

Living big in a tiny house

(LEVEL B2/C1)

Part 1: WARM-UP

EX.1. Look at the pictures below showing different types of accommodation. Would you be able to live like this yourself? Why?/Why not? Compare your ideas with a partner.



Source: Pinterest.com

Part 2: WATCHING

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYVJbupG3Xg>

EX.2.a You are going to watch a video showing a tiny flat in Tokyo of just 8 sq metres. Look at the following questions and try to guess the answers. Check your ideas with your partner. Then watch the video and check if you were correct about any of your predictions.

1. Is this a typical example of a Japanese flat? Why?/Why not?
2. What rooms/facilities are there?
3. Is it possible to do exercise there? Why/Why not?
4. What is usually missing in a typical Japanese kitchen?
5. Where is the toilet hidden?:)
6. What does Emma like about her bedroom?
7. Does she face any difficulties because of this tiny space?

EX.2.b Answer the following questions with your partner:

1. What do you think about the design of this flat? Is it functional?
2. Would you be able to live in such a tiny flat permanently? Why?/Why not?

Part 3: VOCABULARY

EX.3.a Match the expressions used in the video with their synonyms/definitions.

A. confined	a. things of different kinds
B. spartan	b. no longer fresh/new
C. bits and bobs	c. deceive
D. stale	d. tidy
E. to mess over	e. comfort when you're feeling sad
F. neat	f. limited
G. to unwind	g. relax
H. solace	h. simple and not particularly comfortable

Part 4: VOCABULARY PRACTICE + SPEAKING

EX.4. Discuss the following questions with your partner. Make sure you use the new vocabulary as often as possible.

1. How do you usually feel in a *confined* space?
2. Do you mind staying at a *spartan* accommodation when travelling?
3. What are your favourite *bits and bobs* of furniture to decorate a flat?
4. What do you do when your flat looks a bit *stale*?
5. When was the last time you were *messed over* by a company?
6. What, in your opinion, is the best way to keep a flat *neat* and organised?
7. What is your favourite way to *unwind* after a hard day at work?
8. Who do you find *solace* in if you're facing some problems?

Part 5: HOMEWORK

EX.5. Watch a short video showing yet another solution for an 8m² apartment. Compare it with Emma's flat. Which one do you prefer and why? Write a few sentences summarizing your opinion.

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbIKFHfwggU>

KEY (EX.2.a.):

1. Is this a typical example of a Japanese flat? Why?/Why not?

No. Japanese flats are not typically this narrow.

2. What rooms/facilities are there?

f.e.: genkan (to leave shoes), closet, toaster oven, microwave, study area, sitting area, kitchenette, bathroom, balcony, bedroom

3. Is it possible to do exercise there? Why/Why not?

Yes, but it requires some effort and she has to face the right way.

4. What is usually missing in a typical Japanese kitchen?

cutting space/worktop

5. Where is the toilet hidden?:)

under the washbasin which can be pulled away

6. What does she like about her bedroom?

It's comforting and cosy; doesn't feel like a coffin

7. Does she face any difficulties because of this tiny space?

She can't organize dinner parties, sleepovers are a challenge, no space to dance

(EX.3.a.):

A. confined f	a. things of different kinds
B. spartan h	b. no longer fresh/new
C. bits and bobs a	c. deceive
D. stale b	d. tidy
E. to mess over c	e. comfort when you're feeling
F. neat d	f. limited
G. to unwind g	g. relax
H. solace e	h. simple and not particularly comfortable