

A

Home styles

A **squat** /skwɒt/ is an empty building where people start living without the owner's permission.

A **hovel** /'hɒvəl/ is a very small, dirty house or flat in a bad (or **run down**) condition.

Rented accommodation can be either **furnished** or **unfurnished**. [with or without furniture]

A **penthouse** is a luxury flat at the top of a building.

Council or **social housing** is rented accommodation provided by the state for people who have low incomes. A **council estate** is a large group of such housing.

High-rise (flats) or **tower blocks** are flats in a tall, modern building with a lot of floors.

A **granny flat** is a set of rooms for an elderly person, connected to a relative's house.

B

Idioms and expressions relating to *house and home*

expression	meaning	example
get on like a house on fire	get on very well with someone	Happily, my mother-in-law and I have always got on like a house on fire .
a household word/name	something/someone everyone knows	Nike has become a household name .
on the house	free of charge	The restaurant owner offered us coffees on the house .
home truths	information that is true but not pleasant or welcome	It's time he was told some home truths about the way he's been behaving!
nothing to write home about	nothing special	The town is OK but nothing to write home about .
hit home	become fully understood or fully felt	The difficulty of managing without a regular salary is hitting home now.
make yourself at home	make yourself feel comfortable in someone else's home	Please just make yourself at home while I get dinner ready.

C

Idioms and metaphors relating to *life*

expression	meaning	example
life in the fast lane	a way of life that is full of activity and excitement	As a rock star, Joe lived life in the fast lane .
have the time of your life	have a wonderful time	Paula's having the time of her life in Canada.
get a new lease of life	become more energetic and active than before	When Georgie moved jobs, she seemed to get a new lease of life .
a dog's life	a very unhappy and difficult life	Ryan had a dog's life in the army.
lead a sheltered life	have a life that is protected from unpleasantness (also lead a busy/quiet/normal, etc. life)	Kyoko has led a very sheltered life and may find it hard to adapt to the big city.
(not) be a matter of life and death	(not) be very serious	If we miss the last train, it's not a matter of life and death .
take your life in your hands	do something very dangerous	You're taking your life in your hands if you cross the road here – go to the zebra crossing!
breathe new life into	bring new ideas and energy to something	When Orla joined the staff, she breathed new life into the school.

Exercises

18.1 Complete the following table about the types of accommodation in A opposite.

accommodation	What kind of person lives there?	Would you like to live there? Why/ Why not?
squat	Example: <i>a homeless person, or someone who wants to make a political statement about property ownership</i>	Example: <i>I wouldn't like it because you never know when you might be evicted.</i>
furnished accommodation		
social housing		
granny flat		
high-rise		
hovel		
penthouse		

18.2 Fill the gaps in these sentences with words and phrases from B and C opposite.

- 1 From the moment we met, we got on like a house
- 2 Jenna's so selfish, she deserves to be told a few
- 3 The new restaurant is OK but nothing really to
- 4 So what that you didn't get the promotion – it's not a matter of
- 5 I'm not sure I'd like to have a celebrity lifestyle, living life in the
- 6 As a child, the writer a sheltered life in a small village in the back of beyond.
- 7 We need someone to come and some new life into the project.
- 8 We soon managed to ourselves at home in our holiday cottage.

18.3 Choose expressions from B and C opposite to replace the underlined words in these sentences.

- 1 We had the most marvellous time on holiday this year.
- 2 As soon as spring comes, I feel as if I'm becoming energetic and active again.
- 3 The problems caused by the floods are only making themselves fully felt now.
- 4 I imagine that being a servant in the past must have been very hard and tedious.
- 5 All over the world, everybody knows about McDonald's.
- 6 He's taking a big risk if he gets in a car with Ben at the wheel!
- 7 Because we were such frequent customers, the restaurant gave us a meal free.
- 8 Our holiday apartment was quite adequate but not particularly special in any way.

18.4 Here are some more expressions with *home* and *life*. Use the context to work out what the underlined expressions mean.

- 1 The poet said that he had had a period of depression but that he had never considered taking his own life.
- 2 The comedy duo's superb performance brought the house down.
- 3 Our customers come from many different walks of life – we have doctors, shop assistants, computer programmers, you name it!
- 4 The system turned out to be a house of cards – it didn't take much to bring it down.
- 5 Whenever my nephews arrive for a visit, they eat us out of house and home.
- 6 I love having George around – you can rely on him to be the life and soul of the party.