

Read and Practise

Texty a cvičení ke konverzaci

TRAVEL

(Úroveň A)

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MY HOUSE - MY CASTLE⁶

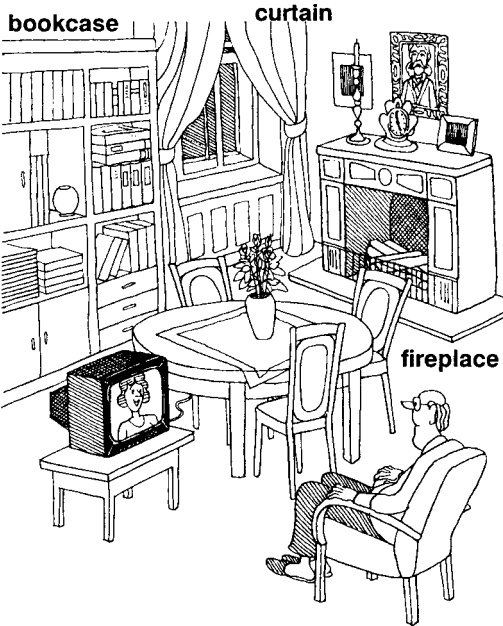
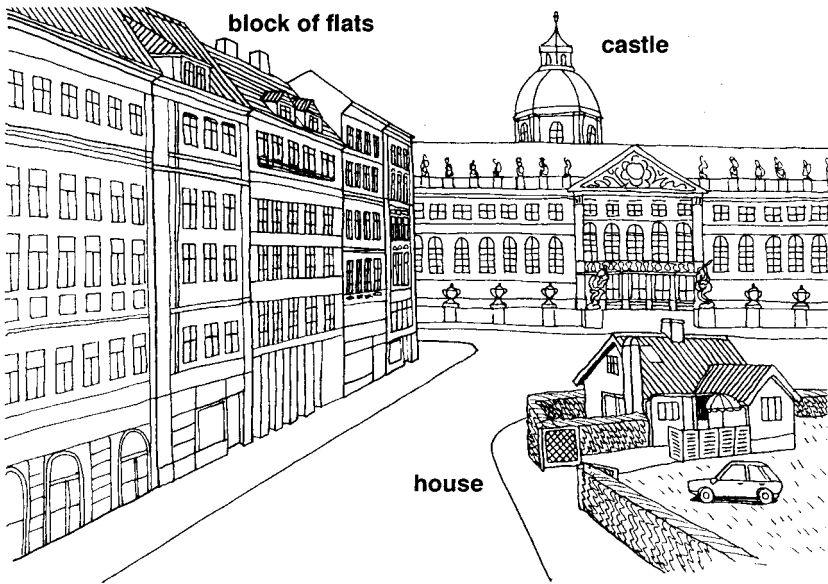
I know it isn't nice, but I like looking in people's windows in the evening. When the lights are on, I can watch what people do. It tells me more about life in that country than books do. British family houses are all the same. Walking along the street and looking in the windows, you usually see the same things. People sitting in front of the **fireplace**; some of them watching TV, others talking. Only once I saw a large table in the middle of a room, and **bookcases** along the walls. Perhaps it was the house of a doctor or professor.

Holland is even funnier because they don't use **curtains**, and looking in their windows is like watching a film. I think the rooms are not so uniform and also larger than rooms in British family houses. But like in Britain, you can always see people watching TV in the evening. It's terrible, imagine all the civilised world sitting in front of the box every evening, watching the same catastrophies. You learn that a plane **crashed** in India, but you don't know that a pensioner living in the flat next to yours needs help. I don't watch TV very often. When I'm in other countries, I only watch TV news to try to understand what they say. It's easier to understand television because you can see what is happening. Listening to the radio is much more difficult. I like to compare languages. You can always find something in common with Czech. By the way, do you know there are two Czech words in English? "Robot" and "polka". Do you know any more?

But I wanted to say something about how people live in other countries. What really shocked me were the clean and nice **blocks of flats** in London. (Not streets. The streets are dirty!) A **caretaker** usually **controls** who comes in and out. Very different from the buildings in the street where I live.

But nobody can watch me in the evening to see how we live in my country. Our flat is on 12th floor!

⁶An English saying. It means that the English like to have their own house, a private place where they relax and do their own things. Another interpretation of the metaphor is privacy, that others are not invited to see how the British live. But this interpretation is not correct. The British are very friendly.



- to crash** - to fall down
- caretaker** - a person who looks after a building or school
- to control** - to check

Exercises (cvičení k textu)

- 1.* Find all the irregular verbs in the text. What are their present and past tense forms?

(Najděte v textu nepravidelná slovesa, uveďte základní tvar přítomného času a tvar pro minulý čas.)

Example: get - got



- 2.* In which sentences is "that" (meaning "že") missing from the text? (Ve kterých větách je vynecháno "že".)



- 3.* Translate - follow the example:

(Překládejte podle vzoru.)

Example: Rád se dívám na televizi. - I like watching TV.

- 1) Posloucháš rád rádio?
- 2) Mluvíme rádi anglicky.
- 3) Bydlíš rád ve velkém městě?
- 4) Rádi cestujeme.
- 5) Nečtu rád noviny.



4. Describe the second picture on page 31, using the phrase "There is/are a/some ... in the room.

(Popište druhý obrázek na straně 31 s použitím existenční vazby a "a/some" před podstatným jménem.)



- 5.* Translate:

(Překládejte.)

- 1) I like looking in people's windows when the lights are on.
- 2) There were bookcases along the walls in the flat.
- 3) They don't use curtains.
- 4) You learn that a plane crashed in India ...
- 5) You can always find something in common with Czech.
- 6) A caretaker controls who comes in and out.



6. Describe the room you are just in.

(Popište místnost, ve které právě jste.)



7.* What is the meaning of the expressions ending in -ER?
(Co znamenají výrazy končící -er.)

Example: a tennis player - a person who plays tennis

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) a shopper | 4) a cinema goer |
| 2) a shopkeeper | 5) a good walker |
| 3) a professional dancer | 6) a shop window cleaner |



8.* Find words with this meaning in the text:
(Najděte v textu slova tohoto významu.)

- 1) a glass opening in the wall to let in light and air
- 2) opposite (protiklad) of clean
- 3) a place where you keep books
- 4) another word for television (slang)
- 5) in the same style



9. Dictionary work: Read the letter and compare the girl's room with yours.
(Porovnejte zařízení pokoje dívky z dopisu se svým.)

<p>Dear Mom and Dad,</p> <p>Thanks for the nice letter and books you sent me. Don't worry, I'm fine, only a little busy.</p> <p>You asked me about my room. Well, it's not large, just a bed under the window, (I think I will have to move it somewhere else, it's a rather cold place). Next to it, in the corner, is a desk with a chair where I spend my evenings, reading or studying. Of course I have a wardrobe for clothes, next to the door, opposite the bed. No luxury, but the room is quite nice. I just need some pictures on the walls and it will be just like home. My friends say I'm lucky because I can see the river from my window, not just buildings.</p> <p>How is everyone? Has Peter called? Tell him I'm coming home next month, for a weekend.</p> <p>Take care, Love, Colleen</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>John and Joan Smith 1234 Oak Street Chicago, IL 60302 U.S.A.</p>
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10. Write a short letter about how you live.
(Napište krátký dopis o tom, jak bydlíte.)



11. Topics for conversation:
(Náměty ke konverzaci.)

- Advantages and disadvantages of living in a flat/house.
(výhody a nevýhody)
- Advantages and disadvantages of living in big cities/small villages.
- How people live in the Czech Republic.
- You and television.

