

9 HOUSES

PAGES 80–81

affordable /ə'fɔ:(r)dəb(ə)/ Adjective

if something is *affordable*, it has a reasonable price that is not too expensive, so most people would be able to buy it

Collocates: affordable housing

they're looking for an affordable flat | there isn't enough affordable housing in the city | good quality products at affordable prices | health insurance simply isn't affordable for people on low wages

Verb: *afford*

we can't afford a holiday abroad on my salary

attic /'ætɪk/ Noun

in a house, the *attic* is the room just underneath the roof, often used for storing things

we keep all sorts of rubbish in the attic | you need a ladder to get into the attic | the hot water tank is in the attic

basement /'beɪsmənt/ Noun

a *basement* is a room or area in a building that is below the level of the ground outside

the basement was flooded again last week | our boiler is in the basement | there's a brick floor in the basement

compact /'kɒmpækt/ Adjective

if something is *compact*, it is small and does not use much space

the flat is nice and compact, so it's easy to keep clean | a compact bathroom | a compact office | both engines are compact and lightweight

convenient /kən'vi:nɪənt/ Adjective

something that is *convenient* helps you to do things easily. For example, if a place is *convenient* for the station, it is near the station so you can get there easily. If it is *convenient* to do something, then you can do it without any problems

the hotel was in the city centre, very convenient for the museums | the wide door makes it convenient for loading luggage into the van | shopping online is so convenient | the app is a convenient way to practise your Greek

Adverb: *conveniently* | Noun: *convenience* || Opposites – Adjective: *inconvenient* | Noun: *inconvenience*

the house is conveniently situated for the local shops | I enjoy the convenience of e-books, but still prefer paper copies | having to remember two passwords is really inconvenient | the low ceilings are an inconvenience for people over six feet tall

cramped /kræmpt/ Adjective

if a place is *cramped*, there is not enough space and it is uncomfortable to live or work there

the house is quite cramped with four of us living here | the office is a bit cramped | we work in cramped conditions | a cramped flat

envy /'envi/ Verb

if you *envy* someone, you think they are lucky to have something or be doing something and wish you could have it or do it too

Collocates: *envy someone something | envy someone for (doing) something*

I don't envy them all that work they have to do | I used to envy those pilots in the air force | she envied her sister for getting married | I envy you your courage

Noun: *envy* | Adjective: *envious* | Adjective: *enviable*

Collocates: *be envious of someone or something*

he never seemed to excite envy in his colleagues | a pang of envy (a small feeling of envy) entered my mind | she was envious of my financial success | he tried not to feel envious when Jack won the tournament | it was not an enviable task and I was glad Alec volunteered for it

face /feɪs/ Verb

to *face* someone or something or to *face* a particular direction means to be opposite them or to be looking in that direction

the living room faces south, so it gets a lot of light | she turned to face the class | I chose a hotel room facing the sea

fire /'faɪə(r)/ Noun

fire is the heat and flames are made when things burn

Collocates: *light a fire | set fire to something | put a fire out*

an open fire (in which coal or wood is burned inside a room) | it's cold – shall I light the fire? | a faulty electrical wire started the fire | protesters set fire to the embassy | call the fire brigade | try to put the fire out | forest fires can spread very quickly

heating /'hi:tɪŋ/ Noun uncount

the *heating* in a building is the equipment that provides heat for the building

Collocates: *central heating*

the house has got gas central heating | we pay £40 a month for the heating | rent is £700 and heating is extra | turn the heating on | shall I turn the heating up? (so that it is hotter) | we haven't got any heating at the moment | our heating bill was very high

Verb: *heat*

how much does it cost to heat this place?

potential /pə'tenʃ(ə)/ Noun uncount

if a place or person has *potential*, there is a big possibility that they can develop and become different or better in the future

Collocates: *reach/realise your (full/true) potential*

the house has got real potential | the area has enormous potential | he's only a young player, but he has potential | she hasn't reached her full potential yet

Adjective: *potential* | Adverb: *potentially*

he is thought of as a potential prime minister | we exhibited our work for potential employers | a potentially lucrative (well-paid) contract

roof /ru:f/ Noun

the roof of a building is the top surface that stops rain coming in

the roof is leaking | the wind blew the roof off the house | there's a cafe on the roof terrace (a flat area on the roof where you can sit) | a door that leads out to the roof

run-down /'rʌndaʊn/ Adjective

a building that is *run-down* is not in good condition because it is old and hasn't been looked after well. You can also say that an area of a town or city is *run-down* *when we bought the house, it was old and run-down | the flat's very run-down and needs a lot of work | a run-down block of flats | a run-down area with lots of social problems*

separate /'sep(ə)rət/ Adjective

if things are *separate*, they are not together or joined to each other

we wanted the children to have separate rooms | they work in separate offices | keep work and pleasure separate | hotel staff use a separate entrance

