One Hundred Homes

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Practice discussing ideas about your local market and customer's needs. Learn expressions to describe interior decoration and lifestyle choices. Practice using adjectives and learn new ones relevant to home furnishings. Practice comparatives and superlatives.



Activity One: Discussion.

- Have you ever visited a customer's home?
- What do you expect to find on a home visit?
- Why do you do home visits?
- What do you do with the information you get from these visits?
- Name some of the different styles you could find in people's homes?
- What kind of problems can you assess in someones home? (lack of space etc…)
- What kind of solutions can you offer?
- What do you think your customers expect of you?

Activity Two: Lifestyle choices..

'Each to his own'. People make their own decisions about where to live and how to organise their belongings. Some choose to live in cities with house prices making space expensive. So many families live in small apartments with no outside space. Others choose the countryside and have more space both indoors and out.

- What are your preferences personally?
- What are your clients preferences in general?
- What kind of houses and homes do your local population live in?
- How do you adapt and appeal to their varied needs?

Activity Three: Read the descriptions and then identify what style the rooms are.

1. The ceiling is painted blue with white clouds. The walls are covered in textured silver and white wall paper and the floor is covered in thick white carpeting from wall to wall. Three large leather sofas are placed around the central fireplace. There are mirrors on each wall. A large glass and chrome table is in the far corner of the room, with matching chrome and white leather seats.

2. The walls are taupe and the furniture is different shades of grey. The floor is tiled with marble tiles in grey and white tones. There are only two discreet paintings hung on the wall. Large windows are on two sides of the room, with plain blinds in white material. One wall has built in, sleek grey cupboards from floor to ceiling. There are not objects in the room, or ornaments, apart from one metal statue of two swans entwined. This is placed on the coffee table which is made of pine. On the wall above the seating area a huge flat screen TV is mounted at eye level.

3. The room is crowded with ornaments and keepsakes. On one wall a large cork board is covered with memorabilia and photographs. Dark oak furniture is placed in every available space including an overcrowded dresser, drawers bulging with textiles and papers. The tall windows are framed with red velvet curtains and several richly patterned oriental rugs adorn the highly polished wooden floorboards which cover the room. Two easy chairs and a three person sofa are gathered around a large fireplace, all covered in dark red leather. They look worn and comfortable.

Activity Four - **Home Furnishing Solutions for Everyone!**
Which IKEA furniture, storage solutions, accessories and furnishings might interest the people living in the homes where the rooms in activity three are situated?

Activity Five - **Detailed Descriptions - Adjective word order.**

When you want to describe something in a lot of detail you have to use more than one adjective in a sentence. In English adjectives have to be in a certain order in the sentence. Here's some information about adjective word order:

Sometimes we use more than one adjective in front of a noun:
There was a small round black wooden box on the table.

Opinion adjectives:
Some adjectives give a **general** opinion. We can use these adjectives to describe almost any noun:

good	***strange***	***brilliant***	***important***
bad	***beautiful***	***excellent***	***wonderful***
lovely	***nice***	***awful***	***nasty***

Some adjectives give a **specific** opinion. We only use these adjectives to describe particular kinds of noun:

- **Food**: tasty; delicious
- **Furniture**, buildings: comfortable; uncomfortable
- **People**, animals: clever; intelligent; friendly

We usually put a **general** opinion before a **specific** opinion:
A nasty uncomfortable armchair

Descriptive adjectives:
Usually we put an adjective that gives an opinion in front of an adjective that is descriptive:

- *Those horrible yellow curtains*

We often have two adjectives in front of a noun:

- *A big black armchair.*

Sometimes we have three adjectives, but this is unusual:

- A nice, shiny, new, modern kitchen.



It is very unusual to have more than three adjectives.

***Adjectives usually come in this order:**

1. General opinion
2. Specific opinion
3. Size
4. Shape
5. Age
6. Colour
7. Nationality
8. Material

Activity Six - **Describe** the room settings you see in the images and give as much detail, with as many adjectives, as you can. Here are some **adjectives which could help you** to describe home furnishings and interior decoration in general. (respect the adjective word order* explained in activity 5).

Room Settings:






Activity Seven - Compare and Contrast.

People have many different ideas about how to live, they all make different and varied choices about the decoration of their home and the style of their home furnishings. IKEA tries to cater for all their different tastes as much as possible.

- What style do you prefer?
- Can you identify the main different styles available in the IKEA range?
- Can you compare two styles: for example - traditional and modern..

Complete the sentences..



- The most…. style is….
- Modern furniture is more… than traditional furniture…
- The easiest style to…….. is…….

Make some sentences of your own using comparatives and superlatives.

Here's a quick review to help you:

Comparatives and Superlatives in English:

To form comparatives and superlatives you need to know the number of *syllables* in the adjective. *The form we use depends on the number of syllables.*

1. One syllable adjective ending in a silent 'e' — **nice**
   - Comparative — add 'r' — **nicer**
   - Superlative — add 'st' — **nicest**

2. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant — **big**
   - Comparative — the consonant is doubled and 'er' is added —**bigger**
   - Superlative — the consonant is doubled and 'est' is added—**biggest**

3. One syllable adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel — **high**, **cheap**
   - Comparative — 'er' is added — **higher**, **cheaper**
   - Superlative — 'est is added — **highest**, **cheapest**



4. A two syllable adjective ending in 'y' — **happy**
   - Comparative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added — **happier**
   - Superlative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'est' is added — **happiest**

5. Two syllable or more adjectives without 'y' at the end — **exciting**
   - Comparative — more + the adjective + than — **more exciting than**
   - Superlative — more + the adjective + than — **the most exciting**

Activity Eight - The best solution for me!

Which items in the IKEA range would be fit these descriptions?

- The cheapest table
- The best value for money sofa
- The most energy efficient fridge
- The shiniest kitchen
- The nicest storage system in your opinion
- The most creative bedroom lay-out
- The best space-saving solution for big families
- The most innovative storage solution
- The most fashionable kitchen style
- The newest design
- The most hard wearing garden furniture.
- The greatest IKEA invention ever.



Now describe -

- The worst home visit you have ever been on, or heard about.
- The best house you have ever visited.
- The most original room-setting you have ever seen.

