**HOUSE. FLAT Learn the vocabulary**

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| **Types of dwelling**  House / accommodation  block of flats / apartment building  multistoried building  storey (Br)/ story (*US*)  a 3-storey house  bungalow  flat / аpartment  condo / condominium (US)  maisonette  high-rise  skyscraper  detached house  semi-detached house / semi / duplex  bedsitter / bedsit / studio  houseboat  farmhouse / ranch house  mansion  palace  cottage  thatched cottage  cabin  chalet  shed  shack  villa  yurt  penthouse  townhouse / row house / terraced h.  mobile home / caravan / trailer | **Типи помешкань**  будинок/ житло  багатоквартирний будинок  багатоповерховий будинок  поверх  триповерховий будинок  одноповерховий будинок  квартира  кондомініум (квартира у приват. власності)  квартира на двох рівнях  висотний будинок  хмарочос  будинок на одну сім’ю  будинок розділений навпіл стіною на дві сім’ї  однокімнатна квартира  плавучий будинок  фермерський будинок / ранчо  особняк, сучасний великий котедж  палац  будинок в селі старої архітектури  будинок з солом’яною стріхою  маленький дерев’яний будинок  шале, будинок в горах  сарай  халупа  вілла  юрта  пентхауз  будинок терасового типу  житловий автопричеп, буд. на колесах |

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| **Parts of house**  attic  balcony  banister  basement  cat-flap  ceiling  cellar  chimney  door  floor  French window  door bell  key  mat  drainpipe  foundation  front / back door  gutter  landing  mail slot  pillar  radiator  roof  room  furnished room  staircase  stairs  steps  tiled roof  wall  window  window sill | **Частини будинку**  мансарда, кімната на горищі  балкон  балюстрада, бильце  підвальне приміщення  отвір на дверях для кота  стеля  льох, підвал  димар  двері  підлога  скляні двері, вікно від підлоги  дзвінок на дверях  ключ  килимок  водостічна труба  фундамент  парадний / задній вхід  ринва, водостічний жолоб  площадка сходів  отвір для пошти на парадних дверях  колона, опора  батарея опалення  дах  кімната  умебльована кімната  прольот сходів  сходи  східці  черепична криша  стіна  віконо  підвіконня |

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| **Rooms in a House**  bathroom  bedroom  cloakroom / water closet  closet  corner  den  dining room  en-suite bathroom  family room / living room  foyer / entryway / entry hall  kitchen  laundry closet / laundry room  lift / elevator  master bedroom  pantry / larder  porch  shutter  sitting room  storage room  study  sunroom  toilet  utility room | **Кімнати у будинку**  ванна кімната разом з туалетом  спальня  окремий туалет в житл. будинку  комора  куток  кімната відпочинку  їдальня  ванна кімн., суміжна зі спальнею  вітальня  передпокій  кухня  кімната для прання  ліфт  хазяйська, найбільша в будинку спальня  комора для провізії  ганок, веранда  віконниця  вітальня  комора для зберігання речей  кабінет  кімната, де багато світла  унітаз  підсобна кімната (для прання тощо) |

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| **In a House / furniture / furnishings**  armchair / easy chair  bath (*Br*) / tub (*Am*)  bed  bedside table  bookcase  bureau / chest  wall-mounted cabinet  carpet  ceiling fan  chair  chandelier  clothes rack  coffee table  couch / sofa  counter  curtain  desk  drawer  fireplace  fitted carpet / carpeting  jalousie  lamp  mirror  parquet  picture  rug  sink  shelf (pl. shelves)  table / dining table  toilet  vase  wall unit  wallpaper  wardrobe / armoire  fitted wardrobe  amenities / conveniences  facilities  electricity | **В будинку / меблі / предмети умеблювання**  крісло  ванна  ліжко  столик біля ліжка  книжкова шафа  комод  настінна шафа  килим  вентилятор на стелі  стілець  люстра  вішалка для одягу  журнальний столик  диван  кришка столу, стільниця  завіса, штора  письмовий / робочий стіл  шухляда  камін  ковролін  жалюзі  лампа  дзеркало  паркет  картина  килим, килимок  раковина  полиця  обідній стіл  унітаз  ваза  меблева стінка, меблевий гарнітур  шпалери  шафа для одягу  вбудована шафа  зручності  обладнання, зручності, устаткування  електрика |