Adverb: *separately* | Verb: *separate*

always wash coloured clothes separately from the whites | if two students are talking, the teacher might separate them | the brothers were separated and sent to different schools

spacious /'speɪʃəs/ Adjective

if a room or building is *spacious*, it is big and has a lot of space in it

the rooms are light and spacious | a lovely spacious living room | their flat is very spacious | spacious new offices

tiled /taɪld/ Adjective

a floor, roof, or wall that is *tiled* is covered in square, flat pieces of baked clay

the kitchen has a tiled floor | the bathroom is fully tiled

Noun: *tile* | Verb: *tile*

Collocates: floor/wall tiles | roof tiles

a factory that produces tiles | we used black and white floor tiles in the bathroom | several roof tiles came loose in the storm | we're going to tile the lower half of the walls

PAGES 82–83

conflict /'kɒnflɪkt/ Noun

conflict or a *conflict* is violent fighting between groups of people or countries

Collocates: armed conflict

in any armed conflict there will be civilian casualties | conflicts erupted in the 1850s, resulting in a number of wars | tensions increased and came close to provoking an international conflict

crash /kræʃ/ Verb

if prices *crash*, they drop a lot very quickly because people suddenly stop buying things or do not want to

pay so much money for them. If a country's economy *crashes*, it is badly affected and starts to fail

there's a risk that house prices will crash | the stock market crashed in 1929

due to /'dju: tu/ Preposition

if something happens *due to* something else, it happens because of it

the crime rate is falling due to better policing | the match was cancelled due to rain | the planet is warming due to climate change | due to illness in the family, the shop will be closed today

experience /ɪk'spiəriəns/ Verb

if you *experience* a particular situation or problem, it happens to you or affects you

China is not the only country experiencing these problems | the city is experiencing a rapid increase in population | do you experience difficulty concentrating? | he experienced difficulties with his eyes

Collocates: have an experience | an experience of/with something

a lot of people we've spoken to have had a similar experience | it was his first experience of being in a foreign country | that's not the first time we've had a bad experience with that company | it must have been a fascinating experience for him

fail /feɪl/ Verb

if something *fails* to happen, it does not happen. If you *fail* to do something, you do not do it

Collocates: fail to do something | fail in something

over 70% fail to reach their target | he failed to recognise her at first | he failed to turn up to the meeting | he failed in his attempt to become a millionaire | the brakes on the car failed (suddenly wouldn't work) | his eyesight's failing (getting weaker) | the business is failing (not doing well)

Noun: *failure*

Collocates: failure to do something

he was criticised for his failure to communicate with his colleagues | the whole project ended in failure

gap /gæp/ Noun

a *gap* is a very big difference between two situations, groups of people, or ideas

the growing gap between the rich and the poor (the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer) | there's still a pay gap between men and women | a skills gap (the difference between the number of skilled people that are needed and the number there actually are)

goal /gəʊl/ Noun

your *goals* are the things you want to achieve in your life

Collocates: achieve/accomplish a goal

he has worked hard to achieve his goals | my goal is to be a senior lecturer by the time I'm 35 | write out a plan of how you can reach your goals | make sure your goals are realistic and achievable

hit /hɪt/ Verb

to *hit* a particular level on a scale means to reach it

the housing market has hit the bottom | sales have hit one million units a month | petrol prices hit a peak (reached their highest price before falling again) of £1.30 a litre

immigration /ˌɪmɪˈɡreɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

immigration is the process in which people move into a country from another country in order to live and work there

there's been a sharp rise in immigration | the government has introduced new restrictions on immigration | immigration control (the place at the border where you have to show your passport) | immigration will be an important issue during the election

Noun: *immigrant*

the government is trying to prevent illegal immigrants from getting in | this country has always welcomed immigrants

investment /ɪnˈves(t)mənt/ Noun

investment is the process of buying shares in a company in the hope that they will pay you money regularly from their profits. An investment is also something you buy now because you think it will increase in value

Collocates: a good investment

he works as an investment analyst | buying a house is a good long-term investment | she bought the painting as an investment

Verb: *invest* | Noun: *investor*

Collocates: invest in something

should I invest in property? | invest money in the stock market | we want to attract foreign investors

