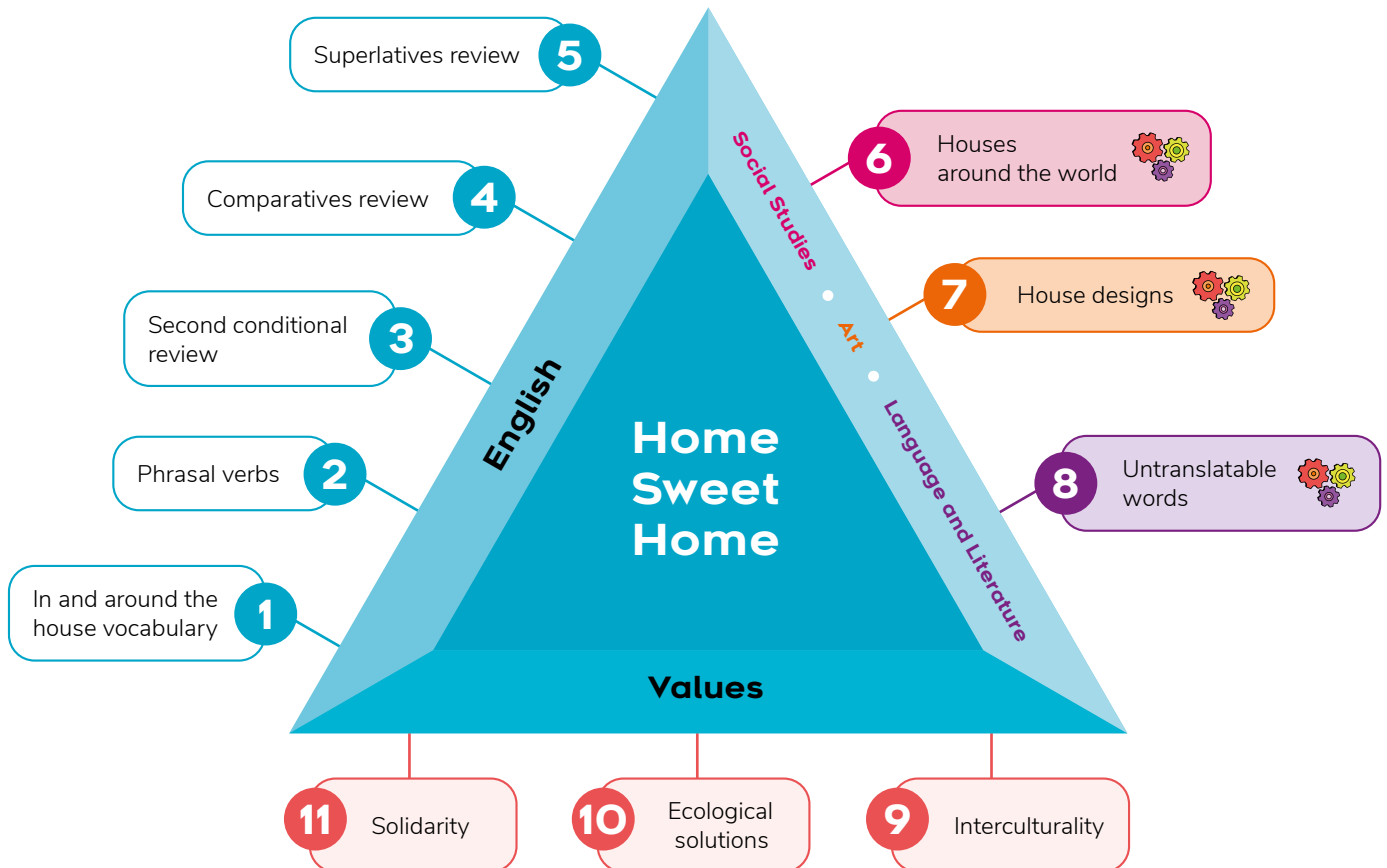


English Pedagogical Module 5

What makes a house a home?

Curricular Threads: Communication and Cultural Awareness, Oral Communication, Reading, Writing, Language Through the Arts

Third Course BGU



You have probably heard these two common English words before: “house” and “home”. But do you know the difference between the two? “House” refers to the physical structure where a person lives: it has walls, windows, a door, a roof, and other parts. “Home” is much more abstract. It can refer to a building but also any place that a person considers that they belong. Your home can be a city, a country, a park, school...anywhere you feel comfortable and welcome. As the famous American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: “A house is made with walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams.”



Where is your house? Where is your home?

Communication and Cultural Awareness



Social Studies

Value: Interculturality

How would you describe a typical house in your region?

Culture

Here are some ways to say the word “house” in different languages:

Arabic → منزل [manzil]

Swahili → nyumba

Filipino → bahay

Swedish → hus

Kichwa → wasi

Chinese → 屋 [wū]

German → Haus

Italian → casa

French → maison

Polish → dom

Lithuanian → namas

Greek → σπίτι [spíti]

Finnish → talo

Houses Around the World

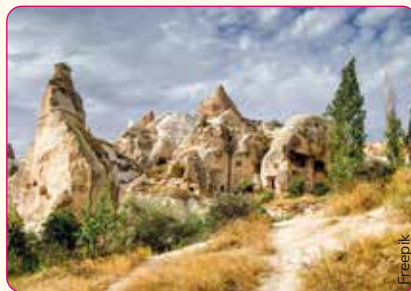
Talo, maison, dom, casa, house... Like languages, houses vary a lot in different parts of the world. Depending on the climate of the region, materials that **inhabitants** have available, and tradition, a house can take on very different forms around the world.

For example, in Turkey you can find rock houses, which are made from the rock left from ancient volcanic eruptions. In Central Asia, some people live in *yurts*, which are **moveable** circular houses usually covered by animal skin that are mostly used by nomads. Houseboats can be found in London and Amsterdam, but the ones in Kerala, India are probably the most elegant.

Across the United States you can find many different types of houses. In the Southwest, there are traditional Native American homes made from adobe. Their thick walls protect against the heat. On the other hand, in the US state of Alaska and in Canada, you can find igloos, which are houses made out of snow and ice.

Houses can tell us a lot about the history and culture of people from different places. They are a world treasure!

Adapted from: <https://bit.ly/2FXC9jf>



Vocabulary

inhabitants. people who live in a place

moveable. able to be moved, mobile



Discuss the following questions in small groups.

1. Which of the houses described would you like to spend a night in? Why?
2. What are some typical materials used to build houses in Ecuador?

