

1. Home describes a place to live but is also a concept that includes a sense of security, familiarity, sanctuary and comfort.
2. We say we are “at home” when we are in our house. My kids are at home studying for the test. But we also just use “home” with no preposition. She had a good time on vacation but is glad to be home. I’m going to stay home and do my homework.
3. We don’t say “in home”. NOT I’m in home today. We say “at home”.
4. Common ways to use home include: come home, go home, get home and stay home.
5. “Make yourself at home” is commonly said to a guest. It is an invitation to sit down, relax and be informal.
6. A house guest is a guest that is spending at least one night in your home. Americans treat house guests as part of the family. They do not expect to wait on the guest, but encourage the guest to look after their own needs. It is still polite to ask before getting something from the kitchen or using something in the house. But asking permission before doing everything becomes annoying, so make yourself at home.
7. Would you feel comfortable asking an American to stay in your home? Would you feel like you had to wait on them? (Teachers, explain the meaning of “wait on them”)
8. If you feel “at home” somewhere, you feel as if you are in your own home. EX: I really liked Florida. I felt right at home there. Where do you feel most “at home”?
9. A “home away from home” is another place you visit so frequently that it feels like a second home. I’ve spent four months in Mexico City this year. It’s my home away from home. Do you have a home away from home?
10. If you are “homesick” you long for your home city or country. Do you often feel homesick?
11. If you are “home free”, you feel safe or sure of success because you have accomplished something difficult. EX: Once you get through the desert, you’re home free. The rest of the trip is really easy.

Read these paragraphs and discuss the meaning of the underlined terms.

1. We’re in the market for a new house. But it’s been hard to find what we want. We’ve been house hunting for over three months with no luck. Our realtor has showed us many houses in bad shape. We liked one of them, but decided it needed too much work. One of the houses was falling apart. We don’t mind a fixer upper, but we insist the roof and foundation of the house be in good shape. We want a house with good bones, and one which has been well kept up.
How did you find your house or apartment?
Have you ever bought a house or do you usually rent?
How do market values for houses compare with your country?
2. My mom makes extra money keeping house for an older couple in the neighborhood. She keeps their house spotless. When she first started working there, the place was a pig sty, years of old newspapers and trash on the floor. It was a real disaster. She cleaned it from top to bottom. Now she mainly has to straighten up and do the dishes. She likes to give it a quick once over every few days. She said once every six months she’ll give the house a spring cleaning. The older couple are lucky to have such a good housekeeper.

Do you do your own housekeeping or employ a maid?

3. In the past, married women did most of the housekeeping, but today that has changed. As more women have entered the work force, husbands are having to pitch in to help with chores. How much does your husband pitch in with the chores?

Nouns often have typical adjectives which go with them. Here are some examples:

1. We say the real thing, but the genuine article.
2. You give a "broad summary" not a "wide summary".
3. The speaker went into "great detail" not "big detail".
4. We say a "formidable task" not a "large task" or "powerful task".
5. We say a "formidable opponent" not a "large opponent".
6. We say, "I feel strongly about..." not "I feel powerfully about..."
7. We say, "if I remember correctly" not "if I remember perfectly".
8. You "raise" your hand, not "lift" your hand. Same thing with "raise a family".

Choose between "real" and "genuine" in these sentences.

1. The Egyptian Pyramid hotel in Las Vegas is great, but I'd prefer to see the _____ thing.
2. He doesn't live in the _____ world. He lives in a fantasy world.
3. She is a very _____ person. She has no pretences.
4. This homemade beer is OK, but it isn't the same as the _____ article.

Choose the best word for each sentence.

1. After his death, she went to the hospital to collect his personal _____
affairs objects effects extras
2. He made a rather _____ attempt at an apology, but it didn't convince anyone.
faint frail fragile feeble
3. George was a _____ opponent and I respected him for that.
formidable dreadful forbidding threatening
4. I was feeling _____ anxious when she didn't arrive by ten.
totally pretty utterly blatantly
5. She seemed to be _____ bewildered by the answer he gave.
vividly strongly utterly heavily
6. She always takes a _____ walk before breakfast.
brusque brisk brash
7. It _____ my appetite.
enforces sharpens grows
8. Let's take a _____ stroll along the beach.
sluggish plodding leisurely
9. If you want to stay at home tonight, that's _____ OK with me.
utterly perfectly blatantly
10. My aunt _____ \$50,000 to cancer research.
bequeathed bequested bereaved