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Level 6 – 19th January, 2019

Homes for sale in Italy for one euro

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It sounds like a dream come true for anyone looking to get on the property ladder - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for just €1. The bargain price is to attract people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a rapid decline in its population. Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents is dwindling because many young people are moving to cities. The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because his town is so attractive. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous beaches and has retained its heritage with its cobbled streets and Arabesque architecture.

Like all bargains, there is a small catch to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000 on renovating the property within three years of purchasing it. Sambuca's deputy mayor said the houses are owned by the town, so there is little of the red tape normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries who liaise between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get it no time." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This fertile patch of land is dubbed the "Earthly Paradise". We're located inside a natural reserve, packed with history. Gorgeous beaches, woods and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an idyllic retreat for a detox stay."

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/one-dollar-home-sambuca-sicily-italy/index.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/sambuca-italy-house-buy-town-sicily-property-a8731761.html>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6600011/Sicilian-town-sells-dozens-homes-glorious-views-Med-just-90p.html>

WARM-UPS

1. HOMES FOR SALE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about homes for sale. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

dream come true / property ladder / picturesque / island / rural / cities / architecture / bargains / promise / property / red tape / fertile / beaches / woods / idyllic / detox

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PROPERTY LADDER: Students A **strongly** believe everyone needs to get on the property ladder; Students B **strongly** believe that's wrong. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. DREAM COME TRUE: What is your dream come true for these things? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	Your Dream	Why?
Love		
Health		
Your country		
The world		
Food		
Social Media		

5. EURO: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "Euro". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. PARADISE: Rank these with your partner. Put the places that best represent paradise at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Mountains
- Chocolate cafe
- Tropical island
- My bedroom
- All-you-can-sing karaoke
- Desert oasis
- 7-star hotel
- A safari lodge

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. property ladder | a. Become smaller, fewer, or less. |
| 2. picturesque | b. Reducing gradually in size, amount, or strength. |
| 3. bargain | c. A number of stages by which people increase their wealth by buying more and more expensive houses. |
| 4. decline | d. Valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations. |
| 5. dwindling | e. Visually attractive, especially in a quaint or pretty style; beautiful. |
| 6. gorgeous | f. A thing bought or offered for sale more cheaply than is usual or expected. |
| 7. heritage | g. Beautiful; very attractive. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8. catch | h. A process or period of time in which one rids the body of unhealthy things or actions. |
| 9. renovating | i. A hidden problem or disadvantage. |
| 10. red tape | j. Restoring something old to be in a good condition again. |
| 11. liaise | k. Capable of growing a lot of food or crops. |
| 12. fertile | l. Talk or cooperate on a business or other matter. |
| 13. idyllic | m. Too much paperwork and regulations when doing business. |
| 14. detox | n. Extremely happy, peaceful. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says everyone needs a ladder with their property. **T / F**
- b. The town of Sambuca is increasing in population. **T / F**
- c. The mayor thinks the houses will be difficult to sell. **T / F**
- d. The streets in the town are cobbled. **T / F**
- e. Buyers of the house must spend \$17,000 on repairs. **T / F**
- f. The houses for sale are owned by the town. **T / F**
- g. The mayor said the town is dubbed the "Fertile Patch". **T / F**
- h. The deputy mayor said the town is a good place to go for a detox. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. picturesque | a. countryside |
| 2. decline | b. building design |
| 3. rural | c. nicknamed |
| 4. heritage | d. refurbishing |
| 5. architecture | e. beautiful |
| 6. promise | f. work together |
| 7. renovating | g. reduction |
| 8. liaison | h. perfect |
| 9. dubbed | i. tradition |
| 10. idyllic | j. pledge |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. It sounds like a dream | a. in its population |
| 2. anyone looking to get on the | b. no time |
| 3. a rapid decline | c. streets |
| 4. the number of Sambuca's residents | d. with history |
| 5. cobbled | e. property ladder |
| 6. spend \$17,000 on renovating | f. retreat |
| 7. red | g. come true |
| 8. you'll get it in | h. tape |
| 9. packed | i. is dwindling |
| 10. an idyllic | j. the property |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It sounds like a dream come (1) _____ for anyone looking to get on the property (2) _____ - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for just €1. The (3) _____ price is to attract people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a (4) _____ decline in its population. Like many (5) _____ towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents is (6) _____ because many young people are moving to cities. The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because his town is so attractive. It (7) _____ the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous beaches and has retained its (8) _____ with its cobbled streets and Arabesque architecture.