Oral Communication

What do all houses have in common?

My Home Is Your Home

As a class, brainstorm all of the words that you can think of that have to do with houses. Think of parts of the house, rooms, furniture. See how many words you can come up with as a class.

Listen to two friends talk about their houses. Based on what they say, decide who would say each of the following sentences: Andy, Meghan, both, or neither.

1. I just moved to a new house. _____
2. My house has two floors. _____
3. My house has three bedrooms. _____
4. I live across from a park. _____
5. My house has a study. _____
6. My garden is not big. _____
7. I have fruit trees in my garden. _____
8. I have a big garage. _____

Culture

In the United States, you will hear many English speakers say: “*Mi casa es su casa.*” This is a phrase that North Americans adopted from the Spanish language to express to a guest: “I want you to feel comfortable and welcome at my house.” The English translation would be: “My home is your home”, but it doesn’t have the same warmth as it does in Spanish!



Interesting Facts

In the United States and many other English-speaking countries, the ground floor is the same as the first floor, and the next level is called the second floor.



In small groups, discuss where you would like to live in the future. Consider these questions:

- Would you like to stay in your city or town, or move to another one? Why?
- Would you consider moving to another country? Why or why not?
- Would you like to live in the mountains or near the ocean?
- Is it important for you to have green space around your house, or are you happy with cement?

Reading

What do you think an architect does?

Architects



As a class, make a list of all the people who are involved in building a house, from the plans to the final touches of the interior. Do you know any people who do these jobs? Would you like to have one of them?

Many people think that architects are simply responsible for designing a house or building. But there is much more that **goes into** being an architect. They also must pay attention to public safety while the construction is taking place and **oversee** the project. They are involved in every phase of the construction, from the idea of the building to the completed structure.

The work of an architect can be divided into three main components: design, documentation, and construction. First, the architect has to draw the design of the building. Sometimes the client has particular ideas in mind, and sometimes the architect can work alone with his imagination. In the documentation phase, a lot needs to be written on paper. This can include redrawing, redesigning, writing budgets, and finally making the construction documents. In the construction phase, the architect must constantly visit the site where the building is being built so that he or she can approve of the work being done and solve any problems that may **arise**.

Being an architect can be challenging and competitive. You can study at the university to become an architect, but much of what an architect knows about the field is learned on the job through experience. If you have a good imagination, a good sense of space and structure, and like to design new buildings, maybe this career path is for you!

Adapted from: <https://bit.ly/3grgZXm>

Vocabulary

goes into. is involved in

oversee. supervise

arise. come up, appear



Answer the following questions based on what you read.

1. Name and describe in your own words the three components of being an architect.

2. What characteristics should you have to be an architect? Do you think you would be a good one?

Writing

What is special about your house?

A Descriptive Paragraph

In groups of 4-5 students, make a list of the words you need to describe a house. Organize the words in the chart below.

Rooms	Exterior	Furniture	Adjectives (descriptive words)



Using the words above, you are going to write a descriptive paragraph about the place where you live. Think of a logical way to organize your description. You can start with the outside, then go inside, or vice-versa. You can start with a general description and then describe every room. It's your decision; just be sure that it's logical.

Be sure to include a topic sentence at the beginning to catch your reader's attention and a concluding sentence at the end. Use a lot of descriptive adjectives to give your reader a better idea of your house. Write 90-100 words.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tip

In a descriptive paragraph, it is important to use a lot of adjectives to make your description better. We can use adverbs to intensify the adjectives.

My house is extremely old.

The second floor gets incredibly hot when it is sunny.

Exchange your paragraph with a partner. Read their paragraph. On a blank piece of paper, try to draw their house the way it is described in the paragraph. Then give your drawing to your partner to check and see how well you did!

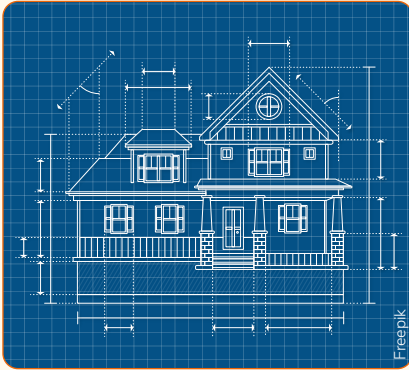
Language Through the Arts



Art

Do you know what a blueprint is?

Blueprints



You probably recognize two words in the word “blueprint”: *blue* and *print*. Can you guess what blueprints are? They are the drawings that architects do to design a building. But the name “blueprint” isn’t being used much anymore. These drawings are now referred to as *construction documents*, *drawings*, or *plans*. But originally, when they were first invented in 1842, they were blue because of the chemicals that were used in the special paper. When it was exposed to light, the paper turned blue and the lines on the paper were white. Now that there are modern printing methods, architects don’t need to use blueprints anymore and can work with computer programs to do their designs.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3hslMJq>

After reading the text, answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What is a blueprint? (in your own words) _____

2. How did blueprints get their name? _____

3. Do architects still use blueprints? _____



Now it's your turn to be an architect for a moment and draw your own design for a house or building. Use the space below. When you have finished, explain to the class your idea. Whose is the most creative?

Oral Communication

Where is "home" for you?

Home Is Where the Heart Is



Think about your home; not your house necessarily, but where you really feel at home. It can be a specific place, a city, somewhere outdoors... In small groups, discuss these places. Describe why they are special. Ask each other questions for more details.



Chicago



Quito

Interesting Facts

English has a word to describe the feeling of missing a place that you consider home: homesick. If you are far from the place you call home, you can feel homesick or have homesickness.

Janine sometimes feels homesick for Chicago.

People have homesickness when they feel nostalgic for a place that they call home.



Listen to the recording and answer the questions according to what you hear.

1. What two cities does the author consider "home"? _____ and _____
2. What are some things the author likes about the first city? _____, _____, _____
3. When did she move to her second home? _____
4. What are some things she appreciates about her second home? _____, _____, _____
5. Why does she consider herself to be fortunate? _____



Discuss the following questions in small groups.

- Do you consider yourself to have two homes? Explain.
- Do you know anyone who is originally from your hometown but has lived somewhere else for some years? How do they feel?
- About people who have many homes, Miriam Adeney once said: "You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart always will be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place." What do you think about this?



Vocabulary

countless. a lot, too many to count

adoptive. a person or place that receives someone

elsewhere. somewhere else, in a different place

Do you know anything about interior design?