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| **Kitchen**  breakfast nook  cabinets  cooker hood  cupboard  dishwasher  freezer  fridge = refrigerator  kitchen utensils  microwave oven / microwave  oven  running water  sink  stool  stove / cooker  tap (*Br*) / faucet (*US*)  tumble drier  washing machine | **Кухня**  куточок для швидкого прийому їжі  маленькі шафи кухонної стінки  витяжка  буфет, кухона шафа  посудомийна машина  морозилка  холодильник  кухонний посуд та пристрої  мікрохвильова піч  духовка, пічка  водопровідна вода  раковина  табурет  плита  кран  електрична сушарка  пральна машина |

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| **Things Outside the Home**  antenna / TV aerial  backyard  curb (*US*)/ kerb (*Br*)  driveway / drive  fence  flowerbed  garden / lawn  gate  gazebo  hedge  lamp post  mailbox / letter box  path  patio/ terrace  road  satellite dish  shed  sidewalk (*US*)/ pavement (*Br*)  street light  swimming pool  swing set  tree house | **Те, що біля будинку**  антена  задній двір  узбіччя, бордюр  під’їзна дорога до гаражу, у двір  паркан  клумба  зелений двір / газон  ворота  бесідка  зелений паркан (з кущів)  ліхтарний стовп  почтова скриня  доріжка до входу, стежка  внутрішній дворик (зазвичай з заднього входу на помості)  дорога  супутникова антена  сапай  тротуар  вуличне освітлення  басейн  гойдалки  будинок на дереві |

**Match the left and the right columns.**

1. **Rooms and Places in the Home.**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. **Attic** 2. **Balcony** 3. **Basement** 4. **Bathroom** 5. **Bedroom** 6. **Cellar** 7. **Hall** 8. **Hall** 9. **Landing** 10. **Living room** 11. **Loft** 12. **Pantry or larder** 13. **Porch** 14. **Shed** 15. **Study** 16. **Terrace or patio** 17. **Utility room** | 1. A room used for sleeping in. 2. The room in a house or apartment that is used for relaxing, and entertaining guests, but not usually for eating. 3. A room with a bath and/or shower and often a toilet. 4. The area just inside the main entrance of a house, apartment or other building which leads to other rooms and usually to the stairs. 5. Usually just for washing machine, freezer etc. 6. A separated building from the house usually for storing garden tools. 7. Space in the roof of the house usually used only for storage. 8. Room in the roof space of a house (could be lived in.) 9. Room below ground level without any windows used for storage. 10. Room below ground level, with windows, used for living and working. 11. Flat area at the top of a staircase. 12. Open area as you come into the house. 13. Covered area before the entrance door. 14. Large cupboard used, especially in the past, for storing food. 15. Paved area between the house and garden for sitting and eating, etc. 16. A room for reading, writing, studying in. 17. An area with a wall or bars around it that is joined to the outside wall of a building on an upper level. |

1. **Types of houses / Places Where People Live**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. **House** 2. **Detached house** 3. **Semi detached house** 4. **Apartment (UK usually flat)** 5. **Terraced house** 6. **Cottage** 7. **Bungalow** 8. **Bedsit** 9. **Villa** 10. **Time share** | 1. A building which people, usually one family, live in. 2. Describes a house that is not connected to any other building. 3. A house that is semi-detached is one that is joined to another similar house on only one side. 4. A set of rooms for living in, especially on one floor of a building. 5. A house that is joined to the houses on either side of it by shared walls. 6. A small house, usually in the countryside. 7. A house that has only one story/floor. 8. A rented room which has a bed, table, chairs and somewhere to cook in it. 9. A house usually in the countryside or near the sea, particularly in southern Europe, and often one which people can rent for a holiday. 10. A holiday house or apartment which is owned by several different people, each of whom is able to use it for a particular period of the year. |

**Text 1: A British House**

Most people in Britain live in individual houses rather than in flats. Such houses are detached, semi-detached or terraced. Usually, terraced houses, one of a row of similar properties joined together, are the smallest, cheapest and have the smallest gardens. Semis are one of two "mirror-image" properties, very often with a garage by the side of each house. Detached houses are the most varied; by size, by the area of attached land and by their architecture. Often a road may contain very many detached houses, all of which look different and are of different ages.

