

Three levels: *Beginner* | *Intermediate* | *Advanced*

Home is an everyday topic that quickly becomes personal. In this guide you practise talking about it at your level.

Beginner | B1

About this level

Short sentences are fine. Describe your home or room simply. Use words you already know.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

<i>I live in...</i>	naming where you live <i>"I live in Rotterdam."</i>
<i>a flat / a house</i>	the type of home <i>"I live in a flat on the third floor."</i>
<i>big / small</i>	describing size <i>"It is small but really cosy."</i>
<i>close to</i>	saying what is nearby <i>"I live close to the train station."</i>
<i>I rent / I own</i>	describing ownership <i>"I rent this apartment."</i>

PRACTICE QUESTIONS (ANSWER OUT LOUD)

One or two sentences per question.

- Where do you live?
- What is your home like?
- Do you have a garden or balcony?
- What do you like about your area?
- Do you live alone or with others?

ERROR RECOGNITION

Error recognition: Which sentence is correct?

- "I live in an apartment in the third floor."
- "I live in an apartment on the third floor."
- "I live on an apartment on the third floor."

Note: Sentence b is correct. You live 'in' an apartment but 'on' a floor. Sentence a uses the wrong preposition before 'third floor'. Sentence c uses 'on' with 'apartment', which does not work in English.

About this level

You can hold a basic conversation. Now practise comparing, describing, and giving your opinion about where you live.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

<i>the housing market</i>	the overall situation of buying and renting homes <i>"The housing market here is very competitive."</i>
<i>to be looking for</i>	to be searching for something actively <i>"We are looking for a bigger place."</i>
<i>rent prices</i>	the amount paid monthly for accommodation <i>"Rent prices have gone up a lot."</i>
<i>to settle in</i>	to get comfortable in a new place <i>"It took a few months to really settle in."</i>
<i>to live alone</i>	to live without housemates or family <i>"I have been living alone for two years."</i>

PRACTICE QUESTIONS (CHOOSE 3 TO 5)

Answer out loud. 30 to 60 seconds each.

- How did you find your current home?
- What are the good and bad things about your neighbourhood?
- Is living here different from back home? What do you notice?
- Have you ever been forced to move? What happened?
- What matters most to you in a home?
- Do you ever want to buy a home, or do you prefer renting?

ERROR RECOGNITION

Error recognition: Correct the mistake in each sentence:

1. "I have been living here since two years."
2. "My house has more rooms than my old house had."
3. "I am looking for an apartment with two bedrooms."

Note: 1. 'I have been living here for two years.' ('for' with duration, not 'since'). 2. Correct. 3. Correct and natural.

About this level

Now practise talking about home with nuance: the meaning of belonging, identity, and the relationship between space and wellbeing.

ADVANCED EXPRESSIONS

<i>a sense of belonging</i>	the feeling of truly fitting in somewhere
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	<i>"It took years to develop a sense of belonging here."</i>
a safe haven	a place where you feel protected and at peace <i>"My home is my safe haven."</i>
roots	the connection to a place or culture <i>"I feel my roots are somewhere else, but I have made peace with that."</i>
gentrification	the change of a neighbourhood as wealthier people move in <i>"Gentrification is changing the character of the area."</i>
to create a home	to actively build a feeling of belonging somewhere <i>"You have to actively create a home, it does not just happen."</i>

PRACTICE QUESTIONS (CHOOSE 2 TO 3)

Speak for 1 to 2 minutes each.

- What is the difference between a house and a home, for you personally?
- Does the place where you live affect who you are?
- Can you feel at home somewhere when you do not speak the language fluently?
- How do you create a sense of home in a country that is not where you grew up?
- Is there a place in the world that feels like home even though you no longer live there?

ERROR RECOGNITION

Error recognition: Which sentence sounds most natural and fluent?

- "My home is nice because I like being there."
- "Home is not an address to me. It is the feeling of being allowed to be yourself."
- "I find my home very very comfortable and nice."

Note: Sentence a is correct but says very little. Sentence b is specific, personal, and fluent. Sentence c is grammatically correct but 'very very comfortable' is weak for C1. Aim for precision.

THIS WEEK'S SMALL ACTION

Describe your home or neighbourhood to someone in English.
Say what you like about it, what you miss, and what home means to you.
Once this week. That is enough.