Home styles, lifestyles

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each precise term with its definition.

1 domesticity ____	**a** a household arrangement shared among several unrelated residents
2 utilitarian ____	**b** relating to home life and household routines
3 idiosyncratic ____	**c** designed mainly for practical use rather than beauty
4 pared-back ____	**d** unusual and specific to one person's taste
5 sanctuary ____	**e** stripped back to essentials, without excess
6 communal living ____	**f** a place offering safety, calm and retreat
7 downsize ____	**g** to move to a smaller home, often to reduce costs
8 gentrification ____	**h** the process by which a neighbourhood becomes more affluent, often displacing residents
9 threadbare ____	**i** worn thin and shabby from age
10 sprawling ____	**j** spreading out over a large, often disorganised area

2 Choose the word with the most suitable connotation.

1 For a home that feels safe and calming: sanctuary / prison.

2 For furniture chosen purely for function: utilitarian / decorative.

3 For a very personal, unusual decorating style: idiosyncratic / generic.

4 For a stripped-back, essentials-only look: pared-back / cluttered.

5 For moving to a smaller home deliberately: downsize / expand.

6 For a neighbourhood becoming wealthier, often displacing residents: gentrification / stagnation.

7 For fabric worn thin from long use: threadbare / brand-new.

8 For a home spreading untidily over a large area: sprawling / compact.

3 Complete the home-life collocations with one word.

1 a sense of _____ (= feeling of home and comfort)

2 _____ living arrangement (= shared among residents)

3 a _____ retreat (= safe, calming space)

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4 _____ furnishings (= chosen purely for practicality)

5 _____ to a smaller home (= move to reduce space or cost)

6 a _____ neighbourhood (= becoming more affluent)

7 a _____ aesthetic (= stripped back, minimal)

8 a truly _____ style (= reflecting one person's unique taste)

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4 Complete the case notes with words and phrases from the box.

communal living | domesticity | downsize | gentrification | idiosyncratic | pared-back | sanctuary | sprawling | threadbare | utilitarian

Case A: After the children left home, the couple decided to 1 _____, moving from a 2 _____ house into a smaller flat.
Case B: The old sofa was 3 _____ but sentimental, and they refused to replace it despite its worn appearance.
Case C: The shared house operates as a form of 4 _____, with residents splitting chores and cooking together.
Case D: The design was deliberately 5 _____, favouring plain, 6 _____ furniture over decoration.
Case E: For her, the reading nook is a genuine 7 _____ from the stress of work, reflecting her love of quiet 8 _____.
Case F: Long-time residents worried that 9 _____ would push up rents and change the character of the neighbourhood, replacing its 10 _____, personal charm with something more generic.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The changing meaning of home

The concept of home has evolved considerably as living arrangements diversify: communal living, downsizing and multigenerational households are all increasingly common responses to housing costs and changing family structures. Sociologists note that domesticity, once closely tied to a single-family house with fixed roles, now takes many forms, from co-housing communities to small, highly personalised flats. Gentrification complicates this picture further, as rising property values in once-affordable neighbourhoods can displace long-term residents, eroding the sense of continuity that many associate with home. Even so, researchers find that a strong sense of domestic sanctuary depends less on square footage than on whether residents feel a space genuinely reflects their own identity.

1 Why has the concept of home evolved considerably? _____

2 What was domesticity once closely tied to? _____

3 What forms can domesticity now take? _____

4 What can gentrification cause? _____

5 What does gentrification erode, according to the text? _____

6 What does a strong sense of domestic sanctuary depend on most? _____

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6 **Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.**

1 They moved to a smaller home after retiring. DOWNSIZE _____

2 The neighbourhood became noticeably more affluent. GENTRIFICATION _____

3 The room felt like a calm, safe retreat. SANCTUARY _____

4 His decorating style was very personal and unusual. IDIOSYNCRATIC _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 120-150 word account of how living arrangements or the meaning of 'home' have changed for you or someone you know, distinguishing observation from interpretation.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Control connotation carefully. [ ] Avoid unsupported assumptions.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Precise terms

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

2 Connotation

1 sanctuary 2 utilitarian 3 idiosyncratic 4 pared-back 5 downsize 6 gentrification 7 threadbare 8 sprawling

3 Collocations

1 domesticity 2 communal 3 sanctuary/domestic 4 utilitarian 5 downsize 6 gentrifying 7 pared-back 8 idiosyncratic

4 Case notes

1 downsize 2 sprawling 3 threadbare 4 communal living 5 pared-back 6 utilitarian
7 sanctuary 8 domesticity 9 gentrification 10 idiosyncratic

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Because living arrangements are diversifying in response to housing costs and changing family structures.
2 A single-family house with fixed roles.
3 Co-housing communities to small, highly personalised flats.
4 Displace long-term residents.
5 The sense of continuity that many associate with home.
6 Whether residents feel a space genuinely reflects their own identity.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 They decided to downsize after retiring. 2 The neighbourhood underwent gentrification.
3 The room felt like a sanctuary. 4 His decorating style was idiosyncratic.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check lexical precision, appropriate connotation and separation of fact from inference.