In Britain, the scope and size of a house is measured by the number of bedrooms it has. So an Englishman may tell you that he lives in a "four-bed semi" as 'bed' is the usual shortening for 'bedroom' in this context. The other main rooms, such as a lounge, a dining room or a study are often called "reception rooms". Often attached to the kitchen i« a utility room so that appliances such as the washing machine, tumble drier, dishwasher and freezer may be put there rather than in the kitchen. The bathroom in a British house is usually one room with a toilet, bath or shower, sink and sometimes a bidet. No British family would ever dream of putting a washing machine in their bathroom and it is even illegal to site any high-voltage electrical appliance in a bathroom. Almost all larger houses now have a second toilet in a small room called a cloakroom.

So the average British house may have on the ground floor a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen and a cloakroom. Outside there will be a front garden, a back garden and a garage. Many families build an extension to add a utility room, to extend the kitchen, to make a conservatory for plants or to add a 'family room' or study. Larger houses would have been built with one or more of these. Upstairs, on the first floor, there may be three bedrooms and a bathroom. Above them will be an attic for storage although some families convert their attic into an extra room.

Having a separate house and many rooms is essential to the British character - "An Englishman's home is his castle" - and privacy is very important. But the dream of many is to own a cottage in the country with a thatched roof, perhaps built hundreds of years ago, with beautiful flower gardens, far from the noise, dirt and smell of big cities. The compromise is very often to have a house in a suburb or in the country and then commute to work.

Since so many people want land and greenery, most houses have lawns, patios and flower gardens. Gardening is as a result a very popular pastime in Britain. Almost all houses shape their gardens for decoration rather practical purposes and very few grow vegetables in their gardens.

The extremes in society are the richest and the poorest. Generally, only the very poorest live in blocks of flats in large cities and major urban conurbations. The very rich live in mansions on estates, although most stately homes that were built over the past several hundred years are too big and have too much land for normal use, so they have been donated or sold to the Government, the National Trust or English Heritage. Today their architecture, furnishings and gardens are enjoyed by visitors and tourists, before returning to their own smaller houses.

**Notes**

1. Mirror-image - дзеркальне відображення.

2. Scope - масштаб, простір.

3. Lounge -вітальня для прийому гостей та обіду, якщо немає окремої їдальні в будинку.

4. Conservatory - оранжерея, теплиця, зимовий сад.

5. Storage - зберігання.

6. tо commute - їздити щодня з передмістя на роботу до міста.

7. Suburb - спальний район, передмістя.

8. Conurbation (formal expression) - велике місто з передмістями, мегаполіс.

9. Stately home - великий заміський будинок палацового типу, який належить або належав англійській аристократії.

**Text 2.** *Translate the text below into Ukrainian and write a summary in English. Use the following keywords: civil engineer - інженер будинків та конструкцій, to tackle - енергічно братися до чогось, займатися чимось, front-line technology - інтерфейсна технологія.*

The notion of the Intelligent Building is the modern civil engineer's Big Idea in tackling a new era for domestic dwellings. The essential idea is that an intelligent building can adapt itself to maintain an optimized environment. This ability relies on a computer heart linked to sensors as front-line technology.

There are five basic categories of intelligent building technology: energy and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), information, safety and security, maintenance, and control. The breakthrough into the domestic market is not quite here yet, (unless you're Bill Gates), although the first elements are already in place in many homes.

One of the more fascinating developments already available is that of biometric access security systems. These almost bring to life the 'spy-thriller' world of automatic iris and fingerprint scanners as a means of secure access to buildings without using conventional keys. Together with voice recognition systems, a building may now open its doors to the person it recognises and carry out their commands at the same time as automatically adjusting the temperature, humidity and lighting to their preferences. But how does the computer system resolve the argument between one person who likes it hot, stuffy and dark and the other who likes it cool, airy and bright?

**Dialogues**

**Dialogue 1 Waiting for the removals men**

Ian: I hate moving house. It's so much effort and stress.

Kate: That's true - and we have to decide where to put everything.

Zoe: I want the widescreen television in the study.

K: No, it should really go in the lounge, next to the fireplace.

I: But only if I can put the main computer in my bedroom.

Z: I won't argue about that much. Especially since there's already a network installed and there are four connection points around the house.

I: Which reminds me: we'll need to ring the plumber to put connections for the dishwasher in the utility room and he can put in a vent for the drier at the same time.

Z: Okay. Oh good, there's a gas hob and an electric oven fitted in the kitchen. But I can't see where best to put the microwave oven.

I: Never mind about that, we'd better decide quickly where we want the three-piece suite and the rocker to go, since the removals lorry's arriving

K: We can put the wicker chair in the en-suite bathroom and the rocker in the study, where we'd better put all the crates of books for now.