WORD BUILDING: NOUNS THAT END WITH -MENT

We can make nouns from some verbs by adding the suffix **-ment**, as in **investment**:

appointment: *make an appointment with the doctor / keep your appointment (go to it)*

attachment: *an email attachment / send the attachment in a different format*

equipment: *high-tech equipment / the job requires specialist equipment*

improvement: *make steady improvement / he's showing some improvement*

management: *they criticized his poor management / management skills*

treatment: *be given special treatment*

However, just because a noun ends in **-ment**, it does not always mean you can remove the **-ment** to make a verb. For example, **environment** is a noun, but **environ** is NOT a verb!

investor /ɪnˈvestə(r)/ Noun

an investor is someone who buys shares in a company in the hope that they will receive money regularly from the profits. An investor is also someone who buys something because they think it will increase in value

investors from abroad are buying up a lot of property | we want to attract foreign investors

Verb: *invest* | Noun: *investment*

Collocates: invest in something | a good investment

should I invest in property? | invest money in the stock market | buying a house is a good long-term investment | she bought the painting as an investment

largely /ˈlɑː(r)dʒli/ Adverb

you use largely when introducing the main reason for something, although there are also other reasons

it was largely because of the economic problems in neighbouring countries | the delay was largely due to a shortage of bricks | the economic crisis is largely responsible for the slow growth | he failed the exam largely because he hadn't revised for it

middle-class /mɪd(ə)l 'klaːs/ Adjective

the middle class is one of the groups which people in a society are divided into according to their jobs, education, background, etc. People from that class are middle-class

wages are increasing for middle-class people | a middle-class area of Leeds | she was brought up in a middle-class family

Noun: *middle class*

the middle classes were badly affected by the tax rises

pray /preɪ/ Verb

if you pray, you speak to the god that you believe in. To pray for something also means to hope very much that it will happen

Collocates: pray that | pray for something

people should be praying that prices will fall | I'm praying for a fine day tomorrow | he went into the church to pray

privacy /ˈprɪvəsi/ Noun uncount

privacy is a state in which no one can see you or know what you are doing

many people will fight to protect their privacy | the high fence around the garden ensured a degree of privacy | some like having neighbours nearby, while others like the idea of complete privacy | I can say what I want in the privacy of my own home

Adjective: *private*

she's a very private person (she never says much about herself to anyone) | he has the right to a private life (to live without people watching and reporting on what he does)

property /ˈprɒpə(r)ti/ Noun

property is land and buildings

property prices are high in London | I recommend you invest in property | the property market is booming now | you mustn't smoke on any part of the company property | the property was valued at £1.5 million | the sign said "private property – keep out"

protest /prəˈtest/ Verb

if people protest, they say very forcefully that they do not agree with a plan or situation

Collocates: protest against/about something

many local people protested about the new building plans | they are protesting about low wages | a big demonstration protesting against the government | the minister protested strongly against the proposal

Noun: *protest* | Noun: *protester*

a mass protest by students | she went on a protest march | protesters set fire to the embassy | police refused to negotiate with the protesters

rate /reɪt/ Noun

the *rate* at which something happens is the number of times it happens over a certain period of time

Collocates: birth rate | death rate | divorce rate | crime rate

the crime rate is going down finally | the divorce rate in the north is much higher than in the south | the overall death rate was 1 per 1000

rising /ˈraɪzɪŋ/ Adjective

something that is *rising* is getting bigger in number, size, or value

they're enjoying better conditions and rising salaries | rising sea levels are a concern | rising fuel costs are affecting all families

Verb: *rise* | Noun: *rise*

average salaries rose 2% last year | we expected to see a rise in the number of students

sharp /ʃɑː(r)p/ Adjective

a *sharp* change in the rate or size of something is a sudden and big change in it

Collocates: a sharp rise/increase

a sharp rise in immigration | there was a sharp increase in prices last month | a sharp drop in unemployment

Adverb: *sharply*

prices rose sharply | traffic to the website fell sharply over Christmas

shortage /ˈʃɔː(r)tɪdʒ/ Noun

if there is a *shortage* of something, there is not enough of it

Collocates: a shortage of something

there is a shortage of housing in the UK | there are serious food and water shortages | a desperate shortage of medical supplies | a serious shortage of teachers | many companies are facing severe staff shortages

Adjective: *short*

Collocates: be short of something

I'm a bit short of cash at the moment. Can you lend me £10? | if you're short of carrots, just use potato

slow down /ˈsləʊ ˈdaʊn/ Verb

if a process or activity *slows down*, it starts to happen less actively. If a country's economy *slows down*, there is less economic activity and businesses start to fail and people lose their jobs

the market is beginning to slow down | economic growth slowed down in the second half of the year | there's no evidence that climate change is slowing down

