

Special living places

Before you read

1 Match the words and phrases below with the pictures.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> studio | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Hall of Residence |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> B and B | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> couch surfing |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> bedsit | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> youth hostel |



A



B



E



F



C



D

Reading

a Bed and breakfast (B and B) is a kind of holiday accommodation. Private houses offer a bed for the night and breakfast in the morning. B and Bs do not usually offer other meals. Guests have their breakfast in the dining room or in their bedroom. The owners usually prepare the breakfast and clean the room. B and Bs are not very expensive. A bed and breakfast has only got a few rooms. There are B and Bs in big cities, villages and in seaside towns. In the USA, there are 'floating' B and Bs: the rooms are on a boat or houseboat.

b A studio flat (UK) or studio apartment (USA) is a small flat with a living room, bedroom and kitchen; a studio flat has its own bathroom.

c A youth hostel is a place where people, especially young people can stay very cheaply. It is a low budget form of accommodation. You usually sleep in a bunk bed, in a dormitory with other guests and share the bathroom, lounge and sometimes the kitchen. Single or double rooms are also sometimes available. Hostels are ideal places for people who like to socialise with other travellers.

d Some visitors to the UK now sleep on people's couches or sofas. This type of accommodation is called '**couch surfing**'. They move from one friend's house to another, sleeping in the spare space available on the floor or on a couch. Couch surfers usually stay for a few days, then they move on to the next house.

e The word '**bedsit**' or bed-sitting room comes from 'bedroom' and 'sitting room'. A bedsit is a single room for rent, with a bed, table, chairs, wardrobe and small kitchen. People in bedsits usually share the bathroom and toilet with other lodgers. Bedsits are cheap and they are popular with students and young, single people. In 'bedsit land' (a part of a big city) people live alone and they often do not know their neighbours. In the USA, they call bedsits 'single room occupancy'.

f Many students at British universities stay in small rooms in big blocks called **Halls of Residence**. They share the kitchen but usually have their own bathrooms.

2 Find these words in the text. Translate them.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1 owner | _____ |
| 2 rent | _____ |
| 3 accommodation | _____ |
| 4 share | _____ |
| 5 lodger | _____ |
| 6 sofa | _____ |

3 Match the information about the people with the correct paragraph.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 Helen is staying here for a few days; the landlady prepares wonderful scrambled eggs! | _____ |
| 2 Paolo is studying medicine at Bristol University. | _____ |
| 3 Clemente is visiting London and pays very little for a bed in a dormitory. | _____ |
| 4 Maria is eighteen; she doesn't have a bathroom of her own but has got a small kitchen. | _____ |
| 5 Penny is visiting her friend; she sleeps in the living room. | _____ |

Listening

4 **1** Listen to an interview with Claudia. Where does she live in the winter? Where does she live in the summer?

5 **1** Listen again and fill in the missing information.

Claudia is studying architecture at the University of London. She lives in a student Hall of Residence. It is not very far from the (1) _____. She shares a kitchen with 4 other students. They live on the same (2) _____. She's got a small room but it's got a bathroom – with a small shower and a washbasin. She is very happy about that; she doesn't like sharing a (3) _____ with other students but she likes sharing the kitchen: she meets other students, they talk, they have coffee and sometimes they (4) _____ together. In the summer holidays, she goes back to Italy. She stays with her mum and dad. They've got a big (5) _____ in Rome. She's got her own room, it's small but it's nice. She's got a TV in her bedroom and there's a (6) _____ for friends.

Writing

6 Write an email to a couch surfer. He/She is doing couch tourism and wants to sleep on your couch. Introduce yourself and describe where you live. Answer these questions first.

- What do you do?
- Where do you live?
- How many rooms have you got? Describe them.
- What is in the living room?
- What is in the kitchen?



STUDY SKILLS

Understanding varieties of English

Some words are different in British English and American English.

For example: *flat* (British) and *apartment* (USA).

7 Mark these words **BE** (more common in British English) or **AE** (more common in American English). Use a dictionary to help you.

Word	Your language	BE or AE?
loo		
restroom		
faucet		
tap		
sofa		
couch		
curtains		
drapes		
trash can		
bin		

Speaking

8 Make notes and talk about similarities and differences between Italian and British temporary housing. Here are some questions to help you:

- Are there bedsits in Italy?
- Is couch surfing popular in Italy?
- Do students stay in Halls of Residence or do they live at home?
- Where do young people live when they leave home?
- Is accommodation cheap or expensive?