Z: The master bedroom's got the en-suite but which is going to be the second bedroom where we need to put the brass bedstead?

I: Well, three of them have fitted wardrobes so I suppose whichever's got a big enough wall for the large mirror with the brass frame.

Z: Oh no, I didn't notice before. There's no cat-flap in the kitchen. What's Bertie, our ginger torn, going to do?

**Dialogue 2. Fitting out the kitchen**

Ian: I hope there are enough power points in the kitchen and the utility

room for all our appliances.

Kate: I'm not at all sure, we'd better count. Let's start with the utility room.

I: We've got the freezer, the dishwasher, the washing machine, the tumble drier, the rechargeable torch and the dustbuster. Oh, and one for the iron. So we'll need six in use and one available.

K: We're doing fine so far, there are eight in here.

I: In the kitchen, the oven, the gas boiler, the ventilation hood and the extractor fan are already connected, so that's four. Now we're going to put in a fridge, the microwave oven, the food mixer, the blender, the toaster, the electric kettle, the cordless telephone, the espresso machine and the coffee grinder.

K: Unlucky thirteen, there are twelve in here. But you know what to do - give up coffee and drink tea instead.

I: My espresso machine and I are moving into the utility room.

**Dialogue 3. Apartment for Rent (audio – www.esl-lab.com)**

Roger: Hello.

Ann: Hello Roger? This is Ann.

Roger: Oh hi, Ann. How have you been? And how's your new apartment working out?

Ann: Well, that's what I'm calling about. You see, I've decided to look for a new place.

Roger: Oh, what's the problem with your place now? I thought you liked the apartment.

Ann: Oh, I do, but it's a little far from campus, and the commute is just killing me. Do you think you could help? I thought you might know more about the housing situation near the university.

Roger: Alright. So, what kind of place are you looking for?

Ann: Well, I'd like to share an apartment with one or two roommates within walking distance to school.

Roger: Okay, what's your budget like? I mean how much do you want to spend on rent?

Ann: Uh, somewhere under $200 a month, including utilities, if I could. Oh, and I'd prefer to rent a furnished apartment.

Roger: Hmm. And anything else?

Ann: Yeah, I need a parking space.

Roger: Well, I know there's an apartment complex around the corner that seems to have a few vacancies. I'll drop by there on my way to class today.

Ann: Hey, thanks a lot.

Roger: No problem.

**Notes**

1. Brass - латунний, мідний.

2. Cat-flap - дверцята для кота.

3. Utilities – комунальні послуги

4. to drop by – заїхати

5. Tumble drier - електросушарка.

6. Dustbuster - мініпилосос без шнура, що підзаряжається від електромережі.

**Task 1.** *Write a dialogue between a house buyer and an estate agent But first read the notes for each role very carefully and mark any points that you need to keep in mind. Base your conversation on the notes, but don't be afraid to use your imagination.*

ROLE 1. You are a housebuyer. You have a mortgage of £170,000 available. If it's absolutely necessary you could raise a further £20,000. These are your requirements:

- city centre location, near a school (there is only one car in the family)

- three bedrooms (you have two children)

- good condition (you are no do-it-yourself fan)

- large garden if possible, some garden essential

- a children's play-room if possible

- a garage if possible, but not essential -plenty of storage place

Be prepared to ask the estate agent detailed questions. You can try offering a lower price if you like.

ROLE 2. You are an estate agent. There are two houses (marked \*) that your boss would particularly like you to sell as they have been on the books for a long time. Your commission is based on the selling price so you are interested in persuading the buyer to pay as much as possible.

**17, Oxford Avenue. £ 148,000**

A semi-detached house in a suburb 3 miles from the city centre but with good bus services. Almost a mile to the nearest school. Has three bedrooms, lots of cupboard space, a small garden and garage. No play-room and no scope for building an extension. Needs redecorating.

**22, Green Street £ 184,000**

A large detached house with four bedrooms in a quiet suburb 20 minutes walk from the city centre. The nearest school is five minutes' walk. Good condition throughout but with oil-fired central heating. Sizeable garden in need of significant work and double garage.

**1, Coronation Road \* £ 174,000**

A terraced house in the city centre. Two bedrooms and one boxroom which could be converted into a child's bedroom. Nearby school but with a . poor reputation. All the rooms are small. The interior is in good condition but the roof is in need of repair. Large attic. Small courtyard.