Noun: *slowdown*

Collocates: an economic slowdown

Africa is feeling the full impact of the global economic slowdown

steadily /ˈstedɪli/ Adverb

if something changes *steadily*, it changes constantly and gradually, and usually at the same rate

house prices have been rising steadily for the last ten years | unemployment has fallen steadily | taxes have risen steadily over recent years | temperatures will go up steadily throughout the week

Adjective: *steady*

a steady increase in prices | our policies will ensure steady growth for the economy

target /ˈtɑː(r)ɡɪt/ Noun

a *target* is something you are trying to achieve in your life or an objective you have as part of your job

Collocates: reach a target | miss a target | set a target

over 70% of students fail to reach their earnings target | our target is to reduce inflation to less than 5% | a meeting to set our targets for next year | our initial target was to raise £3m | he missed his sales target for March

PAGES 84–85

access /ˈækses/ Noun uncount

access to somewhere or something is the fact of being able to go there or use it

Collocates: access to somewhere

compact room with access to own kitchen facilities | access to the car park is via a staircase | the library provides access to thousands of books | access is limited to employees only | a hotel that offers free Wi-Fi access

Verb: *access*

the information can be instantly accessed and easily examined | guests can access several tennis courts and the swimming pool

authorities /ˈɔːθərətɪz/ Noun plural

the *authorities* are official institutions such as central and local government who are able to make laws and decide how a country, town, or city should be run

the authorities have done a lot to reduce the crime rate | most local authorities are responsible for planning decisions | the authorities failed to deal with the economic crisis | airport authorities announced that night flights would be permitted during the summer

awkward /ˈɔːkwə(r)d/ Adjective

an *awkward* situation is one in which people feel embarrassed because it is difficult for them all to do what they want to do, and they do not want to make things difficult for the others

it's a bit awkward with three people trying to use the kitchen at once | it was quite awkward having his ex-wife at the wedding | she thought it would be too awkward if all her friends were there too

Adverb: *awkwardly*

we shook hands a little awkwardly, then left

cover /ˈkʌvə(r)/ Verb

if one thing *covers* something else, it is on top of the other thing so that it is difficult to see what is underneath

Collocates: cover something with something | be covered in something

the streets are covered in litter | the floor was covered with the most beautiful carpet | cover the table with a cloth before you start painting on it

dead /ded/ Adjective

if a place is *dead*, it is not very lively

it's pretty dead in the centre after 8 in the evening | I couldn't wait to leave Hull – it was dead

decorated /'dekəreɪtɪd/ Adjective

something that is *decorated* has been made to look beautiful by being painted or by having pretty things added to it

a huge and beautifully decorated house | the church was beautifully decorated | a handsomely decorated theatre

Verb: *decorate* | Noun: *decoration*

it took us all weekend to decorate the downstairs of the house | we need to decorate the hall and the living room | the decoration in the bedrooms was a bit tired and needed redoing | why don't we put up some party decorations?

distance /'dɪstəns/ Noun

the *distance* between two things is the amount of space between them. If something is *in the distance*, you can see it or hear it, but it is a long way from where you are

our flat is within walking distance of the college (it is easy to walk there) | the school is quite a distance from here | I hate driving long distances | I could see some people in the distance

Adjective: *distant*

he heard the distant sound of the motorway (the sound was coming from a long way away)

downstairs /,daʊn'steə(r)z/ Adverb

if something is *downstairs*, it is on the ground floor level of a building or on a level below where you are

both the tables are needed downstairs | we have the third floor of the house, and there are two other families downstairs | can you run downstairs and see if she's in kitchen | it was nearly eleven o'clock when he finally came downstairs for breakfast

Adjective: *downstairs*

the three downstairs rooms were all flooded | there's a bathroom upstairs, and another downstairs toilet

filthy /'fɪlθi/ Adjective

if something is *filthy*, it is extremely dirty

the streets were filthy and covered in litter | the whole place was muddy and everything got filthy | a filthy T-shirt | his clothes looked filthy | the house was absolutely filthy

Noun: *filth*

everything was covered in filth | the whole place was full of filth and dirt

immigrant /'ɪmɪgrənt/ Noun

an *immigrant* is someone who has left their own country and now lives in another country

a lot of immigrants have settled here | the government is trying to prevent illegal immigrants from getting in | this country has always welcomed immigrants | since 1970, the immigrant population has doubled

Noun: *immigration*

there's been a sharp rise in immigration | the government has introduced new restrictions on immigration

isolated /'aɪsəleɪtɪd/ Adjective

an *isolated* place is far away from other buildings, shops, towns etc. If you feel *isolated*, you are lonely because you are in place that is a long way from your friends or family

you'll be a bit isolated without a car | she felt very isolated when her parents moved to Scotland | they live in an isolated village | I felt lonely and isolated in my first weeks at university