bargain
rural
true
heritage
rapid
overlooks
ladder
dwindling

Like all bargains, there is a small (9) _____ to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000 on (10) _____ the property within three years of purchasing it. Sambuca's (11) _____ mayor said the houses are owned by the town, so there is little of the red (12) _____ normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries who liaise between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get it no (13) _____." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This (14) _____ patch of land is dubbed the "Earthly Paradise". We're located inside a natural reserve, packed with (15) _____. Gorgeous beaches, woods and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an idyllic retreat for a (16) _____ stay."

detox
catch
time
renovating
history
tape
fertile
deputy

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

- 1) It sounds like a dream come true for anyone looking to get on the _____
 - a. properly ladder
 - b. property ladder
 - c. prop party ladder
 - d. prop pretty ladder
- 2) attract people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a _____
 - a. rapidly decline
 - b. vapid incline
 - c. vapid decline
 - d. rapid decline
- 3) Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents _____
 - a. is dwindling
 - b. is dawdling
 - c. is doodling
 - d. is dreading
- 4) The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because his town _____
 - a. is so attraction
 - b. is so attract it
 - c. is so a track tick
 - d. is so attractive
- 5) close to gorgeous beaches and has retained its heritage with _____
 - a. its gobbled streets
 - b. its cobbled streets
 - c. its hobbled streets
 - d. its wobbled streets
- 6) spend \$17,000 on renovating the property within three years _____
 - a. of purchase in it
 - b. off purchasing it
 - c. of purchasing it
 - d. off purchase in it
- 7) the houses are owned by the town, so there is little of _____
 - a. the red tape
 - b. the lead tape
 - c. the bed tape
 - d. the dead tape
- 8) You want that house, you'll get it _____
 - a. in non time
 - b. in no time
 - c. in not time
 - d. in now time
- 9) We're located inside a natural reserve, _____ history
 - a. backed with
 - b. sacked with
 - c. packed with
 - d. hacked with
- 10) It's silent and peaceful - an idyllic retreat for _____
 - a. a ditty ox stay
 - b. aided toxicity
 - c. added toxicity
 - d. a detox stay

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It sounds like a dream come true for anyone looking to get on (1) _____ - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for just €1. The bargain price (2) _____ people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of (3) _____ in its population. Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's (4) _____ because many young people are moving to cities. The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because his town (5) _____. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous beaches and has (6) _____ with its cobbled streets and Arabesque architecture.

Like all bargains, there is (7) _____ to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000 on renovating (8) _____ three years of purchasing it. Sambuca's deputy mayor said the houses are owned by the town, so there is little of (9) _____ normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries who liaise between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get (10) _____." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This (11) _____ land is dubbed the "Earthly Paradise". We're located inside a natural reserve, packed with history. Gorgeous beaches, woods and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an idyllic retreat (12) _____ stay."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

1. What did the article say the €1 houses sounded like?
2. What did the article say was in decline in the town?
3. Why did the mayor say the houses would sell easily?
4. What do the houses overlook?
5. What kind of streets does the town have?
6. How much will renovations on the house cost?
7. Who currently owns the houses?
8. What did the deputy mayor say there was little of in the selling process?
9. What did the deputy mayor say the town was packed with?
10. What kind of stay is the town good for?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

- 1) What did the article say the €1 houses sounded like?
 - a) the bargain of a lifetime
 - b) heaven
 - c) a dream come true
 - d) paradise
- 2) What did the article say was in decline in the town?
 - a) the population
 - b) housing prices
 - c) parks
 - d) hotels
- 3) Why did the mayor say the houses would sell easily?
 - a) the town was attractive
 - b) they are beautiful
 - c) the community is great
 - d) sunshine
- 4) What do the houses overlook?
 - a) a cathedral
 - b) the Mediterranean Sea
 - c) paradise
 - d) olive groves
- 5) What kind of streets does the town have?
 - a) pedestrianized streets
 - b) winding streets
 - c) windswept streets
 - d) cobbled streets
- 6) How much will renovations on the house cost?
 - a) \$14,000
 - b) \$15,000
 - c) \$17,000
 - d) \$16,000
- 7) Who currently owns the houses?
 - a) the town
 - b) the Italian government
 - c) a housing association
 - d) the mayor
- 8) What did the deputy mayor say there was little of in the selling process?
 - a) espresso
 - b) time
 - c) red tape
 - d) money
- 9) What did the deputy mayor say the town was packed with?
 - a) people
 - b) pizza restaurants
 - c) shops
 - d) history
- 10) What kind of stay is the town good for?
 - a) a detox stay
 - b) a short stay
 - c) a long stay
 - d) a staycation

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

Role A – Mountains

You think mountains best represent paradise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least representative of these (and why): chocolate cafes, all-you-can-sing karaoke bars or 7-star hotels.