Culture

The concept of *feng shui* (pronounced “fung shway”) comes from China. Literally translated into English, it means “wind and water”. It was actually developed thousands of years ago. At first, it was a secret in China, known only by the most important scientists. However, recently in the past decades it has become a popular way of arranging houses in many places all over the world.

Grammar Note

Notice the words in the text in light blue. These are called **phrasal verbs**. Phrasal verbs are phrases that indicate action, composed of a main verb and a particle, which is usually a preposition. Some phrasal verbs are **separable**, meaning that an object can be placed between the verb and particle, and some are **inseparable**, meaning that nothing can be placed between the verb and particle. There is no general rule for this, you must see how each phrasal verb functions in context in order to know if it is separable or inseparable.

Can you guess the meanings of the phrasal verbs in the text by using the context? Your teacher will help you.

Feng Shui

Feng shui is an ancient technique used to create harmony in a space. It promotes good health, prosperity, and well-being based on energy flow through a house, room, building, or garden. This energy is known as *qi*, pronounced “chee”.

Three important components of *feng shui* can be **broken down into** the *yin yang*, the five elements, and the cardinal directions. In the *yin yang*, *yin* represents feminine and passive energy, while *yang* represents masculine energy which is hot. The five elements – earth, wind, fire, water, and wood – are also crucial in establishing harmony. Finally, the 8 cardinal directions – north, south, east, west, northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest – also **take on** an important role in establishing a harmonious environment.

There are many tips to arrange your house using *feng shui*. Sharp edges can **slow energy down**, so there should be plants around them. You should **cut back on** having too many things, because this also interrupts energy flow. Busy streets and intersections create too much energy; using a fountain or a mirror near your front door can help **keep it from** entering. The bathroom is the most *yin* room in the house because it has water, so you can **set up** *yang* elements like candles or bright colors in there.

There are many other tips to make a house harmonious according to *feng shui*. The internet has plenty of other resources if you believe in this practice!

Adapted from: <https://bit.ly/3aUcWS2>



In small groups, discuss your opinion about *feng shui*. Do you want to try it at your house? Why or why not?



Draw part of a house according to the recommendations of *feng shui*. You may need to look for more information on the internet to make your drawing.

What do you do at home to help the environment?

Being Eco-Friendly in Your Own House

Do you think that the efforts of one person can make a positive or negative difference in the environment? Why? How? Discuss this as a class.

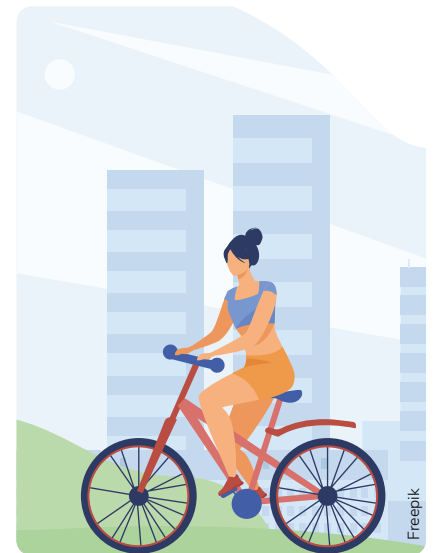


Interesting Facts

Not only can you make your house more eco-friendly, you can also make your trip to and from your house easier on the environment! How? Use a bike! More and more big cities in the world are using bikes as their main means of transportation to get from one place to another. In Quito, for example, there are special lanes designed for bikes on busy streets, and parts of the city close to cars on Sundays to allow bike riders to have the whole street!

Listen to a person give tips on how to make your house more environmentally friendly. Fill in the blanks with one word.

1. It's better to wash your clothes in _____ water.
2. It's more eco-friendly to let your clothes dry outside instead of using a _____.
3. _____ bulbs are much more energy-efficient than regular light bulbs.
4. It's important to _____ plastics, paper, glass, and metal.
5. Natural cleaning products don't have _____ that can hurt you.



Listen to the recording again. In small groups, discuss the following questions.

- What tips do you think you can apply in your house starting today?
- Are there any tips that the person didn't mention? Can you think of others that you already do at home or that you could do in the future?

Go home and try to implement one of the tips your heard in the listening during the next week. Take a picture of your effort and bring it to class to explain it.

Vocabulary

dryer. a machine used to dry your clothes

light bulb. a glass object that gives light

hang. to suspend in the air, usually from something

Language Through the Arts



Art

Do you like to be creative with home decorations?

Interior Designers



Did you know that in some places, there are professionals who are dedicated to designing the inside of houses? They are called interior designers. They help people to decide on all the aspects of the inside of their house. For example, if the house is unfinished, the designer can advise the owner about what floor goes best in what spaces, combined with what paint color, and what the best **light fixtures** would be for the space. They can also give advice about what **couches** go with different rooms, what **window treatments** to use, what **coffee tables**, chairs, and **end tables** go in the family room, what table to put in the dining room or kitchen, and even how to arrange your **study**. They are creative, artistic professionals with a lot of vision!



Vocabulary

light fixture. type of lamp

couches. sofas

window treatments. curtains or something else to cover windows

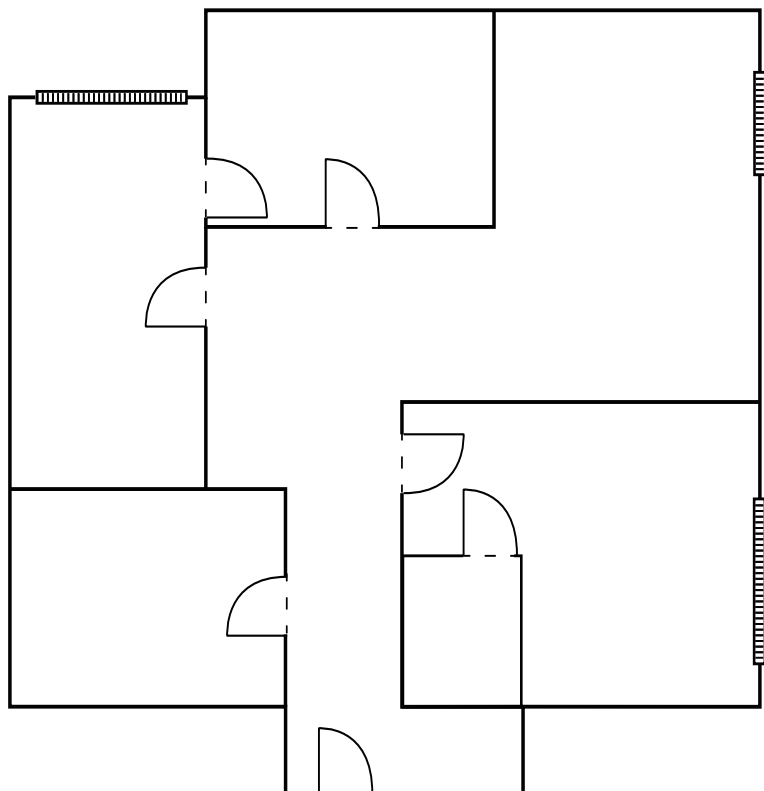
coffee tables. main table in a family or living room

end table. small table in a family or living room

study. a room in the house usually used for studying or working

matches. combines or goes together well

Imagine you are an interior designer and have to design the inside of this house. Label each of the rooms and include furniture and details about floors and lights. Use your imagination, but be sure it **matches** well!