**Rose Cottage \* £ 186,000**

A picturesque country cottage, 18 miles from the centre of the city on a bus route with an infrequent service. Six miles to the nearest school. Huge and beautiful views, from a large well looked-after garden. 1 large double and 2 single small bedrooms. Space to build a garage. Open fire for burning logs.

**Task 2.** *Translate into English using the vocabulary of the lesson.*

1. Українська хата - оригінальний витвір народу, самобутнє (distinctive) явище в історії архітектури.

2. Зручність нашого житла значною мірою залежить від правильного обладнання підсобних приміщень - комори, передпокою.

3. В Україні, де в більшості районів клімат досить теплий і м'який, будинки споруджують з верандами.

4. Загальна кімната несе найбільше функціональне навантаження, оскільки у вільний час тут збирається сім'я для розваг, відпочинку, простих домашніх робіт.

5. Обладнання спальні відрізняється простотою, це - ліжко, тумбочка, платтяна шафа та дзеркало, яке найкраще повісити на стіну.

6. Якщо в сім'ї двоє дітей, близьких за віком, доцільно зробити двоповерхове ліжко.

7. Не раз влітку ми зупиняємо погляд на балконах, прикрашених квітами та пишною зеленню.

8. Вони перетворили свій будинок на казковий замок.

9. Треба неодмінно заїхати на АЗС, щоб заправити машину.

10. Ти б краще поскладав всі непотрібні речі в коробки та відніс у сарай.

11. Одягни гумові рукавички, коли будеш мити машину.

12. "Це просто жах", - скрикнула Моллі, - "він подарував мені на день народження кавомолку". "А ти сподівалась, що він подарує тобі свій маєток?" - засміялась Келлі.

13. Щодня він мав діставатись до роботи велосипедом і це займало близько години.

14. У тій частині будинку, де був зимовий сад, відвідувачі зупинялись найчастіше.

**B.**

1. Він хоче продати котедж із солом‘яною стріхою, розташований у живописному передмісті Лондона.
2. Я б ніколи не хотіла жити у висотному будинку в центрі міста або у новому житловому районі з однотипними будинками.
3. Мрією мого дитинства завжди був житловий автопричеп, тому що ми б могли подрожувати усією родиною і зупинятися там, де захочемо.
4. Вона дуже скоро вийде заміж за Джека і тоді вони житимуть разом у його окремому будинку з чудовим садом.
5. Я більше не живу у двоповерховому будинку, ми переїхали у нову квартиру.
6. Ти коли-небудь думав про те, щоб переїхати до будинку терасного типу?
7. Їй завжди хотілося втекти з великого міста і оселетися у невеличкому бунгало на березі моря.
8. На горищі старого будинку завжди можна знайти безліч цікавих речей.
9. Тепер я живу у хмарочосі в центрі Нью-Йорка, і ввечері дуже полюбляю сидіти біля вікна і дивитися на місто.
10. Найважливішим для нього було якнайшвидше купити ранчо і почати нове щасливе життя.

**C.**

1. Якби він мав достатньо грошей, то придбав би собі дачу.

2. Хмарочоси нічного міста вражали туристів.

3. На горищі ранчо поліція знайшла вкрадені гроші.

4. Він вже майже забув про своє життя у автопричепі.

5. Напівокремі будинки можна побачити у багатьох європейських країнах.

6. Цей багатоквартирний будинок буде продано, а його мешканці переїдуть в інший.

7. Особняк містера Соммерса виглядає розкішно.

8. Нещодавно Сара переїхала у новий житловий район з розташованими поруч однотипними будинками.

9. Ця квартира в двох рівнях належить його матері.

10. Котеджі зі солом’яною стріхою можна зустріти навіть у сучасних селах.

11. Цей будинок побудовано у вікторіанському стилі.

12.Стоянка житлових автопричепів знаходилася біля лісу.

13. Анна вже 10 років мешкає у кондомініумі.

14. Кімнати, перебудовані з інших приміщень, є популярними серед творчих людей.

15. Чорний хід допоміг йому втекти.

**Task 3**. Draw the floor plan of your house / flat and describe in detail your favourite room or place in the house **in writing**.

**DISCUSSION.** Answer the questions **in writing**

**HOUSE AND HOME**

1) Are you a ‘house and home’ person?

2) What’s your favourite thing about your home?

3) What is your dream home?

