

7a Homes

Vocabulary features of homes

- 1 Which of these features are important to you in your home? Why?

attic balcony basement
central heating double glazing
fireplace garage garden
terrace veranda

- 2 Look at the photos of four homes. Think of a question you would like to ask each home owner. Work in pairs. Tell your partner.

Listening

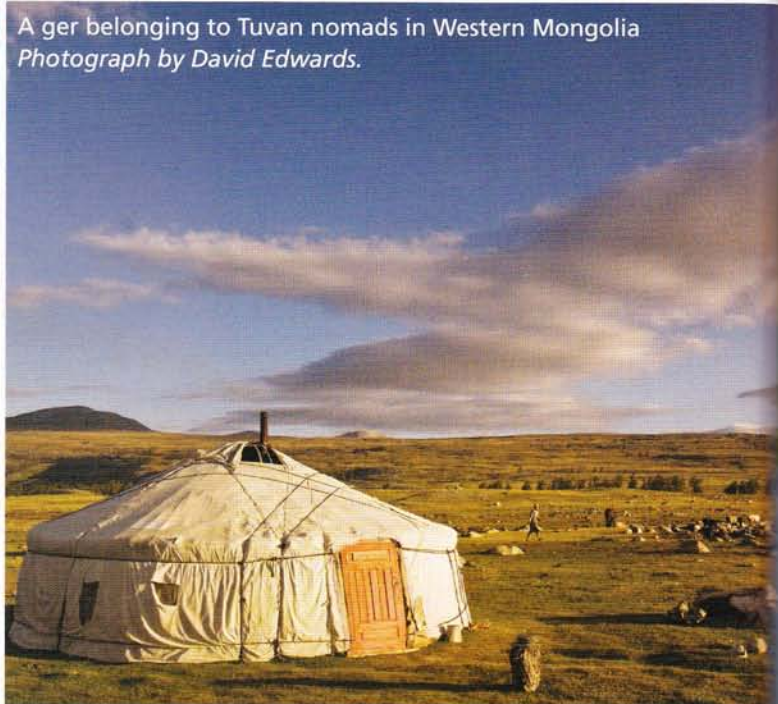
- 3 2.2 Marta Ferreira is an architect and the presenter of a TV series *Home Planet*, about homes around the world. Read the questions (a–e) that viewers have sent in to the programme's website. Then listen and match Marta's podcast replies (1–5) with the questions.

- Why are you so interested in traditional house design?
- We live in a new house that my dad calls a 'box'. What do you think of the design of modern houses?
- What kind of factors influence house design?
- You mentioned shelters in your last programme. What's the difference between a shelter and a house?
- I've stayed in a ger in Mongolia. How would you classify that?

The remains of homes carved into rock in Cappadocia, Turkey
Photograph by Joe Petersburger.



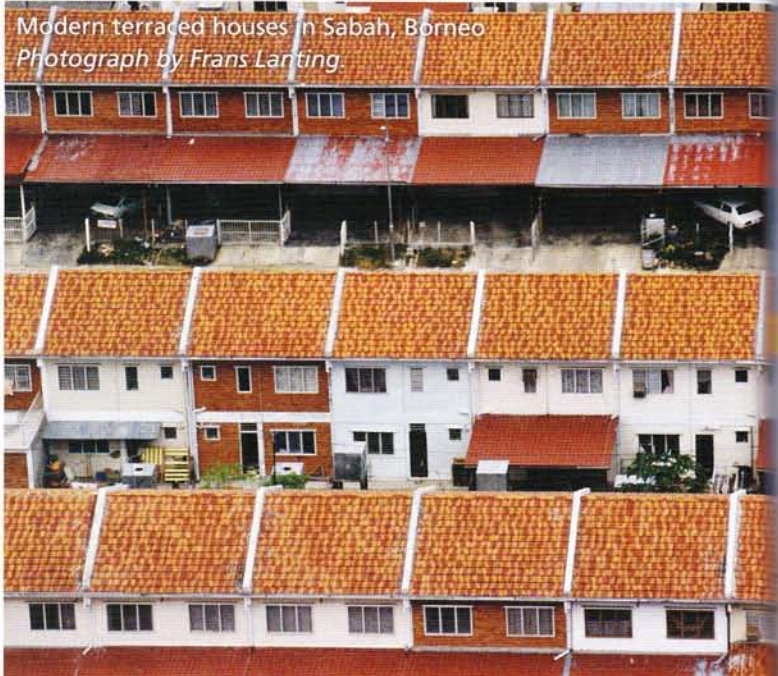
A ger belonging to Tuvan nomads in Western Mongolia
Photograph by David Edwards.



