

Interior Design

Warm up

- How would you describe your taste in interior design? What kind of rooms and furniture do you like?
- What colours do you find cosy and soothing?
- If you could completely renovate and redesign one room in your house, which room would it be and what would you change?
- Have you ever been in a house where you didn't like the design? What was wrong with it?



1. Match the words in the box to the pictures below.

cushion 9	lamp 2	pot plant 5	rug 7	cupboard 10
stool 6	shelves 8	fireplace 1	curtains 4	armchair 3

1.



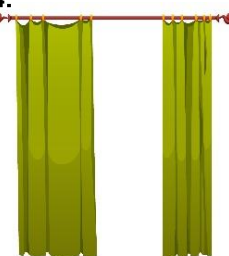
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.





2. Read through the people's statements about their taste in interior design and match the underlined words to their definitions below.

Jared: "To be honest I don't really care about furniture or decoration, and I'm quite a messy person, I just leave my stuff wherever. I know this sounds strange, but I don't feel comfortable at home if everything is tidy. My girlfriend came over a few weeks ago and cleaned my apartment, and as soon as she left I made everything messy again."

Martha: "I really love warm, earthy rooms with a more traditional feel. I can't stand houses that are too modern, they just feel like a robot lives there! I also recently got rid of my TV, and replaced it with a fireplace, and it's so much more soothing!"

Anna: "I work from home, so for me the most important thing is that my home feels cosy and lived-in. I love anything fluffy like blankets, cushions, or rugs. If a room doesn't make me feel like I could sit and drink tea in it for hours, then it's not for me!"

Garth: "I like apartments that have a kind of Scandinavian design to them. 'Scandinavian design' basically means a little bit modern but with a lot of wood, and can be quite minimalistic, the 'less is more' approach. Apart from wood, I don't really like having much colour in my home, I like to keep it simple."

Chloe: "I like my apartment to be as weird and quirky as possible. I think I'm a very unique person, and I want my house to represent that. I love having a lot of pot plants in my house, but I also love vibrant colours like pink and yellow. My friends describe my apartment as a neon rainforest!"

Carl: "I'm very into modern, minimalist design. I like rooms with a lot of concrete walls and sleek metal furniture. I work from home, and honestly, I find I focus a lot better in a nice modern room than in a cosy one. Cosy apartments just make me want to sleep."

- a) Something that calms you down and reduces stress. *Cosy*
- b) Neat and clean. *Tidy*
- c) Smooth, shiny, usually with curved lines. *Sleek*
- d) Something that uses or has as few elements as possible. *Minimalist*
- e) Something with natural colours like brown or dark yellow. *Earthy*
- f) Soft and hairy. *Fluffy*
- g) Full of energy or brightness. *Vibrant*
- h) Chaotic and disorganised. *Messy*
- i) Strange and unusual in a fun way. *Quirky*