Oral Communication

Have you ever heard the word “Neverland”?

Neverland Ranch

As a class, discuss the following questions.

1. Where do you think most famous people live?
2. What are famous people's houses like?
3. Would you like to be famous and have an enormous house? Why or why not?

Listen to the recording about Neverland Ranch and decide if each of the following sentences are **True (T)** or **False (F)** based on what you hear.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Neverland Ranch is in the state of California. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 2. Neverland mansion has 9 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 3. There are two movie theaters. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 4. Neverland has a lake and a pool. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 5. Neverland costs millions of dollars. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |

Listen to the audio again and try to draw what you imagine Neverland Ranch looks like below. Then compare your drawings with your classmates. Whose seems the most accurate?

Culture

Michael Jackson was an American pop singer who was popular during the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s. He was one of ten children, and nine of them were in the music industry. His nickname was the King of Pop. Some of his most favorite songs were “Black or White”, “Billie Jean”, and “Heal the World”. He died unexpectedly at the age of 50 in 2009.



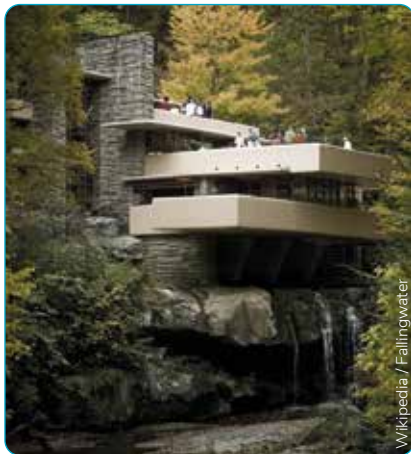
Reading

Do you know the name of any famous architects?

Frank Lloyd Wright

Interesting Facts

Frank Lloyd Wright was known for his “Design for Democracy”. This means that he would always try to create environments that were not just functional but also “eloquent and humane”. He tried **to please** everyone and listen to the masses to shape his designs.



Falling water by Frank Lloyd Wright

What do you think makes an architect famous?

Frank Lloyd Wright was born in the state of Wisconsin in the United States on June 8, 1867. His father was a musician and his mother was a teacher. His parents got divorced when he was 18 years old, so he decided to get a job to earn money for his family while he studied at the university to study architecture. In 1887, he moved to Chicago where he worked for a prestigious architectural **partnership** of Adler and Sullivan for six years.

That was the beginning of a very successful career. Over the next years, he established what is known as the Prairie Style, which was a characteristic style of the flatlands of the midwestern part of the United States. He also developed the Usonian style, which is a result of the Great Depression and the need to provide affordable housing. He traveled the world presenting his masterpieces. Some of his most known works are in and around the Chicago area. One of the most famous ones is in the state of Pennsylvania. It's called “Falling Water”. It is unique in that water runs through the house. In Wright's later years, he wrote and lectured a lot. He left his mark on architecture for being **avant-garde** and ahead of his time.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2QgD51m>

Look on the internet for another building that Frank Lloyd Wright designed. Choose one that you think is interesting. Take some notes about it and print a picture. Describe it to your classmates. Why did you choose it?

Vocabulary

to please. to make people happy

partnership. group of two people working together professionally

avant-garde. very modern, unique

After reading the text, answer the following questions.

1. Why did Wright decide to get a job? _____
2. Where did Wright move to from Wisconsin? _____
3. What helped Wright to start his successful career? _____

4. Name and describe the two architectural styles that Wright is credited for.

5. What is one of his most famous masterpieces? Why is it famous?

Writing

Have you ever been disappointed with the job someone has done?

A Letter of Complaint



Think about all the situations that have to do with a house that require a service. If your shower is leaking, you need to call a plumber. If your electricity is broken, you need to call an electrician. If you are not happy with your house, you have to talk to the architect or interior designer. Brainstorm and make a list.



You are going to write a letter of complaint, which is a way to formally report poor service or a job that was not well done. Follow the steps below.

Step 1

From the list that you made, think of a situation that could cause you to have a complaint. Write it here.

Step 2

Imagine some details about the situation. Write them here.

Step 3

Write your letter in your notebook. Begin your letter with "To whom it may concern:". This is the way we usually start a formal letter. Introduce yourself and describe the service that you are writing to complain about. Give details about the problem. Finally, conclude the letter by asking for a resolution that you think is appropriate (your money returned, a new product, etc.)

Step 4

Exchange your draft with a classmate. Read each other's letters and answer these questions:

- Does the letter make sense? Is it convincing?
- It is well organized?
- Does it have any grammar or vocabulary mistakes?
- Is the resolution realistic?

Step 5

Take into consideration your partner's comments and write a final version for your teacher.

Tip

When you write a business letter, you should use formal language. Remember to be polite, even though you are complaining. We can use the conditional with "would" to make our requests more polite.

I would like to explain to you the situation.

I would like you to solve the problem.



Achievement Level - Listening

Individual activity

1— Listen to someone talk about her childhood home and decide if each of the following sentences are **True (T)** or **False (F)** based on what you hear.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The house has three floors. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 2. The kitchen has a glass door with a beautiful view. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 3. The dining room and the living room are connected. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 4. The stairs are next to the kitchen. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 5. The piano in the living room is new. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 6. All of the bedrooms are carpeted. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |
| 7. One of the two bathrooms has a shower. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F |

Achievement Level - Reading

Individual activity

2— Read the paragraph and answer the questions that follow.

People have different living options. In big cities, it is common for people to live in apartments. Cities are crowded places, so apartments are good living arrangements to save space. Apartment buildings can be a few stories, or they can be several stories high. They can be suites, for one person or a couple, or they can have two, three, or four bedrooms. They usually have a parking garage for people's cars, and in some cases even a gym or a pool. People can rent or buy apartments.

