

2 my home

I live in Budapest. Budapest is the capital of Hungary. It has a population of 2 million people. Budapest is in the north of Hungary. The Danube, Hungary's biggest river, flows through it. It divides Budapest into two parts, Buda and Pest. There are many beautiful sights in Budapest. Margaret Island is a beautiful island with a nice little zoo. Buda Castle is also very famous. A lot of tourists visit the Citadel and Fisherman's Bastion, too. Pest is flat but there are hills in Buda. I live in the 3rd district. The 3rd district is a large district. Our neighbourhood is quiet. I live in a house but there is a large housing estate near my house. My neighbours are nice. One of my neighbours is an old lady who likes gardening a lot. She is always in the garden.

My house has a living room and a bedroom. There are a kitchen, a bathroom a hall and a pantry in my house, too. In the living room I have a sofa, a table, two armchairs, a TV, a computer and many bookshelves. I have many books. I like novels and short stories. In the bedroom I have a double bed, a wardrobe, some cupboards and a tile stove. I burn wood in the tile stove but I also have gas-fired central heating. There are also a DVD player, a TV and a computer in the bedroom. I like watching TV but I watch mostly English language films because I want to practice English. I have a lot of English books, too.

In the garden I have some fruit trees, some flowers and a lot of grass and weeds. There are a cherry tree, a plum tree, two apricot trees, a peach tree and an apple tree. I don't like gardening very much but sometimes I have to work in the garden.

It is difficult for a young person to have their own flat or house and move away from home. Therefore, many young people in their twenties or even thirties stay in "Hotel Mama".

A flat or house is expensive in Hungary compared to salaries and it takes a very long time to save up for a house or flat. You can, of course, rent a flat or house but it is also very expensive and many people say it is better to get a bank loan and buy your own place. Then, the money you pay every month on the instalments means that you live in your own house or flat, not somebody else's.

My ideal house is a medium-sized house near a big park in the green belt. The neighbourhood is quiet and peaceful and the neighbours are nice. The house is a passive house with low utility costs.

If you have a house or flat, you have utility bills, such as the telephone bill, electricity bill, gas bill and water bill and in some cases, the heating bill.

If you go to school a long way from your home, you can live in a rented flat or the dormitory (Am.) or hall of residence (Br.) of the school. If you live in a dorm or a rented flat, you have to follow some rules, for example: you cannot smoke or put pictures on the walls or organize big parties with your friends in the flat or house.

Two generations usually live together: parents and children. But sometimes the grandparents also live with the family, and that is three generations. Three generations living together has advantages and disadvantages. An advantage is that there is always a babysitter. A disadvantage is that the parents are not independent, the grandparents can give the parents unwanted advice and this can annoy the parents.

There is a lot of housework around a house or flat. Cleaning, washing, working in the garden, washing up, cooking and other housework. I do some cleaning and work in the garden. My wife/girlfriend/mother does the other housework.