Role B – Chocolate Cafes

You think chocolate cafes best represent paradise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least representative of these (and why): mountains, all-you-can-sing karaoke bars or 7-star hotels.

Role C – All-You-Can-Sing-Karaoke Bars

You think all-you-can-sing karaoke bars best represent paradise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least representative of these (and why): chocolate cafes, mountains or 7-star hotels.

Role D – 7-Star-Hotels

You think 7-star hotels best represent paradise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least representative of these (and why): chocolate cafes, all-you-can-sing karaoke bars or mountains.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'home' and 'sale'.

home	sale

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sounds• island• attract• rural• easy• close	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• small• within• red• new• land• stay
--	--

HOMES FOR SALE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

Write five GOOD questions about homes for sale in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMES FOR SALE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'home'?
3. What do you think of the property ladder?
4. What are the pros and cons of getting on a property ladder?
5. How picturesque is your town?
6. Would you like to buy one of the one-euro houses?
7. What would it be like to live on Sicily?
8. How can rural towns stop people moving to cities?
9. Is it better to live by the sea or in the mountains?
10. What heritage does your town have?

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HOMES FOR SALE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'euro'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of red tape?
15. How easy or difficult is it to buy a house?
16. What is "earthly paradise" for you?
17. Where in the world would you like to buy a house?
18. Where is the most idyllic place for you?
19. Where would you go to detox from the stresses of life?
20. What questions would you like to ask the town's mayor?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It sounds like a dream come (1) _____ for anyone looking to get on the property (2) _____ - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for just €1. The (3) _____ price is to attract people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a rapid decline in its population. Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents is (4) _____ because many young people are moving to cities. The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because his town is so (5) _____. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous beaches and has retained its heritage with its (6) _____ streets and Arabesque architecture.

Like all bargains, there is a small (7) _____ to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000 on (8) _____ the property within three years of purchasing it. Sambuca's deputy mayor said the houses are owned by the town, so there is little of the (9) _____ tape normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries who liaise between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get it (10) _____ time." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This (11) _____ patch of land is dubbed the "Earthly Paradise". We're located inside a natural reserve, packed with history. Gorgeous beaches, woods and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an (12) _____ retreat for a detox stay."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) truth | (b) truly | (c) true | (d) truthful |
| 2. | (a) ladder | (b) step | (c) stairs | (d) scale |
| 3. | (a) bargain | (b) rip-off | (c) steal | (d) pact |
| 4. | (a) dwindling | (b) dawdling | (c) doodling | (d) dangling |
| 5. | (a) attracted | (b) attracts | (c) attraction | (d) attractive |
| 6. | (a) hobbled | (b) gobbled | (c) bobbed | (d) cobbled |
| 7. | (a) catch | (b) throw | (c) lunge | (d) apprehend |
| 8. | (a) renovates | (b) renovate | (c) renovation | (d) renovating |
| 9. | (a) red | (b) black | (c) white | (d) green |
| 10. | (a) new | (b) no | (c) not | (d) non |
| 11. | (a) febrile | (b) fertile | (c) feral | (d) furtive |
| 12. | (a) idyllic | (b) idiotic | (c) idiom | (d) iodine |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

Paragraph 1

1. get on the rytpopre ladder
2. A itqsurepecu town on the island
3. the number of Sambuca's reditsitens is dwindling
4. close to egogrous beaches
5. retained its eetrigha
6. Arabesque tucahcireet

Paragraph 2

7. spend \$17,000 on torevninga
8. little of the red tape normally ocesidtasa with...
9. npletoait buyers would love the town
10. iefletr patch of land
11. located inside a natural eesrver
12. an icdylii retreat