In places where there is more space, people often live in houses. They can be one, two, or three floors. Most of the time they have a private space outside, either a garden or a patio. People can rent houses, paying a monthly price to the owner. People can also own houses by paying a mortgage, a monthly payment that is made usually for 10-30 years until the price of the house is completely paid off. The benefit of owning a house is that later you can pass the house down to the next generation, or eventually sell it and receive money.

1. Why are apartments common in cities?

2. Who are apartments for?

3. What other things can be in apartment buildings?

Group activity

- 3** — With a partner, talk about your childhood home. Mention where it is, the design, the interior, the furniture, and any special characteristics about it. Ask each other specific questions and answer them.

Individual activity

- 4**—From the phrasal verbs seen on page 8 of this module, choose three and use them to write a paragraph about a topic you have seen in the module. Write 80-90 words.

I'm completing this self-evaluation based on what I learned in the module.

Self-evaluation	I check ✓ the box that most applies to me			
Topics	I do it very well	I do it somewhat well	I can improve	I can't do it without help
Use and understand house vocabulary				
Understand some phrasal verbs				
Write a letter of complaint				



Project 1

Design Your Dream House

Tip

Remember all of the vocabulary you know for furniture and parts of the house. Review the first half of the module if you need to. You should also talk about the materials, like wood, tile, fabric, cement, brick, glass, and others that are used in your house.



You have the chance to become an architect and interior designer for a day. Money is no object, and you have the chance to create your dream house! This is an individual project because every person has their own unique tastes. Follow the steps below.

Notes

Step 1

The first step is to become an architect. You are going to design the physical structure of your house. How many floors would you like it to be? What rooms will be on each floor? Will it have a garden? A pool? On a blank piece of paper, draw each one of the floors with the rooms, as well as the outdoor area. Label each part.

Step 2

Now become an interior designer. Decide on the details of the interior of your house, like furniture, walls, floors, lights, cabinets, closets, window treatments... You can use pictures from newspapers, magazines, or the internet for inspiration. Paste these pictures or draw your ideas on a few sheets of blank paper.

Step 3

Prepare a brief presentation for the class about your design. Describe its characteristics and why it is your dream house. Show them your drawings and pictures.

Step 4

As a class, comment on each other's houses. Which ones are the most extravagant? The most creative? The most modern? The most unique?

Let's Review

Grammar / Vocabulary

From these phrasal verbs from the first half of the module, choose four to use in original sentences. Make sure that they show that you understand the meaning, and also pay attention to the placement of the object if there is one.

cut back on

slow down

keep from

set up

break down into

fill in

Reading

Review the readings that were in the first half of the module. Which one was the most interesting to you? Why?

Writing

Your teacher will give you a picture of a house. Describe it the best you can using the vocabulary you learned in the first half of this module. Write 50-60 words.

Communication and Cultural Awareness



Value: Interculturality

Can you think of a word in English that is difficult to translate into Spanish?

Culture

Translation is the art of changing a text from one language to another. But sometimes there are some words that don't have an exact equivalent in another language. Why does this happen? Sometimes there are words that are specific to a certain culture because there is a concept or an item that exists in that culture that doesn't exist in others. This is why a language can tell us so much about a culture!

Grammar Note

The words that appear in purple in the text are more examples of **phrasal verbs**. They consist of two or three words and represent actions. Remember that they can be separable or inseparable, referring to where the adverb or object can be placed. Of the phrasal verbs in the text, only "talk over" can be separable when the object is a pronoun.

We should really **talk it over**.

Untranslatable Words About Home

There are many words that have to do with homes that are not easily translatable into other languages. Here is a list of ten of them:

Fjaka (Croatian) – Relaxing your mind and body at home, enjoying not doing anything.

Gezellig (Dutch) – The warm feeling you get from **hanging out with** special people in a cozy home.

Gluggaveður (Icelandic) – Literally translated, this means "window weather"; weather that is nice to watch from inside your house, but not nice to go outside.

Kanso (Japanese) – Keeping your house simple by **getting rid of clutter**.

Morgenfrisk (Danish) – The feeling of waking up after having slept well.

Peiskos (Norwegian) – The warmth you feel sitting at home in front of a fire.

Philoxenia (Greek) – Welcoming strangers in your home in a loving and respectful way.

Retrouvailles (French) – **Meeting up with** people you love after a long time apart.

Sambo (Swedish) – A couple sharing life together in the same house without being married or engaged.

Talanoa (Hindi) – Sharing stories and **talking over** problems to build and fix relationships between people.

Taken from: <https://bit.ly/32u9Gce>

Vocabulary

get rid of. throw away

clutter. garbage, extra things you don't need that make a mess



Discuss these questions in small groups or as a class.

Can you think of any words in English that are similar to any of these?

Which one(s) of these words do you think are the most useful?

Oral Communication

What is the tallest building you know?

The Willis Tower



Grammar Note

As you listen to the recording, pay attention to the **superlatives**. These are used to describe the #1 in a specific category. Remember that they are formed by using **the (adjective)+est (noun)** when the adjective is short, and **the most (adjective) noun** if the adjective is long.

The Willis Tower was **the tallest building** in the world until 1998.

The Willis Tower is **the most popular tourist attraction** in Chicago.



In small groups, think about some of the tallest buildings you have seen or studied and discuss them. In what countries are they? How many stories do they have? What do you think they are made of? What more do you know about them?



Listen to a person talk about the Willis Tower and fill in the spaces in the Facts Sheet below.

- Sears Roebuck Company thought of the idea of the tower in _____.
- Construction began in _____ and took _____ to finish.
- Until 1998, it was _____ building in the world.
- It has _____ stories and is _____ meters tall.
- The lowest floor of the building is _____ below the level of the street.
- The _____ are some of the fastest in the world.
- You can go up to the _____ floor to see amazing views.
- The Willis Tower is the most _____ tourist destination in Chicago.



Listen to the recording again. Draw a picture of what you imagine the Willis Tower looks like. Compare your drawings in small groups. Whose is the most accurate?



Choose another skyscraper from any part of the world to research. Make a list of fun facts like the ones in the activity about the building you choose and present them to your class. Which of the buildings you learn about would you most like to visit? Why?



Vocabulary

skyscraper. extremely tall building in a city

stories. in this context, floors of a building

elevators. electric boxes that carry you up and down in buildings

neighboring. surrounding, next to, around

Reading

Where does the President live?