Noun: *isolation*

I didn't like the isolation of working from home | immigrants experience isolation to start with

litter /'lɪtə(r)/ Noun uncount

litter is rubbish that is dropped in public places and which makes those places look untidy

the streets are covered in litter | don't drop litter in the street | pick your litter up | a litter bin | clear up all the litter in the park

multicultural /,mʌlti'kʌltʃərəl/ Adjective

a place that is *multicultural* has people from a lot of different countries and cultures living and working together

London is so much more multicultural than it was in the 1930s | a multicultural classroom with kids of eight nationalities studying together | an exciting multicultural city like San Francisco | Unity House is the college's multicultural centre

naked /'neɪkɪd/ Adjective

if you are *naked*, you have no clothes on

Collocates: *stark naked*

you could go around naked and no one would see you | the child was naked and dirty | he found the old man stark naked and alone | his naked body was found in woods behind the factory

offer /'ɒfə(r)/ Verb

to *offer* something means to have it available for people, either as part of a service or as part of what someone is buying or renting

large, old house offering quiet, comfortable accommodation | the university offers courses in French, Russian and German | the area offers five campsites and two hostels for tourists | the hotel offers free Wi-Fi in all rooms | my employer offers health insurance for all employees

settle /'set(ə)l/ Verb

if you *settle* somewhere, you start to live there permanently

a lot of immigrants have settled here recently | he settled in Birmingham after the war | they settled just north of London | between 1826 and 1852, many Europeans settled in North America

Noun: *settler*

European settlers started to arrive in 1793

tenant /ˈtenənt/ Noun

a *tenant* is someone who pays rent to live in a house or flat, or in a room in a house or flat

Anastasia is looking for a tenant | the previous tenant had left the place in a mess | we've had four different tenants here in the last three years | a solicitor specialising in the rights of tenants

EXERCISES

PREPOSITIONS

A Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

- 1 We keep all sorts of rubbish the attic.
- 2 Should I invest property?
- 3 Many local people protested the new building.
- 4 I could see some people the distance.
- 5 The library provides access thousands of books.
- 6 In the morning, the car was covered snow.

B Choose the correct preposition.

- 1 They bought the house *for / as* an investment.
- 2 There's still a pay gap *between / into* men and women.
- 3 I'm praying *for / with* a fine day tomorrow.
- 4 He settled *for / in* Birmingham after the war.
- 5 There is a serious shortage *of / for* housing.
- 6 The shops are a short distance *of / from* here.

WORD FAMILIES

C Complete the expressions with the correct form of the word in bold.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 pay £40 for the heating | it's expensive to |
| 2 sleep in separate beds | her parents are now |
| 3 buy new tiles for the kitchen | the floor is |
| 4 prices here are affordable | we can't these prices |
| 5 she envies her sister | be of somebody |
| 6 a good investment for the future | want to in property |
| 7 the business is failing | the business ended in |
| 8 immigrants have settled here | a rise in |

COLLOCATIONS

D Complete the sentences with the correct noun from the verbs in brackets. Look up the verbs if you need help.

- 1 I'm disappointed by his to follow my advice. (fail)
- 2 There was a big crowd of outside the school. (protest)
- 3 European started to arrive in 1793. (settle)
- 4 We want to attract foreign (invest)
- 5 We had a bad the last time we went there. (experience)

E Match the two halves of the collocations. Look up the nouns (a-e) if you need help.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1 affordable | a) housing |
| 2 the central | b) rate |
| 3 the divorce | c) conflict |
| 4 a long-term | d) heating |
| 5 armed | e) investment |

F Complete the collocations with nouns from the unit.

- 1 a ladder to get into the a _ _ _ c
- 2 a flood in the b _ _ _ _ t
- 3 a rise in p _ _ _ _ y prices
- 4 a drop in the crime r _ _ e
- 5 a sharp rise in i _ _ _ _ _ n
- 6 a fascinating e _ _ _ _ _ e
- 7 a serious s _ _ _ _ e of housing
- 8 within walking d _ _ _ _ e
- 9 pick up your l _ _ _ r
- 10 turn the h _ _ _ _ g up

G Match the adjectives from the unit in the box with the definitions.

filthy	run-down	dead	isolated	separate	rising
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- 1 far away from other buildings, shops, towns etc.
- 2 not very lively
- 3 extremely dirty
- 4 getting bigger in number, size, or value
- 5 not together or joined to each other
- 6 not in good condition