

This month's Everyday English (pages 49–50) looks at the words and phrases you need when you're **HOUSE-HUNTING**. In the following exercises, you can practise this practical area of language further.

1. Form the pairs

medium

Match the word pairs below to identify different features of a house.

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| a) central | <input type="text" value="a ⇨"/> | 1. bathroom |
| b) double | <input type="text" value="b ⇨"/> | 2. bedroom |
| c) en suite | <input type="text" value="c ⇨"/> | 3. glazing |
| d) master | <input type="text" value="d ⇨"/> | 4. heating |
| e) off-road | <input type="text" value="e ⇨"/> | 5. parking |



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2. What's the specialist word?

advanced

Ann doesn't know all the specialist terms she needs when buying a house, but Ben does. Rearrange the letters to make the specialist terms.

- a) **Ann:** We need to decide what sort of **house, bungalow or flat** we want.
Ben: Yes, what sort of **OPRTYEPR** we're looking for. _____
- b) **Ann:** We need to arrange a **big loan from the bank to pay for the house**.
Ben: Yes, we need a **OMGAGRTE**. _____
- c) **Ann:** We need to get **someone to prepare all the legal documents for us**.
Ben: Yes, we need a **LOSTIORCI**. _____
- d) **Ann:** We need to agree a price with the **people who are selling their house to us**.
Ben: Yes, with the **VORNEDS**. _____

3. What's that in everyday English?

advanced

For each of the highlighted words in the estate agent's description, choose the right "translation" in everyday English.

4-bedroom house in a **(a) sought-after** area, within easy walking distance of **(b) local amenities**. This **(c) period property** has many original features. Refitted kitchen with **(d) top-of-the-range** built-in appliances. Offered for sale **(e) with no onward chain**. Possible to **(f) extend**, **(g) subject to** local authority permission. Large, **(h) mature** garden. Call now to arrange a viewing.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="text" value="a ⇨"/> | 1. best-quality |
| <input type="text" value="b ⇨"/> | 2. build more rooms, make the house bigger |
| <input type="text" value="c ⇨"/> | 3. if you can get |
| <input type="text" value="d ⇨"/> | 4. old house |
| <input type="text" value="e ⇨"/> | 5. popular; a lot of people want to live here |
| <input type="text" value="f ⇨"/> | 6. shops, schools, etc. |
| <input type="text" value="g ⇨"/> | 7. the current owners can move straight out |
| <input type="text" value="h ⇨"/> | 8. with well-established plants |

4. Arranging a viewing

easy

A woman phones an estate agent to arrange a viewing of a property in which she is interested. Put the lines of their conversation (a–i) in the right order. Write the numbers 1–9 in the boxes.















- a) Certainly. Which property is it you're interested in?
- b) Great! 10.30 would be fine. You'll need my name. It's Jan Cooper.
- c) Yes, hello! I'd like to arrange a viewing of one of your properties, please.
- d) Hodson's Estate Agents. Good morning! Can I help you?
- e) It's a house in Radley Road, on the corner of Cherwell Road.
- f) Oh, yes, number 63. It's new on the market today. Have you seen the details yet?
- g) Thank you. Right. Then I'll see you later, Ms Cooper.
- h) Well, how about this morning? I've got a slot at half past ten, and the property is empty, so we can go any time.
- i) Yes, on your website. It looks hopeful, so we'd like to view it as soon as possible.

a	⇒
b	⇒
c	⇒
d	⇒
e	⇒
f	⇒
g	⇒
h	⇒
i	⇒

5. A nice house?

advanced

Which of the viewers' comments are positive and which are negative?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| a) It feels homely. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) It's poky. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) It ticks all the boxes. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) It's in a dodgy area. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) It's got a lot going for it. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) It leaves a little to be desired. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) It's a dump. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. No luck

advanced

Choose the extra words to add to this e-mail to make it sound less formal.

even • ever • purely • still • total • way

✕

Hi, Mum! The house-hunting continues. Three months now, and (a) _____ no luck. We saw a lovely place on Monday, but it was (b) _____ too expensive. We couldn't afford it, (c) _____ with a massive mortgage. We put in a low offer, (d) _____ on the off-chance, but they rejected it. All the rest have been (e) _____ dumps. Will we (f) _____ find a house? I'm beginning to wonder.

Suze