

Looking for a Flat



1 Warm Up Work with a partner.

Do you rent or own your house / flat?

2 Vocabulary Quiz #1

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) pick someone up (v) | be bored / annoyed about something |
| 2) deposit (n) | dark / unpleasant |
| 3) dingy (adj) | take someone in a car / motorbike etc. |
| 4) be fed up with (v) | too expensive |
| 5) out of one's price range (idiom) | money paid when first moving into a flat |

3 Reading Practise the conversation with a partner.

Joe So have you found a new flat yet?
Carol No - and I'm getting really fed up with looking round places.
Joe What about that place in Queen's Street?
Carol It was really disappointing. The rooms were really dingy, and the carpets were threadbare!
Joe Well, that's no good! Are you looking round anywhere else?
Carol Yeah - I'm seeing a place in Pine Street tomorrow afternoon. But it's almost out of my price range. It's tough paying the deposit and the rent up front.
Joe Why don't I come with you tomorrow? I'm free all day.
Carol Really? I'd love a second opinion! I'll pick you up at 1:00!

4 Your Turn Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1) Is Carol enjoying looking round flats?
- 2) What were the problems with the Queen's Street flat?
- 3) Can she afford the apartment in Pine Street?

5 Vocabulary Building #2 Match the opposites.

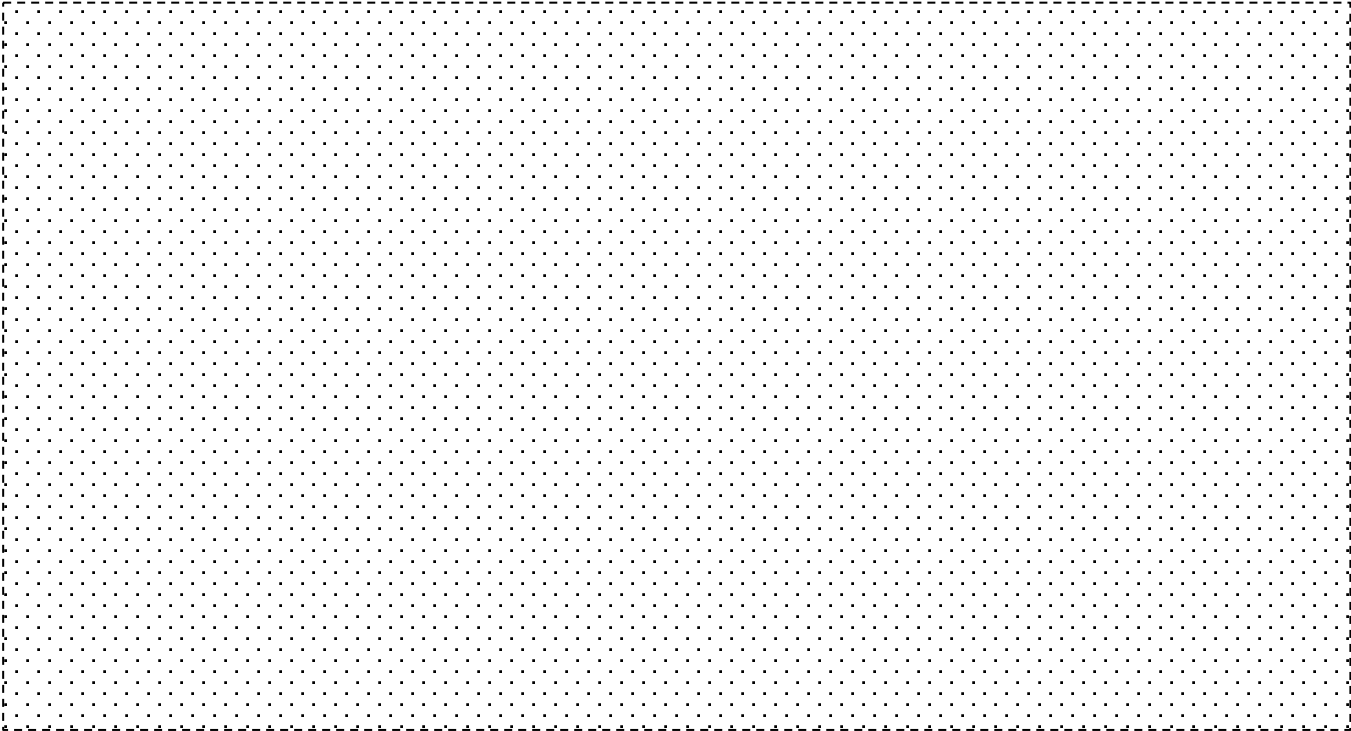
- gloomy
- overpriced
- spacious
- shabby
- modern