As a class, make a list of the facts you know about The White House in Washington, D.C. and the Presidential House in Quito. Do the two houses have a lot in common?



Carondelet Palace



The White House

Grammar Note

On this page, you will recognize some **comparatives**. These are expressions used to talk about two things in relationship to each other. Remember that comparatives are formed by using **(adjective)+er than** when it is a short adjective and **more (adjective) than** when it is a long adjective.

Vocabulary

landmark. a special building or statue that is famous

renovations. work done to a building to improve it

Two Presidential Houses

The place where a president lives in any country is a famous **landmark**. The case is no different for Ecuador and the United States. The Ecuadorian President's residence is called Carondelet Palace and is located in Ecuador's capital city, Quito. It is in the *Plaza de la Independencia* near the Cathedral in the middle of Quito's historic district. It is more than 300 years old and has had very few **renovations**. It is an architectural masterpiece on the outside, and a design masterpiece on the inside. There are many different pieces of art, including a mural done by Oswaldo Guayasamín. The third floor is where the President lives. Visitors can only see the first floor.

The White House is on Pennsylvania Avenue in the capital city of the United States, Washington, D.C. The first President of the United States, George Washington, decided on its location. The construction was finished in 1800. However, many renovations were done in the 1900s to make the house bigger. It was first known as the President's Place, but in 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt renamed it The White House for the color of its exterior. It is the home of the U.S. President and his family as well as a museum. There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and 6 floors in the house.

These two presidential homes have a lot in common, but they are also very different. Both of them are worth visiting sometime!

<https://bit.ly/2FQn1E8> - <https://bit.ly/31sAkTF>

After reading the text, decide if the following statements describe Carondelet, The White House, both, or neither.

1. Of the two presidential residences, this one is older. _____
2. This house is in the capital city. _____
3. Of the two houses, this one is more renovated. _____
4. This house suffered a major fire. _____
5. Of the two houses, this one is bigger. _____
6. There is an important mural. _____
7. This is the official home of the President. _____
8. There is a museum. _____

Do more research on these two important landmarks. What else can you discover? Compare the two houses by writing sentences using comparatives.

The White House is **more famous than** Carondelet.
Carondelet is **closer** to my house **than** The White House.

Writing

Do you like to write for fun?

A Haiku

A haiku is a type of poem originally from Japan. It is characterized by being three lines long and having a total of 17 syllables. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7, and the third line has 5. They are usually written about topics dealing with nature, but they can be about anything. Here is an example:

The Windy City

My sweet childhood home

Chicago, you have my heart

It is a magical place

City of wonder

I'll never forget

You are going to write two of your own haikus. One should be about your town or city, and the other should be about a house you have lived in. Follow these steps.

Step 1

Think of some characteristics that are most important to you about your town or city and your house. Write them here.

My town/city

My house

Step 2

Begin to arrange these words. Haikus do not need to have complete sentences or perfectly follow grammar rules. The most important thing to remember is to respect the 5-7-5 syllable structure.

Step 3

When you are satisfied with your two poems, write them here.

My town/city

My house

Step 4

If you want, you can create an illustration to accompany your poems.

Step 5

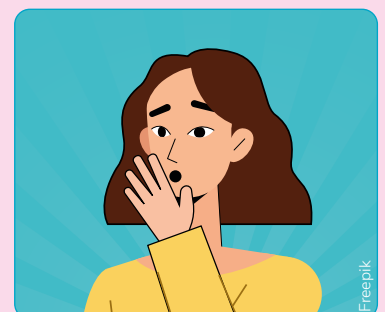
Share your haikus. You can hang them around the room, pass them around the class, or read them out loud. Comment on your classmates' creations!

Tip

A syllable is part of a word that usually has a vowel sound and it can have consonants too. Syllables are sometimes called the "beats" of a word. To determine the syllables that a word has, you can try two techniques. You can say the word slowly and clap with each "beat" that you feel. Or you can put your palm in front of your mouth and feel the bursts of air with each syllable. Try it with this word: determination. It has 5 syllables.



de-ter-mi-na-tion



de-ter-mi-na-tion

Language Through the Arts

Do you know of any songs that talk about home?

Interesting Facts

Jason Mraz was born in 1977 in the state of Virginia in the United States.

He was a cheerleader in high school. He later moved to San Diego, California where he began to get involved in music. He recorded his first album in 2002 and has been very successful since then. His music combines elements of country, rock, and folk music.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3j9fsXq>



Jason Mraz



In small groups, discuss the meaning of the song. Don't focus on each individual word but rather the general ideas in the song. What emotions does the song bring out? What does "home" represent here?



Vocabulary

slippery slope. a path that can lead to a bad situation

"93 Million Miles"

There are many songs about home in different languages. They are often nostalgic, reflecting homesickness and a longing for a place where someone feels at home. One of these songs is called "93 Million Miles" by Jason Mraz. You can read the lyrics below.



93 Million Miles



93 million miles from the sun
People get ready, get ready
'Cause here it comes, it's a light
A beautiful light, over the horizon into our eyes

Oh, my, my how beautiful
Oh, my beautiful mother
She told me, "Son, in life you're gonna go far
If you do it right, you'll love where you are
Just know... wherever you go
You can always come home."

240 thousand miles from the moon
We've come a long way to belong here
To share this view of the night, a glorious night
Over the horizon is another bright sky

Oh, my, my, how beautiful
Oh, my irrefutable father
He told me, "Son, sometimes it may seem dark
But the absence of the light is a necessary part
Just know you're never alone
You can always come back home."

Every road is a **slippery slope**
There is always a hand that you can hold on to
Looking deeper through the telescope
You can see that your home's inside of you
Just know that wherever you go
No, you're never alone
You will always get back home...

93 million miles from the sun
People get ready, get ready
'Cause here it comes it's a light, a beautiful light
Over the horizon into our eyes...

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Mraz Jason / Natter Michael / Daly Mike
93 Million Miles lyrics © Great Hooks Music, Psywar Music Ltd.

Oral Communication

Would you want to stay in one place for your whole life?

Mobile Homes



A mobile home is a home on wheels; one that has no foundation and that you can pick up and easily move to a different place. Can you think of the possible advantages and disadvantages of living in a mobile home? Make a list as a class.

Listen to a person talk about the advantages and disadvantages of mobile homes. Decide if the following statements are **True (T)**, **False (F)**, or **Not Mentioned (NM)** based on what you hear.