A wooden house on stilts after floods in the Mekong River in southern Cambodia
Photograph by Michael S. Yamashita.



Modern terraced houses in Sabah, Borneo
Photograph by Frans Lanting.



4 2.2 Listen again and complete the sentences.

- Traditional designs are much better in _____ conditions.
- A shelter is _____ than a permanent home.
- You can put up a _____ quickly.
- A ger isn't as solid as a _____ house.
- A ger is easier to take down than a _____.
- The colder the climate, the warmer _____ needs to be.
- Modern homes aren't necessarily the best _____ for every situation.
- Modern homes in _____ are getting smaller and smaller.

Grammar comparatives and superlatives

5 Look at the sentences in Exercise 4.

- Underline the expression which describes a process of change.
- Underline the expression which explains how two things change in relation to each other.
- Underline the comparative and superlative forms of *good*.

▶ COMPARATIVES and SUPERLATIVES

	short adjective/adverb e.g. <i>warm/easy/fast</i>	long adjective/adverb e.g. <i>basic/efficiently</i>
comparative	<i>warmer/easier/faster (than)</i>	<i>more basic/efficiently (than)</i>
-	<i>less warm/easy/fast (than)</i>	<i>less basic/efficiently (than)</i>
-	<i>not as warm/easy/fast as</i>	<i>not as basic/efficiently as</i>
=	<i>as warm/easy/fast as</i>	<i>as basic/efficiently as</i>
superlative	<i>the warmest/easiest/fastest</i>	<i>the most basic/efficiently</i>

For further information and practice, see page 83.

6 Look at the grammar box. What are the rules for the comparative and superlative forms of:

- adjectives or adverbs with one syllable?
- adjectives ending in *-y*?

7 Rewrite the sentences using the word(s) in brackets so that the meaning is the same. Begin with the words in bold.

- Modern houses** aren't as appropriate for local conditions. (less)
- A cave house** is bigger than you think. (not as small)
- An igloo** is less cold inside than you might think. (not as cold)
- The price of **new houses** goes up every year. (more and more expensive)
- My flat** is better than all the others in the block. (the best)
- There are no houses as old as **this house**. (oldest)
- A house** on stilts survives better in floods. (easily)
- A brick house is slower to put up than a ger. (**you can** / quickly)

Listening and speaking

8 2.3 Listen to four people talking about where they live. Write the number of the speaker (1–4) next to the topics.

cleanliness and dirt
housework
maintenance
neighbours
noise
price
size
space

9 Pronunciation as ... as

a 2.4 Listen to the word *as* in these sentences from Exercise 8. Is *as* strong or weak? Repeat the sentences.

- We don't have **as** much money **as** people who are working.
- I can't keep the place **as** clean **as** I'd like because I've got a full-time job.

b Practise these sentences. Which speaker from Exercise 8 do you think says each sentence?

- It's not as noisy as a flat.
- It isn't as expensive as a house.
- It's as simple as it could be!
- It's as clean as I can get it.
- Flats aren't as quiet as houses.
- There aren't as many residents as in a block of flats.

10 Work in groups of four. Use the ideas in Exercise 8 and discuss whether a house or a flat is better for these people. Tell the class and give your reasons.

a group of students
a retired couple
a single person
a young family
a young married couple
an elderly person living alone

11 What about the people in your group? Which is better for you – a house or a flat?

We've got two cats, so for us a house is much better.