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.

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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 with a pleasant hairy texture. *Fluffy*

g) Full of energy or brightness. *Vibrant*

h) Chaotic and disorganised. *Messy*

i) Strange and unusual in a fun way. *Quirky*

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

Carl

Jared

Martha

Chloe

Garth

Anna

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

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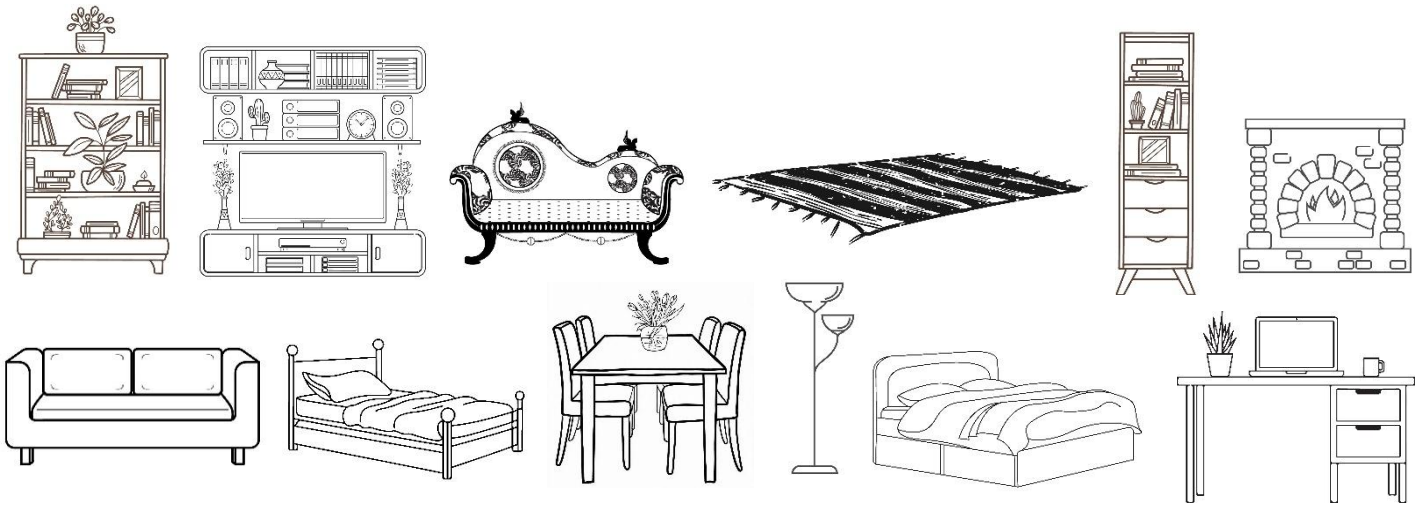
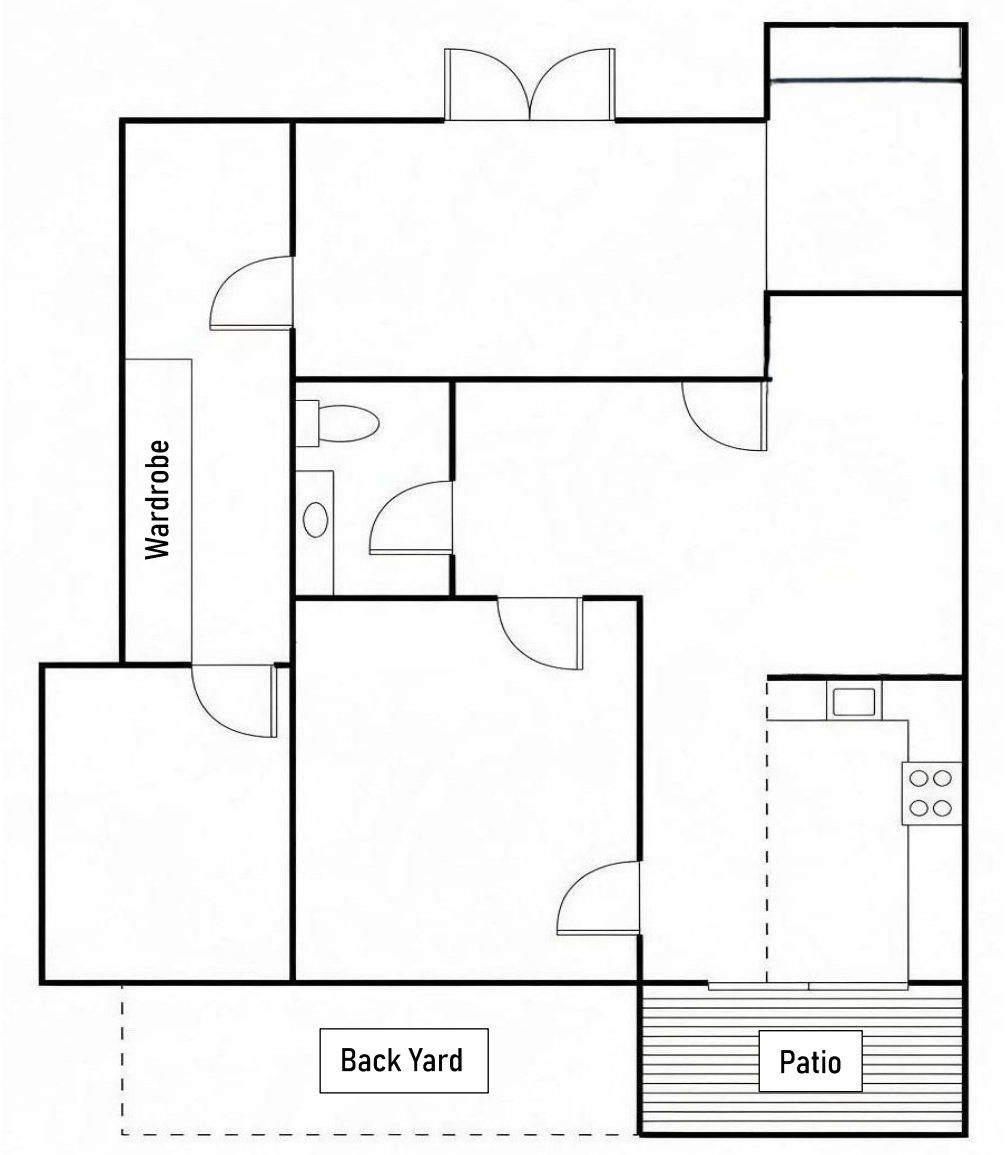
4. You are furnishing a house with your partner. Discuss where each piece of furniture should go, and mark it on the floorplan below. Feel free to add furniture not shown here.





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

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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) .....

.....

2) .....

.....

3) .....

.....

4) .....

.....

5) .....

.....

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 they weren'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.

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7. Watch the video 8 Tips for a Cosy Home[1] and write down each of the 8 tips she gives, and why she thinks these tips work.

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

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