1. Mobile homes cost more than regular homes.

TFNM
2. It takes longer to build a mobile home than a regular home.

TFNM
3. Mobile homes are more resistant than regular homes.

TFNM
4. If you live in a mobile home, you can move it when you want.

TFNM
5. An advantage of a mobile home is that it is more environmentally friendly.

TFNM
6. Mobile homes are more dangerous than regular homes.

TFNM
7. Mobile homes are not very big.

TFNM
8. All mobile homes have their own gardens.

TFNM

Grammar Note

In the recording, you hear the person talking about the possibility of living in a mobile home. When we talk about hypothetical situations in the present, we use the **second conditional**. It is formed by two clauses: **If + simple past, conditional (with would/could)**

If I **lived** in a mobile home, I **would spend** one month in a place.

I **would be** helping the environment if I **lived** in a mobile home.



After hearing about some information about mobile homes, do you think that you would like to live in one? Why or why not? Discuss your opinions as a class. You can also do this as a debate with two sides: those who would like to live in mobile homes and those who would not. Present your arguments and counterarguments.

What types of houses have you seen in Ecuador?

Culture

The interdisciplinary research program called *Oralidad Modernidad* has been dedicated to investigating and preserving indigenous languages and cultures across the countries. The different components of the project include mapping language use and loss of indigenous languages, passing on ancestral knowledge to new generations, documenting uses of medicinal plants, and creating audiovisual and printed material in indigenous languages.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2FoRqtg>

Indigenous Houses of Ecuador



Tsachila House



Saraguro House

In the different regions of Ecuador, there are various types of houses. In the big cities like Quito and Guayaquil, we can see single-family homes, condominiums, and even tall, modern apartment buildings.

In the rural regions of the country, there are indigenous communities that have distinctive homes. For example, in the Tsa'chila community, some houses are built with bamboo cane and palm leaves for the roof. The houses are about five meters tall and takes about a month to finish. To build a house in this community, there should be an elder present who knows about construction. These houses can last up to 30 years, but the roof needs to be changed every five years. However, recently these houses have been replaced by ones built with cement with zinc rooves. These are not built collectively, nor do they use materials from nature.

In Loja, the Saraguro people build houses with material that is native to the region. The houses are typically in the shape of a rectangle. They use clay and straw for the walls, and clay tiles for the roof. This keeps the house warm. These houses usually only have one window with a view of the mountains. Right outside of the house, people usually grow some crops and have space for small animals like chickens and sheep.

Houses may look different across the country, but they are all unique. They say something about the land and the people who live there.

Source: Haboud, Marleen. (Forthcoming). *Estudio sociolingüístico georreferenciado de la lengua Tsa'fiki* (2010). Quito: Abya-Yala.

Haboud, M. (2013-2014). *Estudio Sociolingüístico georreferenciado del Kichwa de Saraguro*. Quito: PUCE (Internal report).



Cañari House



In groups of 3-4 students, discuss some common characteristics that houses in your area have. Do they resemble either of the houses in the reading? Do you think they are typical of your country? Why or why not? Do you think there could be a better way to build houses in your community? What would it be?

Are there people who don't have a home in your community?

Homelessness



Have a class discussion about homelessness. Discuss the following questions:

- Does Ecuador have a lot of homelessness? Do you think it is more concentrated in the big cities or the rural areas?
- Where in the world do you think the most cases of homelessness are? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think homelessness exists? Do you think we as a society can do anything to reduce it? What about governments?

Tip

When you are presented with words you don't know in English, and you don't have a dictionary close by, try to use different strategies to **figure out** the words **out**. You can use context, which is the language and situation that surrounds the word you don't know. You can also **break** the word **into** pieces. For example, if you don't recognize the word "homelessness", **break** it **into** pieces you do know. Home = house, -less = without, -ness = noun.



Listen to an expert talk about homelessness. Fill in the facts sheet below with the missing information.

- Number of homeless people around the world: _____
- South Africa: main causes are _____ and unemployment at ____%
- India: about _____ million homeless people, ____% in urban areas
- Philippines & Japan: In _____, millions became homeless after natural disasters like _____
- Europe: rates of homelessness have _____ in the past years
- United States: more than _____ people are homeless
- Colombia: approximately _____ million people are homeless because of _____



Vocabulary

figure out. discover, resolve. (phrasal verb)

break into. separate. (phrasal verb)

In the statistics provided by the United Nations on homelessness, Ecuador is not included. Look on the internet and see if you can find some data on homelessness in Ecuador from other reliable sources. Bring it to class and talk about it together.

Reading

Social Studies

Have you ever seen a strange house?

The World's Strangest Houses

There are many unique houses around the world. Here are some of them.

The River House: There is a house built on top of a rock in the middle of a river in Serbia. It was built in 1968 by a group of young men who thought that it was an ideal place for a small shelter.

The Toilet House: In Seoul, South Korea, a group of sanitation activists constructed the first toilet-shaped home in 2007. It is called *Haewoojae* in Korean, which means "satisfying one's anxiety". It is known for having many large bathrooms.

The Airplane House: In Lebanon, there is a house that is built like a big airplane, in the model of an Airbus A380. The town of Miziara is known for strange houses built like Egyptian ruins or Greek temples.

The Heliodome: This is a solar panel house in France. It is designed based on a three-dimensional sundial that is strategically placed according to the location of the sun. During the summer months, there is shade on the house to keep it cool. And during the winter months, the sun hits the solar panels to warm the house.

The Soccer Ball House: There is a house shaped like a soccer ball in Japan. It was built in 2005. The 32-sided house floats and is resistant to earthquakes. It is priced at less than \$15,000.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3lfMRBH>



Here is a preview of some of the houses you will find in this reading. What do you think their characteristics are? Discuss them as a class or in small groups.

River House – Toilet House – Airplane House – Heliodome – Soccer Ball House



The River House



There are many other unique houses in different parts of the world. As homework, go on the internet and find another one. If you can, print a picture of it or draw it in your notebook. Take some notes on its characteristics to present to the class. When all students have presented, discuss which of the houses you would like to live in and why.



Write the name of the house that each sentence describes.

1. This is a house shaped as a means of transportation.

2. This house is based on a piece of sports equipment.

3. This house was built on a body of water. _____
4. This house is based on a part of our solar system. _____
5. This house is based on something we have in the bathroom.



Now use your imagination. Design your own unique house! Draw it and write a brief description about it (40-50 words). Think of something really different!

My house is called _____. On the outside..... On the inside...

Writing

Do you enjoy writing creatively?

