

Accommodation vocabulary things in common

Describe the place where you are living now/ staying now. When you finish, your partner will comment on any similarities and differences between you with phrases from below, ticking them off as they use them. Then do the same as they and you describe your current homes in more detail.

Useful phrases for talking about similarities and differences

- ... and... both...
- ... and... have ... in common.
- ... as well.
- ... is (absolutely/ virtually) identical.
- ... is (exactly/ almost) the same (but...)
- ... is (very/ somewhat) similar, but...
- ... is (much/ quite a lot/ slightly) ...er than...
- ... is (far/ considerably/ a little) more... than...
- ... neither.
- ... share...
- ... too.
- A difference/ similarity which stands out is...
- In (complete) contrast,...
- Like...,...
- The (biggest/ most obvious/ most important) difference/ similarity between... and...
- Unlike,...
- whereas
- while

Use the table below to find more things in common about your accommodation, this time also talking about the past, future, hypothetical situations, etc. Words divided by a slash (/) are similar (though not always the same) and words divided by a dash (–) are opposites, so choose one specific thing (not a whole line).

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| I absolutely adore | affordable | accommodation |
| I absolutely detest | ancient/ historic/ old | Airbnb |
| I dislike | authentic – fake/ mock | apartment (block)/ flat |
| I don't approve of | boring/ bland/ dull | attic/ loft |
| I don't care about | brick/ stone | B&B |
| I don't get (the appeal of) | compact/ cosy | balcony |
| I don't know why... is popular | concrete | basement/ cellar |
| I don't mind | converted | bungalow |
| I envy people who | designer/ elegant/ stylish | cabin |
| I grew up/ was brought up | (semi-)detached | caravan/ trailer |
| I have no interest in | exclusive | castle/ palace |
| I have... (once/ recently) | (un)furnished | chalet |
| I have lived | gorgeous/ stunning | concierge/ doorman |
| I have stayed | ground – top | condo(minium) |
| I hope | hideous/ ugly | cottage |
| I (really/ quite) like | high-rise – low-rise | dorm/ halls |
| I live | holiday/ vacation | exterior – interior |
| I love | huge/ large/ spacious | floor |
| I miss | identikit | flooring |
| I (once) stayed | impressive | garden |
| I think... ruins | inner city – suburban | home |
| I understand the appeal of | Instagrammable | host family |
| I used to live | isolated – well-connected | hostel |
| I (don't/ really) want | luxury/ luxurious/ posh | hotel/ motel |
| I wish | modern – traditional | house |
| I would(n't) choose | newly-built | housing estate |
| I would(n't) like | open plan | hut |
| I would(n't) pay (extra) for | public – private | inn |
| I'd love | renovated – rundown | kitchen |
| I'm planning to | rented | lobby |
| If I could choose anything | roof-top | mansion |
| If I had the money | second | nursing home |
| In my neighbourhood | self-catering | patio |
| It's important for me that | serviced | penthouse |
| Life would be easier if | shared | (bed/ dining/ living) room |
| Life would be nicer if | sheltered | shack |
| My ambition is to | simple – ornate/ fancy | shed |
| My area needs more | ...-storey | squat |
| My family home | student | storage space |
| My grandparents | studio | tent |
| There are too many | subsidised | terrace |
| | terraced | (camper) van/ RV |
| | thatched | view |
| | time-share | villa |
| | typical | warehouse |
| | wooden/ log | |

Accommodation collocations

In each section below, join one of the nine starters with one of the nine endings to make words and expressions related to accommodation.

Air
bed and
camper
condo
converted
cosy/ thatched/ traditional
designer/ elegant/ stylish
exclusive/ luxury/ posh
ground/ first/ second/ top

attic/ loft/ warehouse
bnb
breakfast
cottage
exterior/ interior
floor
hotel
-minium
van

high-rise/ twelve-storey
holiday/ nursing/ second
host
housing
huge
Instagram
log
low
newly

apartment block
built
cabin
estate
family
home
-mable
mansion
rise

open
rent
roof
run
spacious
storage
student
well-
wooden

connected
dorm/ halls
-down
-ed
flooring
interior
plan dining room kitchen
space
-top terrace/ garden

Check as a class.

Brainstorm as many things as you can which commonly go before each word below. Some things could go with more than one, in which case try to make the most common collocation.

+ apartment/ flat

+ house

+ housing

Mixed answers

Use these words to help with the task above. Some can go with more than one word above, but try to put them with the one that each goes best with.

- affordable
- brick
- detached
- furnished
- public
- rented
- self-catering
- semi-detached
- serviced
- shared
- shared
- stone
- studio
- subsidised
- suburban
- terraced
- three-storey
- traditional
- unfurnished
- wooden

-----fold-----

Suggested answers

Other answers are possible, so please check if you put different ones together.

furnished/ rented/ self-catering/ serviced/ shared/ studio/ unfurnished + apartment/ flat

brick/ detached/ semi-detached/ shared/ stone/ terraced/ three-storey/ traditional/ wooden
+ house

affordable/ public/ subsidised/ suburban + housing

Differences between words to describe accommodation

Brainstorm language for talking about similarities and differences, then compare with the list on the first page.

Use similar language to explain the similarities and differences between these terms.

- apartment/ apartment block
- apartment/ condo
- apartment/ house
- apartment/ room
- balcony/ terrace
- brick/ stone
- bungalow/ cottage
- ceiling/ roof
- flat/ studio flat
- flooring/ wooden flooring
- gorgeous/ luxurious
- hideous/ ugly
- historic/ old
- home/ house
- house/ mansion
- large room/ wide room
- suburbs/ outskirts/ satellite