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () owned by the town, so there is little of the red tape normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries
- () beaches and has retained its heritage with its cobbled streets and Arabesque architecture.
- () because many young people are moving to cities. The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy
- () people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a rapid decline in its
- () and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an idyllic retreat for a detox stay."
- () the "Earthly Paradise". We're located inside a natural reserve, packed with history. Gorgeous beaches, woods
- () time." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This fertile patch of land is dubbed
- () who liaise between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get it no
- () population. Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents is dwindling
- () to sell because his town is so attractive. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous
- () town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for just €1. The bargain price is to attract
- () on renovating the property within three years of purchasing it. Sambuca's deputy mayor said the houses are
- (**1**) It sounds like a dream come true for anyone looking to get on the property ladder - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque
- () Like all bargains, there is a small catch to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

1. true . It a come sounds dream like
2. on picturesque the A town Sicily . island of
3. attract bargain is price people . The to
4. number The residents dwindling . of is Sambuca's
5. be easy houses will The sell . to
6. to catch is small the There a houses . one-euro
7. you'll get that it time . no want house, You
8. buyers promised potential the love He town . would
9. natural reserve, inside Located with history . packed a
10. a retreat idyllic stay . An detox for

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It sounds like a dream come *truth / true* for anyone looking to get on the property ladder - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for *justly / just* €1. The bargain price is so *attractive / attract* people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a *rapid / rapidly* decline in its population. Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents *are / is* dwindling because many young people are *moved / moving* to cities. The Sambuca mayor *beliefs / believes* the houses will be easy to sell because his town is so *so / such* attractive. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous beaches and has *detained / retained* its heritage with its *cobbled / gobbled* streets and Arabesque architecture.

Like all *bargain / bargains*, there is a small *catch / latch* to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000 on *reprobating / renovating* the property within three years *of / at* purchasing it. Sambuca's deputy mayor said the houses are *owned / owns* by the town, so there is little of the *white / red* tape normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries who *liaise / lease* between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get it *not / no* time." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This fertile *batch / patch* of land is dubbed the "Earthly Paradise". We're located inside a natural reserve, packed with history. Gorgeous beaches, woods and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an *idyllic / idiotic* retreat for a detox stay."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It s__ n d s l_k_ _ d r__ m c_m_ t r__ f_r _n y_n_ l__ k_n g t_ g_t _n th_ p_r_p_r_t y l_d d_r - _ h_m_ f_r _n_ _r_ (_b__ t \$ 1 . 1 4) . A p_c t_r_s q__ t_w n _n th_ _s l_n d _f S_c_l y , I t_l y _s s_l l_n g h_s_s f_r j_s t € 1 . Th_ b_r g__ n p r_c _s t_ t t_r c t p__ p_l_ t_ m_v_ t_ th_ h_l l_t_p t_w n _f S_m b_c_ b_c__ s_ _f _ r_p_d d_c l_n _n t s p_p_l_t__ n . L_k_ m_n y r_r_l t_w n s _n I t_l y , th_ n_m b_r _f S_m b_c_'s r_s_d_n t s _s d_w_n d_l_n g b_c__ s_ m_n y y__ n g p__ p_l_ _r_ m_v_n g t_ c_t__ s . Th_ S_m b_c_ m_y_r b_l__ v_s th_ h__ s_s w_l l b__ s y t_ s_l l b_c__ s_ h_s t_w n _s s_ t t_r c t_v_ . I t _v_r l__ k s th_ M_d_t_r_r_n__ n S__ , _s c_l_s_ t_ g_r g__s b__ c_h_s _n d h_s r_t__ n_d _t s h_r_t_g_ w_t h _t s c_b b_l_d s t r__ t s _n d A_r_b_s q__ _r c h_t_c t_r_ .

