Home styles, lifestyles

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each advanced term with its definition.

1 domestic sphere ____	**a** the traditional building style of a particular region, shaped by local needs and materials
2 spatial hierarchy ____	**b** the private, household-centred aspect of life, as opposed to public life
3 vernacular architecture ____	**c** an in-between or transitional space, neither fully one thing nor another
4 liminal space ____	**d** the ordering of spaces by importance or function within a home
5 precarity ____	**e** instability or insecurity, especially regarding housing or income
6 dwelling ____	**f** a formal or literary term for a home or place of residence
7 asceticism ____	**g** a disciplined, simple lifestyle deliberately avoiding material comfort
8 territoriality ____	**h** a sense of ownership or control over a particular space
9 cohabitation ____	**i** living together, especially of unmarried partners
10 residential churn ____	**j** frequent turnover of residents in an area

2 Choose the most precise term for each context.

1 The private, household side of life is the domestic sphere / the public sphere.

2 The ordering of rooms by importance is spatial hierarchy / spatial chaos.

3 A building style shaped by local tradition is vernacular architecture / global design.

4 An in-between, transitional space is a liminal space / a permanent fixture.

5 Housing instability is precarity / stability.

6 A deliberately simple, comfort-avoiding lifestyle is asceticism / indulgence.

7 A felt sense of ownership over a space is territoriality / indifference.

8 Frequent turnover of residents is residential churn / permanent settlement.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

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1 delineate ____	**a** shared space
2 negotiate ____	**b** domestic boundaries
3 inhabit ____	**c** a sense of belonging
4 reconfigure ____	**d** a liminal space
5 encroach on ____	**e** personal territory
6 cultivate ____	**f** one's living arrangements
7 relinquish ____	**g** private space
8 stake a claim to ____	**h** a dwelling

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

asceticism | cohabitation | domestic sphere | dwelling | liminal space | precarity | residential churn | spatial hierarchy | territoriality | vernacular architecture

Anthropologists studying housing note that the 1 _____ has historically been organised around a clear 2 _____, with certain rooms reserved for guests and others considered private. Increasingly, however, informal 3 _____, such as shared hallways, function as genuine social space in dense housing. Rising housing costs have introduced widespread 4 _____, particularly among younger residents facing high 5 _____, a pattern that discourages the kind of stable 6 _____ that once characterised a single, secure 7 _____. In some communities, a deliberate 8 _____ movement has emerged, embracing small living spaces by choice rather than necessity, echoing older traditions of 9 _____ shaped by local materials and climate. Even within a shared flat, subtle expressions of 10 _____, such as personalised shelves or decorations, can signal an individual's claim to a portion of communal space.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Home as a contested space

Housing scholars increasingly frame the home not as a neutral backdrop to daily life but as a contested and actively negotiated space, particularly in shared or multigenerational households. Territoriality, the tendency to claim informal ownership over a portion of shared space, often emerges even among close family members, revealing that domestic harmony frequently depends on unspoken negotiation rather than the absence of conflict. Precarity further complicates this picture: residents facing insecure tenancies may consciously avoid personalising a dwelling, anticipating displacement, which can itself undermine the psychological benefits typically associated with a stable home. Scholars argue that understanding housing policy therefore requires attention to these lived, emotional dimensions, not merely square footage or tenancy length.

1 How do housing scholars increasingly frame the home? _____

2 What is territoriality? _____

3 What does domestic harmony frequently depend on? _____

4 How might residents facing insecure tenancies respond? _____

5 What can this response undermine? _____

6 What do scholars argue understanding housing policy requires? _____

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6 **Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.**

1 The private, household side of her life felt increasingly stressful. _____

2 They lived together for years before marrying. _____

3 He felt a strong sense of ownership over his desk at the shared office. _____

4 The building style reflected local materials and tradition. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 160-190 word critical commentary on how domestic space is negotiated, claimed or contested in shared or changing living arrangements, distinguishing observation from inference.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include four academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a precise, balanced register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced terms

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

2 Precise terms

1 the domestic sphere 2 spatial hierarchy 3 vernacular architecture 4 a liminal space 5 precarity 6 asceticism 7 territoriality 8 residential churn

3 Academic collocations

1 b delineate domestic boundaries 2 a negotiate shared space 3 h inhabit a dwelling 4 f reconfigure one's living arrangements 5 g encroach on private space 6 c cultivate a sense of belonging 7 e relinquish personal territory 8 d stake a claim to a liminal space

4 Analysis

1 domestic sphere 2 spatial hierarchy 3 liminal space 4 precarity 5 residential churn
6 cohabitation 7 dwelling 8 asceticism 9 vernacular architecture 10 territoriality

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 As a contested and actively negotiated space.
2 The tendency to claim informal ownership over a portion of shared space.
3 Unspoken negotiation rather than the absence of conflict.
4 By consciously avoiding personalising a dwelling, anticipating displacement.
5 The psychological benefits typically associated with a stable home.
6 Attention to lived, emotional dimensions, not merely square footage or tenancy length.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 domestic sphere 2 cohabited 3 territoriality 4 vernacular architecture

Over to you

Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, evidence-aware reasoning and balanced evaluation.