In many modern houses and flats, the kitchen is the most important room. ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about how people plan their kitchens.

A fitted kitchen
What do you think of my new fitted kitchen? It’s an open-plan kitchen with an integrated dining area. I often have guests, and I love chatting to them while preparing the food.

In the middle of the kitchen, there’s an island with a built-in hob and oven, covered by a hood and flanked by floor-level cupboards with soft-close drawers. The top drawers are for cutlery, the bottom ones for pots and pans.

Along the wall, there are further cupboards. Those at eye level contain shelves for glasses and crockery. The tall cupboard in the corner is our pantry. It has slide-out drawers where we keep dry goods such as rice, tea and spices. It’s great to have such a lot of storage space.

The worktops are made of hard-wearing and easy-to-clean marble. There’s plenty of room for kitchen appliances such as the food processor and the espresso maker. The stainless-steel sink has two basins and a pull-out tap. The dishwasher is right next to it.

I really enjoy cooking in my new kitchen. You must come over for a meal soon!
PRACTICE
Now, try the following exercises to practise talking about your kitchen.

Exercise 1
Cross out one word in each line that does not belong in the same group as the others.

A. Which of these is not part of a sink?
   basin | dishwasher | draining board | tap

B. Which of these is not part of a cooker?
   hob | hood | oven | pan

C. Which of these is not part of a kitchen cupboard?
   drawer | island | shelf | worktop

D. Which of these is not a kitchen appliance?
   bar stool | coffee maker | electric kettle | food processor

Exercise 2
Match the sentence halves to form correct definitions.

A. A fitted kitchen...
   1. is accessible from all four sides.

B. An open-plan kitchen...
   2. is a cupboard or small room for storing food.

C. A kitchen island...
   3. protects the wall behind a sink or cooker from liquids.

D. A pantry...
   4. does not have inside walls dividing it from the dining or living area.

E. A splash-back...
   5. has been built to be fitted into a particular space.

Exercise 3
What’s missing? Complete the sentences below with adjectives from the list.

eye-level | hard-wearing | pull-out | soft-close | stainless-steel

A. A(n) ___________ worktop remains in good condition for a long time.

B. A(n) ___________ sink is made from a material that does not rust.

C. A(n) ___________ cupboard is at the same height as your eyes when you are standing.

D. A(n) ___________ drawer slides in smoothly and effortlessly.

E. A(n) ___________ tap can be extended thanks to a flexible hose.

Hyphenated adjectives
Phrases consisting of two or more parts that are used like adjectives before a noun are normally written with hyphens:
- built-in kitchen cupboards, a stainless-steel sink, easy-to-clean marble

If used in another position within a sentence, there are usually no hyphens:
- We built in the cupboards ourselves.
- The sink is made of stainless steel.
- The worktop is easy to clean.