L_k_ _l l b_r g__ n s , th_r_ _s _ s m_l l c_t c h t_ th_ _n_ _r_ h__ s_s - th_ b_y_r m_s t p_r_m_s_ t_ s p_n d \$ 1 7 , 0 0 0 _n r_n_v_t_n g th_ p_r_p_r_t y w_t h_n th_r__ y__ r s _f p_r c h_s_n g _t . S_m b_c_'s d_p_t y m_y_r s__ d th_ h__ s_s _r_ _w_n d b y th_ t_w n , s_ th_r_ _s l_t t_l _f th_ r_d t_p_ n_r m_l y _s s_c__ t_d w_t h b_y_n g _ p_r_p_r_t y . H_ s__ d : " W_'r_ n_t _n t_r m_d__ r__ s w_h_ l__s_ b_t w__ n _l d _n d n_w _w_n_r s . Y__ w_n t th_t h__ s_ , y__ 'l l g_t _t n_ t_m_ . " H_ p r_m_s_d p_t_n t__ l b_y_r s w__ l d l_v_ th_ t_w n . H_ s__ d : " Th_s f_r t_l_ p_t c h _f l_n d _s d_b b_d th_ E_r t h_l y P_r_d_s_ . W_'r_ l_c_t_d _n s_d_ _n_t_r_l_ r_s_r_v_ , p_c k_d w_t h h_s t_r y . G_r g__s b__ c_h_s , w__ d_s _n d m__ n t__ n s s_r_r__ n d _s . I t 's s_l_n t _n d p__ c_f_l - _n _d y l l_c r_t_r__ t f_r _ d_t_x s t_y . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

it sounds like a dream come true for anyone looking to get on the property ladder a home for one euro about 114 a picturesque town on the island of sicily italy is selling houses for just 1 the bargain price is to attract people to move to the hilltop town of sambuca because of a rapid decline in its population like many rural towns in italy the number of sambucas residents is dwindling because many young people are moving to cities the sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because his town is so attractive it overlooks the mediterranean sea is close to gorgeous beaches and has retained its heritage with its cobbled streets and arabesque architecture

like all bargains there is a small catch to the oneeuro houses the buyer must promise to spend 17000 on renovating the property within three years of purchasing it sambucas deputy mayor said the houses are owned by the town so there is little of the red tape normally associated with buying a property he said were not intermediaries who liaise between old and new owners you want that house youll get it no time he promised potential buyers would love the town he said this fertile patch of land is dubbed the "Earthly Paradise" were located inside a natural reserve packed with history gorgeous beaches woods and mountains surround us its silent and peaceful an idyllic retreat for a detox stay"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190119-homes-for-sale.html>

It sounds like a dream come true for anyone looking to get on the property ladder - a home for one euro (about \$1.14). A picturesque town on the island of Sicily, Italy is selling houses for just €1. The bargain price is to attract people to move to the hilltop town of Sambuca because of a rapid decline in its population. Like many rural towns in Italy, the number of Sambuca's residents is dwindling because many young people are moving to cities. The Sambuca mayor believes the houses will be easy to sell because the town is so attractive. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, is close to gorgeous beaches and has retained its heritage with its cobbled streets and Arabesque architecture. Like all bargains, there is a small catch to the one-euro houses - the buyer must promise to spend \$17,000 on renovating the property within three years of purchasing it. Sambuca's deputy mayor said the houses are owned by the town, so there is little of the red tape normally associated with buying a property. He said: "We're not intermediaries who liaise between old and new owners. You want that house, you'll get it no time." He promised potential buyers would love the town. He said: "This fertile patch of land is dubbed the 'Earthly Paradise'. We're relocated inside a natural reserve, packed with history. Gorgeous beaches, woods and mountains surround us. It's silent and peaceful - an idyllic retreat for a detox stay."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HOMES FOR SALE: Make a poster about homes for sale. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ONE EURO: Write a magazine article about making millions of homes around the world being on sale for one euro. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on homes for sale. Ask him/her three questions about this. Give him/her three of your ideas on property prices. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. f 4. a 5. b 6. g 7. d
8. i 9. j 10. m 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. picturesque | a. beautiful |
| 2. decline | b. reduction |
| 3. rural | c. countryside |
| 4. heritage | d. tradition |
| 5. architecture | e. building design |
| 6. promise | f. pledge |
| 7. renovating | g. refurbishing |
| 8. liaison | h. work together |
| 9. dubbed | i. nicknamed |
| 10. idyllic | j. perfect |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A dream come true
2. The population
3. The town was so attractive
4. The Mediterranean Sea
5. Cobble streets
6. \$17,000
7. The town
8. Red tape
9. History
10. A detox stay

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. It sounds like a dream come true.
2. A picturesque town on the island of Sicily.
3. The bargain price is to attract people.
4. The number of Sambuca's residents is dwindling.
5. The houses will be easy to sell.
6. There is a small catch to the one-euro houses.
7. You want that house, you'll get it no time.
8. He promised potential buyers would love the town.
9. Located inside a natural reserve, packed with history.
10. An idyllic retreat for a detox stay.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)