At home

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each home feature with its precise meaning.

1 utility room	____	a paved outdoor seating area
2 loft conversion	____	b cupboards forming part of the structure
3 cellar	____	c room below ground with windows
4 basement	____	d separate structure on the property
5 landing	____	e roof space changed into a room
6 porch	____	f covered space before the entrance
7 patio	____	g area at the top of stairs
8 drive	____	h room for laundry and appliances
9 outbuilding	____	i private road from street to house
10 built-in storage	____	j windowless storage room below ground

2 Complete the property collocations.

basement | **conversion** | **living area** | **parking** | **patio** | **property** | **storage** | **windows**

1 an attic _____

2 a paved _____

3 a converted _____

4 an open-plan _____

5 built-in _____

6 off-street _____

7 a period _____

8 floor-to-ceiling _____

3 Choose the most accurate term for each context.

1 A below-ground room with windows, used as an office: *basement / cellar*.

2 A below-ground room without windows, used for wine: *cellar / landing*.

3 A roof space turned into a bedroom: *loft conversion / utility room*.

4 A compact home with its own bathroom and kitchen: *self-contained flat / bedsit*.

5 Parking within the property boundary: *off-street parking / public parking*.

6 Cupboards designed as part of a room: *built-in storage / an outbuilding*.

7 Rooms connected with few dividing walls: *open-plan / self-contained*.

8 An older home with characteristic original details: *period property / holiday villa*.

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4 Complete the property profile with expressions from the box.

built-in storage | converted basement | floor-to-ceiling windows | loft conversion | off-street parking | open-plan living area | outbuilding | paved patio | period property | utility room

This restored **1** _____ combines original stonework with modern features. A bright **2** _____ has **3** _____ overlooking a **4** _____. Laundry appliances are hidden in a separate **5** _____, while **6** _____ keeps the bedrooms uncluttered. The **7** _____ provides a quiet study, and a **8** _____ is used as a guest suite. A garden **9** _____ serves as a workshop. The gated drive offers **10** _____ for two cars.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

When rooms change function

Names such as attic, basement and utility room suggest a typical function, but domestic space is adaptable. A loft can become a bedroom; a basement can provide a studio; and a formal dining room may become a home office. Successful conversion depends on more than decoration. Natural light, ventilation, safe access, insulation and adequate headroom affect whether a room is genuinely habitable. Flexibility can extend a home's useful life, yet removing every separate room may reduce privacy. A good layout balances openness with the need for quiet, storage and changing routines.

1 What do room names normally suggest? _____

2 Give two examples of a room changing function. _____

3 Name three factors that affect habitability. _____

4 What can flexibility extend? _____

5 What may be lost if every separate room is removed? _____

6 Which four needs should a good layout balance? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 They transformed the space under the roof. **CONVERSION** _____

2 The cupboards are part of the room design. **BUILT** _____

3 You can park two cars within the property. **STREET** _____

4 The main rooms have no dividing walls. **PLAN** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write **120-150 words** evaluating the layout of a real or imagined home. Discuss how well it supports light, privacy, storage, access and changing routines.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Distinguish room from function. [ ] Make a balanced recommendation.

ANSWER KEY

1 Home features

1 **h** 2 **e** 3 **j** 4 **c** 5 **g** 6 **f** 7 **a** 8 **i** 9 **d** 10 **b**

2 Property collocations

1 **conversion** 2 **patio** 3 **basement** 4 **living area** 5 **storage** 6 **parking** 7 **property** 8 **windows**

3 Accurate terms

1 **basement** 2 **cellar** 3 **loft conversion** 4 **self-contained flat** 5 **off-street parking** 6 **built-in storage** 7 **open-plan** 8 **period property**

4 Property profile

1 **period property** 2 **open-plan living area** 3 **floor-to-ceiling windows** 4 **paved patio** 5 **utility room**
6 **built-in storage** 7 **loft conversion** 8 **converted basement** 9 **outbuilding** 10 **off-street parking**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A typical function. 2 Any two of the three examples given. 3 Any three: natural light, ventilation, safe access, insulation, headroom.
4 A home's useful life. 5 Privacy. 6 Openness, quiet, storage and changing routines.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 They completed a **loft conversion**. 2 The room has **built-in storage**. 3 There is **off-street parking** for two cars. 4 The main rooms form an **open-plan living area**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check precision, evaluation, balance and a clear recommendation.