Creative Writing

Creative writing is just as its name says: writing in a creative way. This is your opportunity to allow your creative juices to flow. It's time for you to tell a story in which the main focus is a house or home. Follow these steps.

Step 1

Start brainstorming ideas. Do you want a house (a building) to be the center of the story, or the concept of home? Will the story be fictional, or based on something from real life? Will the house have human characteristics? In other words, will it be personified? Write some notes here.

Step 2

Think of a good first sentence that will capture your reader's attention right away. Make it intriguing. It can be a question, something shocking, a quote, anything that gets your reader interested in what you are writing. Write it here.

Step 3

Start organizing your ideas. Decide if the story is going to be in the past, present, or future. Who will be the main character? What will be the series of events leading to the climax? What will be the resolution? Write your ideas here.

Step 4

Put your story together in your notebook. Pay attention to your grammar, spelling, word use, and punctuation. Write 100-120 words.

Step 5

Share your stories with your classmates. You can read them out loud or pass them around the room. You can vote on the funniest story, the most emotional story, the most creative story... Think of more categories as a class!

Tip

Creative writing is a genre that is not as formal as academic writing. So this means you don't need to always use formal vocabulary, but you should still follow grammar rules. Try to use some of the structures you have reviewed in this module, like **comparatives**, **superlatives**, and **second conditional**.



Language Through the Arts

Do you have a favorite saying about home?

Tip

Whenever you are using a quote for anything - in a paper, on social media, or in an art project - it is always a good idea to include the name of the person who said it. You should give credit to the one who originally thought of the idea and not try to make it seem like it was your own.

Homemade Home Signs



In many homes, you will see decorations on the wall. Sometimes they are pictures of family and friends, or religious figures, or paintings of landscapes, or sayings. It is your turn to make one for your wall.

You will need:

- A piece of paper
- A pencil
- Colored pencils or markers
- Your favorite phrase about home

Search for some famous phrases or quotes about home. Here are some you can use, but you should also look for others that you might like better.

“There is nothing like staying home for real comfort.” - Jane Austin

“Home isn’t a place, it’s a feeling.” – Cecelia Ahern

“Home is where the heart is.” – Pliny the Elder

Write the quote you choose on your piece of paper, first in pencil in case you make any mistakes. Choose a letter style that you think is best for the message. You can include a few small images, but the focus here is the saying. Color your phrase in colors that go well with your room.

Optional: This can also be done on a piece of wood with paint if it is available.



Oral Communication

Have you ever played games involving houses?

A Classic Board Game



Wikipedia / Horst Frank



Have you ever played Monopoly? If you have, explain the rules. If you haven't, imagine how the board game is played. Discuss this as a class or in small groups.

Culture

The original version of the Monopoly game is the most well-known around the world. However, there are dozens of other unique versions that have been created. There is a junior edition, which is meant for younger children. There is a Star Wars edition, a Game of Thrones edition, a Star Trek edition, a Pokemon edition, a Disney edition... even a Simpsons edition! In many U.S. cities, you can find an edition that is especially made for that city.



Imagine you were going to create your own Monopoly game based on your own town or city. What places would you include on the game board? Talk about it in groups of 3-4 students, and if possible, draw a picture of how your game board would look.



Vocabulary

landlord. owner of a building that rents to other people

bankruptcy. the condition of losing all of your money

Listen to a person talk about the history of the board game Monopoly. Decide if each of the statements below are **True (T)** or **False (F)** based on what you hear. If it is false, correct it to make it true.

1. Charles Darrow sold his game to Parker Brothers in the 1920s.

T

F

2. Lizzie Magie got a patent for her Landlord Game in 1904.

T

F

3. In the Landlord Game, there were spaces like Jail and Park.

T

F

4. Magie's intention with her game was to show the economic opportunity in the US.

T

F

5. Magie sold her patent to Parker Brothers for \$5000.

T

F

6. Monopoly sold 278,000 copies in its first year.

T

F

7. Monopoly was a critique of American greed.

T

F

8. Monopoly can be played on a cell phone.

T

F

Achievement Level - Reading

Individual activity

- 1 — Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

Andean Housewarming Party

In many Andean communities, it is common to celebrate a *wasipichay*, a type of housewarming party. But the roots of this celebration are actually different than what it has come to represent today. Originally, a *wasipichay* was a gathering of neighbors and friends in a new house to help the owners clean it and “cure” it from any bad spirits. Historically, there was the custom of placing different items like corn, beans, wood, and other symbolic things on the middle of the roof to bring good fortune to the family and the home. Traditionally, there were also theatrical representations of everyday situations, sometimes with a bit of humor. In the main hall of the house, people would roast dried corn for the smoke to fill the house. The smoke had two functions: to cleanse the home and also to bring prosperity to it. In Quichua it is said that a house is nourished by the arrival of a friend or family member, so all the people who attend the party should be happy and free of negative thoughts. Today, the meaning of *wasipichay* has changed and adapted to a new society, but it remains the idea of celebrating with family and friends having moved to a new house.

Adapted from: <https://bit.ly/2D3GbWg>

1. How can you explain the word “wasipichay” in English?

2. Why would people place beans, corn, and other items on the roof of a new house?

3. Was there any entertainment at the party? Explain.

4. What two purposes did roasting dried corn have?

5. How should people be when they attend a *wasipichay*?

Achievement Level - Speaking

Group activity

- 2 — In pairs, pretend that one student is a landlord and the other wants to rent an apartment that the landlord is offering. Take turns asking and answering questions in a dialogue. Think about what a landlord would want to know about someone who wants to rent his apartment, and what a renter would want to know about the apartment.

Achievement Level - Grammar

Individual activity

- 3** Complete the following sentences in an original way. Pay attention to which conditional you should use.
1. If I could live anywhere in the world, _____
 2. In the future, if I want to buy a house but I am missing \$1000 for the down payment (*money you pay to reserve the house*), I _____

 3. _____ if I had the opportunity.
 4. I would move to another province if _____
 5. _____ if I were economically independent.

Achievement Level - Writing

Individual activity

- 4**—Predict how houses will look in 100 years. Will they be the same as they are now? How will they look different on the inside? On the outside? Write a paragraph of 50-65 words.

I'm completing this self-evaluation based on what I learned in the module.

Self-evaluation	I check ✓ the box that most applies to me			
Topics	I do it very well	I do it somewhat well	I can improve	I can't do it without help
Use comparatives and superlatives				
Work with some phrasal verbs				
Use second conditional				