3. With a partner, discuss which rooms belongs to each person from exercise 2.

Carl



Jared



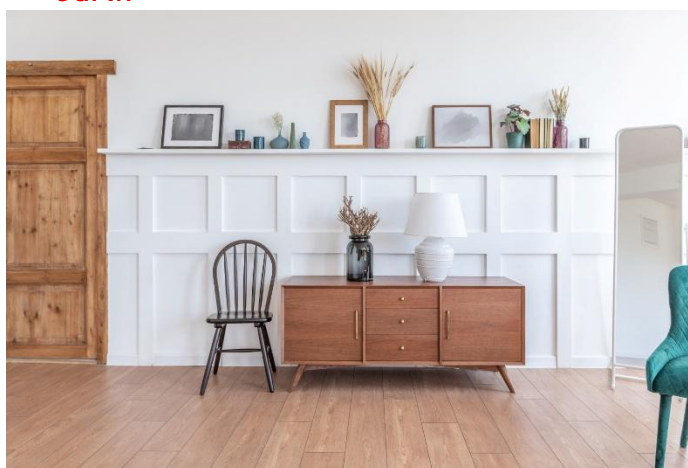
Martha



Chloe



Garth

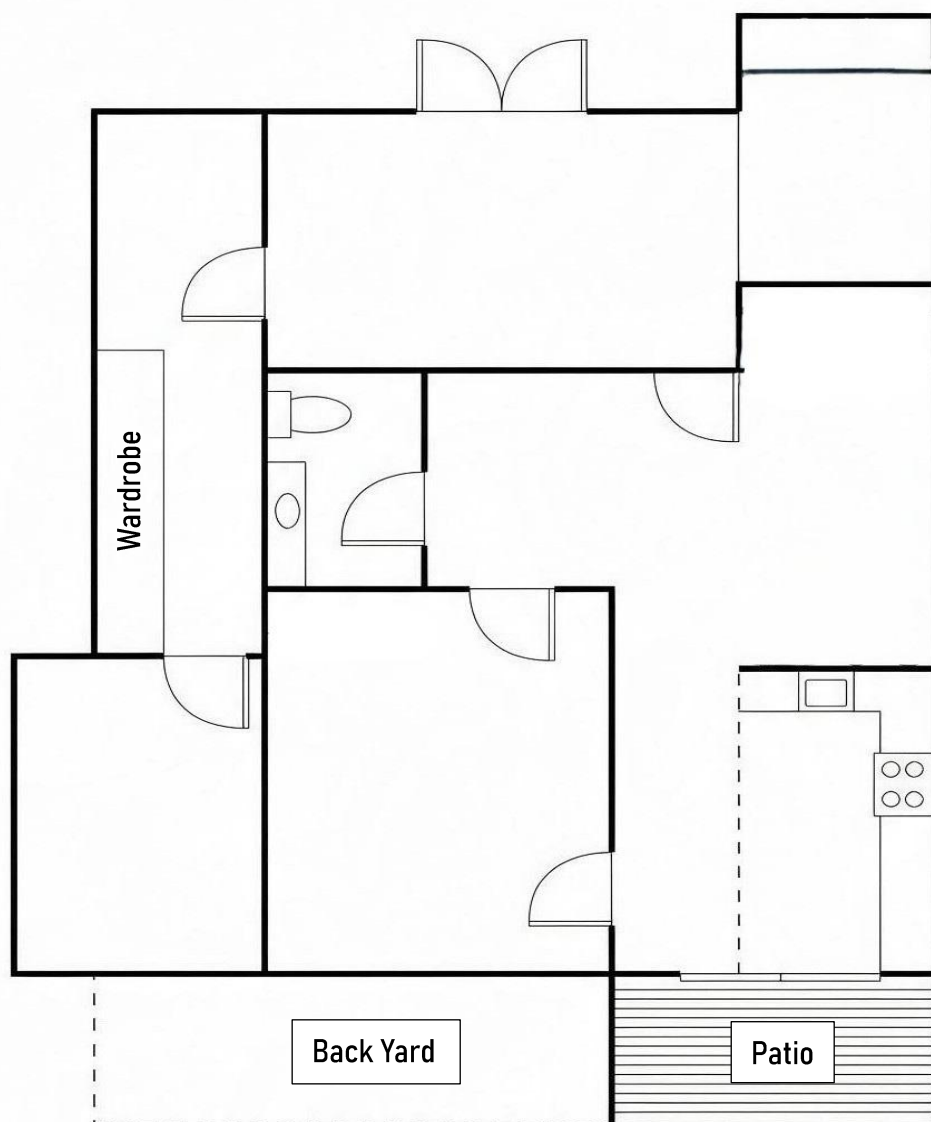
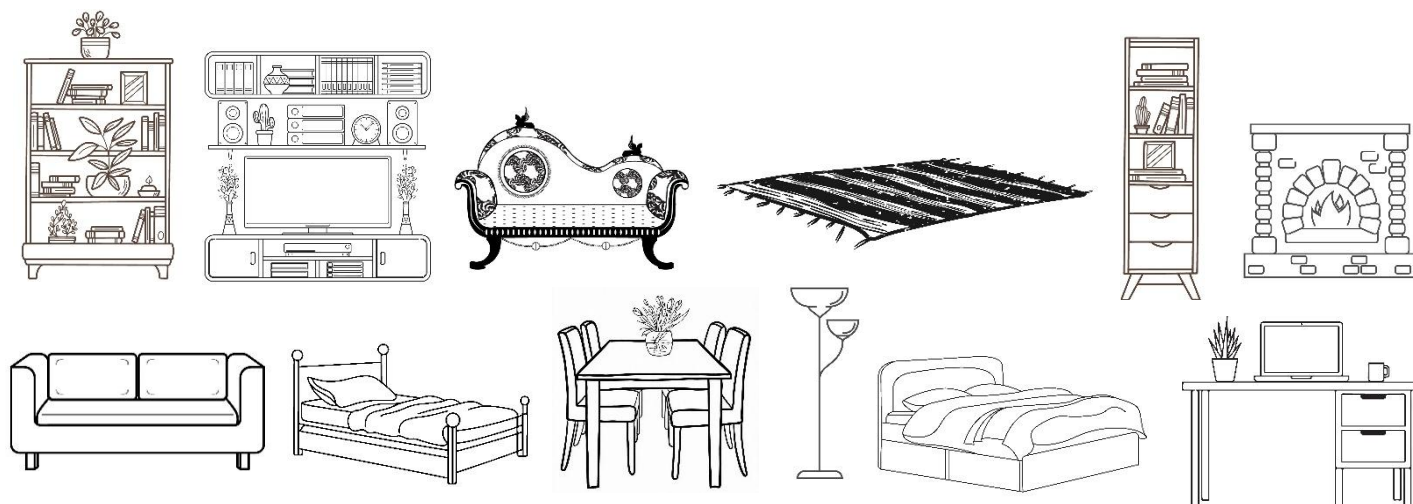


