Home styles, lifestyles

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each home word.

Word | Layout | Feeling | Task | Style

1 open-plan [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 welcoming [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 decluttering [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 minimalist [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 compact [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 tranquil [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 maintenance [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 eclectic [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 The kitchen is open-planned with the lounge. _____
2 We are declutter the spare room. _____
3 She has a very minimalism style. _____
4 The flat is compact but function. _____
5 It's a tranquil place to living. _____
6 House maintenance take a lot of time. _____
7 His taste is quite eclectically. _____
8 We feel very welcome in this house. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For a layout with no walls between kitchen and living area: open-plan / segmented.
2 For a home that feels calm and peaceful: tranquil / chaotic.
3 For clearing away unnecessary belongings: decluttering / accumulating.
4 For a style with a mix of different influences: eclectic / uniform.
5 For a small but efficiently used space: compact / sprawling.
6 For the regular upkeep a home requires: maintenance / neglect.

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4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

compact | decluttering | eclectic | maintenance | minimalist | open-plan | tranquil | welcoming

Profile A: Their new flat has an 1 _____ kitchen and living room, which feels spacious despite being fairly 2 _____ overall.
Profile B: She recently spent a weekend 3 _____, getting rid of things she no longer needed, to achieve a more 4 _____ look.
Profile C: His style mixes vintage furniture with modern art in a genuinely 5 _____ way that visitors always find 6 _____.
Profile D: The garden is a 7 _____ retreat, though it requires regular 8 _____ to stay that way.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

How our homes shape us

Researchers increasingly study the relationship between home environments and wellbeing, finding that clutter can raise stress levels, while a tidy, well-organised space is often associated with a greater sense of control. This does not mean everyone should adopt a strictly minimalist style; rather, what matters most seems to be whether a space feels intentional rather than chaotic. An eclectic home, filled with personal objects, can feel just as calming as a sparse one, provided it reflects deliberate choices rather than accumulated mess. Open-plan layouts, meanwhile, can encourage social interaction but may also reduce a sense of privacy for some residents.

1 What have researchers found about clutter? _____
2 What is a tidy, well-organised space often associated with? _____
3 Does everyone need to adopt a minimalist style? _____
4 What seems to matter most about a space? _____
5 What can open-plan layouts encourage? _____
6 What might open-plan layouts also reduce for some residents? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The kitchen and lounge share one space. OPEN-PLAN _____
2 She cleared out things she didn't need. DECLUTTERING _____
3 His style mixes many different influences. ECLECTIC _____
4 The garden feels calm and peaceful. TRANQUIL _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how your home environment affects your mood or daily routine. Include specific rooms or features.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Layout 2 Feeling 3 Task 4 Style 5 Layout 6 Feeling 7 Task 8 Style

2 Corrections

1 open-plan with the lounge 2 decluttering the spare room 3 minimalist style
4 compact but functional 5 tranquil place to live 6 House maintenance takes a lot of time
7 quite eclectic 8 welcomed

3 Suitable descriptions

1 open-plan 2 tranquil 3 decluttering 4 eclectic 5 compact 6 maintenance

4 Profiles

1 open-plan 2 compact 3 decluttering 4 minimalist 5 eclectic 6 welcoming 7 tranquil 8 maintenance

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 It can raise stress levels.
2 A greater sense of control.
3 No.
4 Whether a space feels intentional rather than chaotic.
5 Social interaction.
6 A sense of privacy.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The kitchen and lounge are open-plan. 2 She spent time decluttering.
3 His style is eclectic. 4 The garden is tranquil.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.