4) What home improvements would you like to make to your home?

5) Are you happy with the colour scheme and furniture in your home?

6) Would you rather live in a house or an apartment?

7) Do you agree that ‘home is where the heart is’?

8) Do you like being at home alone?

9) What are the differences between a house and a home?

10) Do you like the houses in other countries?

**NEIGHBOURS**

1. What are the most common neighbor complaints?
2. Do you get on well with your neighbors?
3. What kind of neighbor are you?

Loud? Dirty? Nagging? Understanding?

1. Have you ever had problems with your neighbors? Explain.
2. What is it that neighbors do that peeves you the most?
3. Have you ever considered suing your neighbor? Why?
4. Do you treat others as you'd like to be treated?
5. What are the most common neighbor complaints?
6. Do you get on well with your neighbors?
7. How do you keep your neighbors from complaining?

**HOUSING**

1) What springs to mind when you hear the word ‘housing’?

2) Is there a problem with housing in your country?

3) Does your government provide housing for people on low or no income?

4) Are you interested in the state of the housing market?

5) Is it easy to find good quality housing in your town?

6) What are the housing estates / housing projects like in your area?

7) Do you think there’ll be housing shortages in your town / country in the future?

8) Do you think everyone on a low income should get a housing allowance / housing benefit?

9) If you belonged to your local housing association, what points would you consider raising?

10) What do you think of the sheltered housing system in which governments provide accommodation for the aged and homeless?

**RENT**

1) What springs to mind when you hear the word ‘housing’?

2) Is there a problem with housing in your country?

3) Does your government provide housing for people on low or no income?

4) Are you interested in the state of the housing market?

5) Is it easy to find good quality housing in your town?

6) What are the housing estates / housing projects like in your area?

7) Do you think there’ll be housing shortages in your town / country in the future?

8) Do you think everyone on a low income should get a housing allowance / housing benefit?

9) If you belonged to your local housing association, what points would you consider raising?

10) What do you think of the sheltered housing system in which governments provide accommodation for the aged and homeless?

# Text 3. “Home Sweet Home”. Read the text and give a headline to each paragraph. Translate one of the paragraphs in writing. Comment on the ideas that you support or disagree with.

Home... to me, it is my nest, my cave, my comfort zone for heart and soul, my safe haven. Home is also the place where I design my environment to reflect my personality, turning my surroundings into an extension of myself and making them part of me visually as well as ideologically. Home is where I come back to after an outing, and it awaits me with my worn slippers, my comfy recliner and my happy pets. Home is where I know every nook and cranny, every creak and groan, every smell and every patch of light and shadow. My home is my castle... I have the right to make it almost inaccessible to unwelcome intruders and welcoming to those I love and respect.

Sometimes I wonder how a professionally decorated house or apartment can be a real home to the people who live in it. To me, it seems as if that was the same as wearing a stranger's clothes or somebody else’s prescription glasses. Sure, it may serve the basic purpose and it may look better than if you used your own things and ideas, but it's just not you. Isn't hiring somebody to create your living space, your home, a lot like having the secretary choose your friend’s birthday present flowers and put a birthday card in front of you to sign while making your dinner reservations? The birthday is remembered and observed, the employee quite possibly has impeccable taste and chooses well, yet the whole setup misses the original idea by miles.

What about adding one's own personal touches to a professionally created environment then? Would this fix the problem? It might – but usually, such a professionally designed environment is finely balanced, and changes or additions as small as a misfit picture frame in the wrong place or a chair pulled closer to the coffee table for comfort mar the professional's composition and, in a way, defeat the purpose behind hiring a decorator in the first place. I personally believe that a home should grow over time and be cultivated by those who live in it, rather than be served like a classy but prefabricated dinner by a stranger. Strangers just never put the right amount of salt in it, if you ask me.

At the same time, being in my familiar, second-skin surroundings at home gives me peace of mind and a feeling of security which is as intense as that nervousness is. I suppose you could say that there is a lot of mental and emotional security in old slippers and the faint buzzing of your refrigerator. Security. Have you ever noticed that your home is the only place in the world where your level of security is entirely up to you? You have choices ranging from unlocked doors to barred windows, both in the physical and the figurative sense. You have the option to keep out the unwelcome by way of locks, caller ID and the "off" button on the TV. Whether we entertain friends, have a family get-together, take in stray animals or people, or post "No Trespassing" signs around our property and refuse the traveling salesman or missionary, it's our choice.