Anna



? Which room is your favourite, and which is your least favourite?

4. You are furnishing a house with your partner. Discuss where each piece of furniture should go, and mark it on the floorplan below. Feel free to add furniture not shown here.



? Is there anything you would change about the layout of this house?

 5. You are going to watch a video about how to make your home cosy. Before you watch, make a list of 5 tips with a partner, and say why they make a home feel more cosy.

1)

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2)

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3)

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4)

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5)

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 6. The video contains the words in the box. Use the words to complete the sentences.

shelter

sunset

primal

surface

crave

uneasy

uneven

bare

texture

a) I like the colour of the couch, but I hate the *texture*, it's much too rough on my skin.

b) The apartment looked boring and *bare* without any furniture.

c) The shelves are *uneven* because it wasn't installed correctly.

d) The marble *surface* in the kitchen is easy to clean and looks quite elegant.

e) I often *crave* chocolate when I'm stressed.

f) We sat on the beach and watched the *sunset*, it was beautiful.

g) The combination of bright green wallpaper and purple furniture made people feel *uneasy* when they entered the room.

h) Even if you're not a fan of football, watching your country win can give you a kind of *primal* joy.

i) We stopped under a large tree to take *shelter* from the storm.

 7. Watch the video [8 Tips for a Cosy Home¹](#) and write down each of the 8 tips she gives, and why she thinks this tip works.

Tip 1: *Avoid white light bulbs, because natural light is yellow, so yellow light is better. Also sunsets are yellow so it signals to our brain to relax.*

Tip 2: *Use warm earthy tones such as browns and reds, because it makes light warmer.*

Tip 3: *Use natural, authentic materials. Because it reminds us of nature, and we have a strong connection to nature.*

Tip 4: *Use textured, rough materials. Because if there is no texture it creates 'visual silence', and looks flat and boring.*

Tip 5: *Create pools of light/uneven light. It makes it look like nature.*

Tip 6: *Have a fireplace. There is something about fire that comforts us.*

Tip 7: *Create enclosed spaces. Because enclosed spaces make us feel more protected.*

Tip 8: *Use curved and organic shapes. Sharp shapes signal danger such as jagged rocks and knives.*

? How many of your own ideas appeared in the video? Which tips do you agree or disagree with?

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzEFxxKVHxM>