Describing houses and rooms:****1. Location:**

In the country/ In the city centre/ In a village /In a small town: [I live in a flat in the city centre.](#)

In the suburbs (=the area outside the city centre, usu. quite expensive)/ In a residential area.

It's in the west/south-east/north.

It's on the coast/ on the beach/ by the sea/in the mountains: [My parents have a second home on the coast.](#)

My flat is on the ground/first/second/top... floor of a building.

To be about 15 km from ...: [It's really convenient - it's only about 2 km from the city centre/from the shops.](#)

**2. Size:** be small, big, spacious, huge, enormous, (number) square metres/feet:

[The average American house size is more than 2,000 square feet.](#)

(one foot = about 30 centimetres).

**3. Age:** be new, old. It was built in ... 2003.**4. Number of rooms:** there are three bedrooms, one bathroom, two toilets, a kitchen...

**5. Style:** be classic, fashionable, modern, old-fashioned, simple, traditional, crowded with ...:

[Their home is a very modern 21<sup>st</sup> century house.](#)

[I love the old style and the space inside.](#)

[The living room is crowded with a lot of furniture and decorations.](#)

**6. Light:** be dark, light: [The kitchen is dark but spacious. In contrast, the bedroom is light.](#)

**7. Colour:** It's painted orange/ blue/ green ... It is decorated in white and green.

**8. Facilities:**

There is air conditioning/central heating; there is cable/satellite TV; there is Internet access/connection; there is parking space for two cars; there is a sauna; there is a security system; there is a (video) entryphone...

There are sports facilities (e.g. a gym, an indoor/outdoor swimming-pool...); there are solar panels.

The rooms are furnished with ...: **The sitting-room is furnished with a sofa and a coffee table.**

### 9. General characteristics:

To be comfortable/uncomfortable: **Their flat is more comfortable than my house.**

To be isolated, surrounded by (trees): **My house is surrounded by trees.**

The house has great views.

Doors and windows: The house has big/small doors; double-glazed windows; wood doors; PVC windows.

Floors: The house has tiled floors; parquet floors.

### 10. Furniture and objects at home:

**Kitchen appliances:** dishwasher, freezer, fridge, cooker, oven, washing machine, vacuum, hand mixer, mixer, microwave, toaster, deep fryer, sink.



dishwasher freezer fridge cooker and oven vacuum hand mixer mixer deep fryer

**In the bathroom/toilet:** shower, bath, Jacuzzi bath, washbasin, toilet/WC, toilet paper, mirror, bathroom cabinet, bathrobe, towel, hairdryer.

**In the bedroom:** bed, pillow, blanket, sheets, bedspread, duvet, duvet cover, mirror, dressing table, bedside table/night table, wardrobe/ fitted wardrobe/ a walk-in wardrobe, chest of drawers, alarm clock, carpet.



bed blanket bedspread duvet duvet cover dressing table bedside table wardrobe chest of drawers

**In the sitting-room/living room/lounge:** sofa, armchair, coffee table, fireplace, bookcase, clock, lamp, vase, picture, curtains, blind, cushion.

**In the garden:** bench, (fruit) trees, flower, plant, patio table, patio umbrella, lawn, fountain.

**Other household items:** desk, television, remote control, DVD player, camera, video camera, CD player, MP3 player, radio, stereo/hi-fi, computer, mouse, printer, laptop, telephone, mobile (phone).

### Describing a building:

**Introduction:** name the building (e.g. a cathedral, a church, a mosque, a museum, a palace, a tower, a castle, a theatre, an opera house, an auditorium...) and say where it is. Then say who designed it and when it was built:

**It was designed by ... (architect).**

**It was built in ... 1980.**

**Construction began in ... and finished in...**

**Describe the building outside:** size, style, colour, gardens...

**Describe the building inside:** different areas/rooms, light, colour, furniture, floors, windows, doors...

**Conclusion:** your final opinion about the building (explain why you like it (because there is a beautiful view from the building...) or how you feel there).

### Describing a place (e.g. where you live):

Location: Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is in the south-east of the country. It is situated on the coast.

Population: It has a population of ...: Porto has a population of 300,000 people.

People: polite/ rude -impolite, friendly/ unfriendly, funny/serious, patient/ impatient.

