



# Types of house

Is your home a castle? ANNA HOCHSIDER presents language to talk about different types of house.



1. detached house
2. pitched roof
3. bay window
4. terraced house (UK), row house (US)
5. semi-detached/semi (UK), duplex (US)
6. chimney
7. porch
8. block of flats, tower block (UK), apartment building (US)
9. flat roof
10. cottage
11. thatched roof
12. shutters
13. town house (UK)
14. dormer window
15. bungalow (UK), ranch house (US)
16. stately home (UK), mansion

Well, I don't live in a castle. I live in a **condo**. I bought my beautiful small **apartment** five years ago when I moved to San Francisco. There are six apartments altogether in the **condominium**, a fairly modern building in a quiet side street, and all of us owners get along really well. It's a shame you can't say the same about our cats.

I grew up in a **red-brick terraced house** in Manchester; a classic **two-up, two-down**, with a lounge and dining room on the **ground floor** and two bedrooms on the **first floor**. At times, there were six people in our **household**: my parents, my grandparents, my sister and I. Later, I moved to a tiny **bedsit** (now you'd say a **studio**) — a single room with a separate bathroom. The **four-bedroom semi** where I live now seems like a **mansion** by comparison.

## My home is my castle

I'm an architect, and I specialize in planning **low-energy houses**. My current project is a modern **three-storey** family home in a **residential** neighbourhood. It's made entirely of **wood** and **glass**. There are solar panels on the **roof**, and the windows **face** south and have **triple glazing**. People already built **well-insulated** houses hundreds of years ago. My own home is a 200-year-old **cottage** with a **straw-thatched** roof, so it's cool in summer and warm in winter.

# Practice

Try the exercises on this page to practise words and phrases that have to do with the places where people live.



## 1. Complete the sentences with words from the opposite page.

- a) A \_\_\_\_\_ is an area covered by a roof at the entrance to a house.
- b) Your home and all the people who live in it are your \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) In the US, a condo or \_\_\_\_\_ is an apartment or a building containing apartments owned by the people who live in it.
- d) Some windows have \_\_\_\_\_ that you can close to keep the light out.
- e) A house that is protected against heat and cold is \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) Windows that have \_\_\_\_\_ have three layers of glass.
- g) A \_\_\_\_\_ is a vertical window that projects from a pitched roof.
- h) In a \_\_\_\_\_ area, there are lots of houses and not many offices or shops.

## 2. The floor of a building at ground level is called the "ground floor" in the UK and the "first floor" in the US. Complete the table with some more British- and American-English terms.

	British English	American English
a) A set of rooms for living in:	<i>flat</i>	
b) A house with only one level:		
c) A house joined to another house by a shared wall on one side:		
d) A house in a row of houses that are all joined together:		

- Answers
1. a) porch b) household c) condominium (US) d) shutters e) insulated f) triple glazing g) dormer (window) h) residential [ˌreʒɪˈdenʃl]
  2. a) flat, apartment b) bungalow, ranch house c) semi/semi-detached [ˌseɪmɪˈdiːtʃtʃt]
  3. row house
  4. a) terraced b) two-man c) triple glazing d) e-3; f-4; g-5; h-1; i-2;

## 3. In each line below, one of the four terms in colour is not used with the noun on the right. Which term is it?

- a) a **pitched** / flat / terraced / **thatched** roof
- b) a **two-bedroom** / two-man / two-storey / **200-year-old** house
- c) a **red-brick** / wood-and-glass / triple glazing / **low-energy** house

## 4. Number the boxes to order these types of housing from the largest (1) to the smallest (5).

- a) a bedsit in a tower block
- b) a five-storey town house
- c) a three-bedroom semi
- d) a one-bedroom thatched cottage
- e) a two-up, two-down terraced house.

**Tips**

Look up the word **house** in a learner's dictionary and find out...

- the pronunciation of the verb **to house**;
- the meaning of the adjectives **housebound**, **houseproud** and **house-trained**;
- the difference between a **householder** and a **housekeeper**.

Try to make example sentences using these words.