

A Homestyles

A **squat** /skwɒt/ is an empty building where people start living without the owner's permission.

A **hovel** /'hɒvəl/ is a very poor, dirty house or flat in a bad condition.

A **pied à terre** /pjɛɪd/ɑː/'teə/ is a small flat or house in a city owned or rented by people in addition to their main home and used when they are visiting the city.

A **penthouse** is a luxury flat at the top of a building.

Council housing is provided by the state for people who cannot afford to buy their own homes.

High-rise flats are flats in a tall, modern building with a lot of floors.

A **granny flat** is a set of rooms for an elderly person, connected to a relative's house.

B Modern lifestyles

Today many people want to get out of the **rat race** [unpleasant way in which people struggle competitively for wealth or power] and live a less stressful or less conventional lifestyle.

Feng Shui: a Chinese philosophy which states that the position of buildings and the arrangement of objects in the home affects the health and well-being of people living there.

minimalism: a style which involves using the smallest possible range of materials, colours, etc. and only the most simple shapes or designs.

post-modernism: a style of architecture, the arts, etc. popular in the 1980s and 1990s which includes features from several different periods.

New Age: a way of life and thinking which developed in the late 1980s and includes a wide range of beliefs and activities, e.g. astrology, alternative medicine, that are not accepted by most people and are a reaction against modern scientific and economic developments.

subsistence farming: where people live by growing just enough food for their own family.

C Idioms and metaphors relating to homes and lifestyles

expression	meaning	example
a household word/ name	something everyone knows	Nike has become a household name.
a drink on the house	a free drink	The restaurant owner offered us a bottle of wine on the house.
home truths	information that is true but not pleasant or welcome	It's time he was told some home truths about the way he's been behaving!
nothing to write home about	nothing special	The town is OK but nothing to write home about.
hit home	become fully understood or fully felt	The difficulty of managing without a regular salary is hitting home now.
That's the story of my life.	That's what always happens to me. (used humorously)	Everyone got a pay rise the week after I resigned. That's the story of my life!
have the time of your life	have a wonderful time	Paul's having the time of his life in Canada.
get a new lease of life	become more energetic and active than before	When Sue moved jobs she seemed to get a new lease of life.
a dog's life	a very unhappy and difficult life	Reg said he led a dog's life in the army.