Main cultural facilities/tourist attractions: there is a carnival, a festival, a church, a park/ green space, a sports centre, a culture centre, a concert hall; there are museums, libraries, bookshops, good restaurants, cafés, bars...:

The biggest tourist attraction is ...: The biggest tourist attraction in Porto is the river. Lots of tourists go on boat trips.

... street has...: Princess street has lovely gardens, museums and shops.

The town centre has...: The town centre has a lot of museums and galleries.

There is a festival/carnival/ a theme park...: There is a festival in June called Sao Joao.

It is full of ... churches, museums, and (street) markets.

There are... lots of narrow streets, lots of historical monuments, outdoor bars and restaurants.

Evening entertainment: the night-life is excellent, e.g. there are pubs, (night)clubs, discos, cinemas, theatres... You can hear live music in many of the pubs.

Shopping facilities: there are (not) good shopping facilities: shopping malls, department stores, street markets, a variety of local shops (greengrocers', chemists, bakeries, flower shops...) and banks.

Traffic and public transport: there are (no) traffic problems. There are (not) different means of public transport, e.g. a bus/train station, an underground/tram system, a harbour/an airport. The public transport is (not) cheap.

Weather: the weather here is good/bad. The winter can be very wet/quite windy/ rainy. The summer is usually sunny but not too hot.

Best things about the place:

It's famous for...: Porto is famous for port wine.

It's great for...: It's great for walking around/ for going to the mountains or the beach.

The best thing is/things are...: I think the best things about Porto are the people and the atmosphere.

Your final opinion about the place: why you (don't) like it, how you feel there.

- The best time to visit the place is ... in August because there is a famous festival.

- Opposing adjectives to describe the place:

beautiful/ugly, boring/interesting and exciting, big/small, clean/ dirty - polluted, cheap/ expensive, crowded/ empty, old/ modern, popular with tourists/ touristy (negative), quiet / noisy, safe/ dangerous, rural/ urban...

- Other useful adjectives to describe the place:

It is a friendly, cosmopolitan, historical, industrial, romantic, working... town/city.

I love this town because although it's quite small, it's very safe and friendly.

- Your feelings: positive (comfortable, relaxed, happy, excited, proud...) or negative (afraid/ frightened/ scared/ terrified, sad/ unhappy, bored, depressed...):

I feel happy and relaxed when I'm there.

When it's raining, I feel depressed because I can't go out.

**COUNTRY VS. CITY:****ADVANTAGES OF THE COUNTRY:**

- There's no noise. / It's not noisy. / It's quiet so you can live without stress.
- There's no pollution, so there're no illnesses because of pollution.
- The environment is cleaner.
- There aren't traffic problems, for example, there aren't traffic jams.
- There're beautiful country/landscape views. / The landscape is more beautiful than in the city.
- The people are friendly and less stressed.
- Things are cheaper than in the city.
- If you live in a house, you can have pets, because there's a lot of space for them to run.
- You can grow your own vegetables and fruit.
- You can do a lot of sports and activities, like climbing, going trekking, going running, having a picnic or a barbecue, riding a horse or a bike, etc.

**Disadvantages:**

- If I work in the city, my house is far from my work.
- It can be a bit boring, because there aren't many cultural activities or an active night-life.
- There aren't many means of transport.
- A lot of public and private services can be far from your house.

**ADVANTAGES OF THE CITY:**

- There're a lot of shopping facilities, for example, there're markets, supermarkets, shopping centres, and local shops like clothes shops, shoe shops, chemists', greengrocers', bakers', etc.
- There're a lot of cultural activities, for instance, you can go to the theatre, the cinema, concerts, you can see musicals, you can visit museums, etc.
- All public and private services such as hospitals, primary and secondary schools, the university, the post office, the police station, the court, libraries, transport means, banks, travel agencies, etc. are near you.
- There's an active night-life, because there're a lot of pubs, bars, restaurants, discos...
- There are more job opportunities.

**Disadvantages:**

- It can be very noisy and polluted.
- There can be a lot of traffic problems.
- You could be a bit stressed. / It can be stressful.
- To practice sports you normally have to go to a gym, so you can't do sport in the open air.
- You can't grow vegetables or fruit at home, but you have to buy them in a supermarket.
- If you have a pet, you have to walk it every day.