

## ■ 11. Houses

### Unit 3 Step 8

#### Before watching

#### 1 Sort the following words into the two groups.

roof • country cottage • solar / photovoltaic panels • front door • central location • insulation • thick walls • traditional • triple-glazed windows • collecting rainwater • wooden floor • open plan • central heating • big living room • modern • environmentally-friendly

Words about saving energy / resources in houses	Words describing houses in general
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

#### 2 Match the words and definitions.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. a flat / apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> a. a large house not connected to other houses                     |
| 2. semi-detached      | <input type="checkbox"/> b. a residential area around the main city centre                  |
| 3. terraced house     | <input type="checkbox"/> c. a house connected to another house                              |
| 4. detached house     | <input type="checkbox"/> d. a portion of a larger building usually with one common entrance |
| 5. a cottage          | <input type="checkbox"/> e. the person who owns a building and rents it to others           |

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 6. a landlord / landlady | <input type="checkbox"/> f. a large house in the countryside                |
| 7. suburbs               | <input type="checkbox"/> g. a house connected to other houses on both sides |

#### While watching

#### 3 Watch from 0.00 to 02.46 and circle the correct option.

- British houses look *similar* / *different* to Italian houses.
- Most British houses *have* / *don't have* a garden.
- Semi-detached houses are more common in the *town centre* / *suburbs*.
- More* / *Less* than 50% of people buy their own home.
- House prices more than *doubled* / *tripled* from 1989 to 2001.
- A small flat in London costs around *300,000* / *200,000* euros.
- Young people find it *easy* / *difficult* to buy their first home.
- Houses in the country are *cheaper* / *more expensive* than in towns.
- Young* / *Elderly* people tend to move to the countryside.

#### 4 Watch from 02.47 to 03.33 and decide if the following sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The BedZED project is in the North of England.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The BedZED houses use 45% less electricity than normal houses.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The BedZED houses use more water than other local houses.            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Rainwater is used for non-drinking purposes.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The project demonstrates that low / zero impact housing is possible. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**5 Watch the whole video again and answer the following questions.**

1. Where can you find most apartment or tower blocks in the UK?  
.....
2. Where can people rent apart from a landlord or landlady?  
.....
3. Where do people usually have gardens in British houses?  
.....
4. What did a typical house cost in 1989?  
.....
5. Which group of people find it very difficult to buy houses?  
.....
6. Why do people move to the countryside?  
.....
7. What are the two main disadvantages of living in the countryside?  
.....
8. Where is the BedZED project located?  
.....
9. What does BedZED stand for?  
.....
10. What are the houses in BedZED principally designed to do?  
.....

**After watching**

**6 Project work. Find information about local houses in your area (through free advertising leaflets from estate agents or on local property websites). Write down some information about the houses / flats on offer, in terms of type, size and cost. If possible find some**

**updated information from a similar size town / city in the UK and, together with the information in the video, write a short composition comparing houses / flats in Italy and the UK (or another English-speaking country if you prefer). Illustrate your composition with photographs and then exchange it with other students.**

**7 Design a house! You have the chance to create your own house. Decide on:**

- location
- size
- type (detached, apartment etc)
- number of bedrooms
- garden / terrace.

**When you've decided, write an online advert for your house, describing the property and offering it to rent for foreign tourists.**

*For rent: "Beautiful two bedroom house in town near Venice..."*

**8 Web-search: find out more about the BedZED development in the last part of the video, starting with a general search for relevant sites on Google or similar. Search for the following information:**

- Who created the project?
- How much do the houses cost?
- What other energy-saving features do they have?
- What do the people living there think about it?
- Have there been any problems with the houses?
- Are there any similar housing developments to BedZED?

**Using the information you find, write a two paragraph description of the BedZED project, adding your own comments / impressions at the end.**