36 At home

Places in the home

You probably already know the names of most rooms and locations in a typical home. Here are some less common ones and what they are for.

- utility room: usually just for washing machine, freezer, etc.
- shed: small building separated from the house usually for storing garden tools
- attic: room in the roof space of a house (could be lived in)
- loft: space in the roof of a house usually used only for storage
- cellar: room below ground level, no windows, used for storage
- basement: room below ground level, windows, for living/working
- landing: flat area at the top of a staircase
- hall: open area as you come into a house
- porch: covered area before an entrance-door
- pantry or larder: large cupboard (usually big enough to walk into) for storing food
- terrace or patio: paved area between house and garden for sitting and eating, etc.
- study: a room for reading/writing/studying in

Small objects about the home

Ordinary, everyday objects are often difficult to name and are often not listed in dictionaries. Here is just a sample of such words.

- remote control
- power-point and plug
- table-mat
- coaster
- corkscrew
- tea-towel
- washing-up liquid
- grater
- ironing-board
- dust-pan and brush
- bin-liners
- mop

Types of house/places people live

- detached house: not joined to any other house
- semi-detached house (informal: semi-): joined to one other house
- terraced house: joined to several houses to form a row
- cottage: small house in the country or in a village
- bungalow: house with only one storey (no upstairs)
- bedsit: bedroom and living room all in one
- villa: large house with big gardens or a rented house in a holiday resort/tourist area
- time-share: holiday flat or house where you have the right to live one or two weeks a year

Tip: If you visit an English-speaking country, go to a supermarket and look at the names of ordinary, everyday things for the home. This is often a good way of getting vocabulary that just does not appear in dictionaries.