

Millions of workers live with parents

1st August, 2014



Almost two million young workers in the U.K. have to live with their parents because they cannot buy a house or rent a room.

Newspapers in Britain call them the "clipped wing generation" because they are like birds who have had their wings cut. House prices in the U.K. are now so high that many young people cannot afford to buy one. This means a quarter of young adults have to live with their parents or grandparents. A poll found that 48 per cent of the people said the biggest problem was housing costs. Britain has a long history of young people moving away from the family home when they start working. Rising house prices are now making this more and more difficult to do.

A 32-year-old woman said she has been saving money for over ten years to pay the deposit for a new apartment. She said it was very difficult because the more she saves, the more house prices go up. She is worried about the future if she can't buy her own home. She told reporters why she didn't want to leave the family home and rent, saying: "If I move out now, the reality is I'll be stuck paying expensive rents for the rest of my life....The thought that I'm going to be living like a teenager into my late 30s or even 40s is really disheartening." A charity for homeless people said Britain's government needed to build more homes and sell them at a price that is low enough for younger people.

Sources: Sky News / Daily Mirror / Daily Telegraph

Writing

Renting a home is better than buying a home. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

young workers / rent a room / house prices / a quarter / housing costs / long history / saving money / save / the future / like a teenager / charity / homeless / build homes

True / False

- Around three million young British workers live with their parents. T / F
- A newspaper said the workers were like birds with shortened wings. T / F
- Around 25% of young British adults live with parents or grandparents. T / F
- Young British people have recently begun living apart from parents. T / F
- The article mentioned a woman who has been saving for 32 years. T / F
- A woman said she is worried about her future if she can't buy a house. T / F
- The woman doesn't want to live like a teenager at the age of 40. T / F
- A charity said it would build more houses for young people. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. almost | a. 25% |
| 2. like | b. a decade |
| 3. a quarter | c. increasing |
| 4. poll | d. similar to |
| 5. rising | e. depressing |
| 6. ten years | f. nearly |
| 7. go up | g. construct |
| 8. reality | h. questionnaire |
| 9. disheartening | i. truth |
| 10. build | j. rise |

Discussion – Student A

- What would you really like to buy but cannot afford?
- What are the good and bad things about renting your home?
- Should people buy a home near their parents?
- Is it better to move to the countryside where houses are cheaper?
- What are the bad things about owning your own home?
- Why do house prices rise so quickly?
- Should governments build houses just for young people?
- What questions would you like to ask a housing expert?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Almost two million young | a. rest of my life |
| 2. they are like birds who have | b. more difficult to do |
| 3. a quarter of young adults have to | c. over ten years |
| 4. moving away from | d. for younger people |
| 5. more and | e. the family home |
| 6. saving money for | f. workers in the U.K. |
| 7. pay the | g. deposit for a new apartment |
| 8. paying expensive rents for the | h. homeless people |
| 9. A charity for | i. had their wings cut |
| 10. a price that is low enough | j. live with their parents |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of your home?
- Is it better to live alone or with parents?
- At what age is it best to live alone?
- How do parents feel when children move out?
- What are the good things about owning your own home?
- Is living with parents forever a good idea?
- How are house prices in your country?
- How important is owning your own home to you?

Spelling

- Almost two nlmilio young workers
- the clipped wing otnignear
- people cannot adrffo to buy one
- the biggest problem was osughni costs
- vgimno away from the family home
- more dlufitfc to do
- pay the idstpoe for a new apartment
- She is worried about the turfue
- the tylaeir is I'll be stuck
- like a eaegrnte
- A charity for hseelmos people
- a price that is low genhou

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. d | 3. a | 4. h | 5. c |
| 6. b | 7. j | 8. i | 9. e | 10. g |

Role Play

Role A – Houseboat

You think a houseboat would be the most interesting place to live. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): a log cabin, a 4-room tent or a cave.

Role B – Log cabin

You think a log cabin would be the most interesting place to live. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): a houseboat, a 4-room tent or a cave.

Role C – 4-room tent

You think a 4-room tent would be the most interesting place to live. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): a log cabin, a houseboat or a cave.

Role D – Cave

You think a cave would be the most interesting place to live. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): a log cabin, a 4-room tent or a houseboat.

Speaking – Place to Live

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting place to live at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| • an apartment | • a log cabin |
| • a house | • an igloo |
| • a houseboat | • a 4-room tent |
| • a caravan | • a cave |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | T | c | T | d | F | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.