- well-kept
- old
- bright
- cramped
- good value

6 Vocabulary Building #3 Fill in the spaces using vocabulary from exercise five.

- 1) Look at this apartment! The wallpaper is really! It really needs changing.
- 2) Most flats in this area are far too expensive. This one, however, is
- 3) The garden looks very The last tenant must have loved gardening.
- 4) These rooms are really It really difficult to see anything!

7 Speaking Activity Draw a basic plan of your house / flat in the space below.



Imagine you are a lettings agent, telling your partner / group about the house / flat. Decide the rent you will charge per month. Describe the rooms using some of the words you have studied in this lesson.

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Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Various
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Intermediate +
Time:	40 minutes
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

- 1 The first exercise introduces the topic. Students can work in pairs.
- 2 Have students cover the conversation in exercise three. Model the pronunciation of the vocabulary in the left-hand column. Students should match the vocabulary to the meanings.
- 3 Before beginning, you could give out the conversation cut up into strips. (See the end of the teaching notes for the strips.) Have students work in pairs to arrange the conversation. You can make the exercise easier by giving the first line. Set a time limit and go through the answers.

Have students uncover the conversation in exercise three and practice in pairs, switching roles.
- 4 Students can work alone, writing answers in full sentences. Monitor and assist where necessary. For questions one and three, when going through the answers, have students tell you *why*.
- 5 This exercise builds vocabulary for adjectives commonly used to describe buildings. Students can work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group.
- 6 Students can work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group.
- 7 Take plenty of time in setting up this exercise.

Your students will be role-playing, with each student describing his or her house/flat to another student / group. One student is the agent, and the other students are prospective tenants.

Begin by having students draw a basic diagram of the layout of their flat/house. Not all rooms need to be included. Only the rooms need marking - not furniture etc.

You could pre-teach expressions such as 'a three-bedroomed house' to your class as a good way of introducing the property. Make sure students know the vocabulary for all the rooms in the house.

Students should take their partner(s) on a tour of the house. You could brainstorm some questions to ask the agent. (e.g. about rent, neighbours, the area etc.)

Monitor and make notes. Have students switch roles when finished.

The answer key is on the next page.

Answer key (Other answers may be possible.)

- 2**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) pick someone up (v) | take someone in a car / motorbike etc. |
| 2) deposit (n) | money paid when first moving into a flat |
| 3) dingy (adj) | dark / unpleasant |
| 4) be fed up with (v) | be bored / annoyed about something |
| 5) out of one's price range (idiom) | too expensive |
- 4**
- 1) No she isn't. She is getting really fed up.
 - 2) The rooms were really dingy and the carpet was threadbare.
 - 3) Yes - just. It is almost out of her price range.
- 5**
- gloomy / bright
 overpriced / good value
 spacious / cramped
 shabby / well-kept
 modern / old
- 6**
- 1) Look at this apartment! The wallpaper is really shabby! It really needs changing.
 - 2) Most flats in this area are far too expensive. This one, however, is good value.
 - 3) The garden looks very well-kept. The last tenant must have loved gardening.
 - 4) These rooms are really gloomy. It really difficult to see anything!

Conversation Strips: Cut up one set for every pair of students.

Carol It was really disappointing. The rooms were really dingy, and the carpets were threadbare!

Joe What about that place in Queen's Street?

Joe So have you found a new flat yet?

Carol Really? I'd love a second opinion! I'll pick you up at 1:00!

Carol Yeah - I'm seeing a place in Pine Street tomorrow afternoon. But it's almost out of my price range. It's tough paying the deposit and the rent up front.

Joe Why don't I come with you tomorrow? I'm free all day.

Joe Well, that's no good! Are you looking round anywhere else?

Carol No - and I'm getting really fed up with looking round places.