

English in everyday situations

Module 2: The empty flat

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The empty flat

English

Read & listen online



what, where, how

Form	Example	Meaning
What	What is your surname?	Ask for a surname.
are	Where are you from?	Ask where the listener comes from.
from	I'm from Germany.	State your country of origin.
How	How do you spell Becker?	Ask how to spell a surname.
English	I speak English.	State the language used in this course.
the	Anne lives in the United Kingdom.	Use the conventional article in the country name.

Use **what** for a thing or a name, **where** for a place and **how** for a manner: **What's your surname?, Where are you from?, How do you spell it?** Place **be** before the subject in its questions.

Use **from** for your origin: **I'm from Hamburg, I'm from Germany.** Countries and ordinary personal names usually have no article; an important country-name exception here is **the United Kingdom.**

Language names use capital letters: **English, German.** Say **I speak English,** not a language article phrase. **How do you spell it?** is a useful question chunk; productive **do** questions follow shortly.

there's, there isn't, I haven't got

Form	Example	Meaning
is	There is a bed.	Say one bed is present.
are	There are two chairs.	Say two chairs are present.
isn't	There isn't a sofa.	Say no sofa is present.
haven't	I haven't got a table.	Say you do not have a table.
She's	She's got a lamp.	Use the contraction for she has got.
haven't	We haven't got a sofa.	Say we do not have a sofa.

Use **there is** or **there's** for one thing: **There's a bed.** Use **there are** for more than one: **There are two chairs.** This **there** introduces something, rather than meaning over there.

In British speech, **have got** is a common way to express possession: **I've got a bed, she's got a lamp.** Negative forms are **I haven't got** and **she hasn't got.** The equivalent **I have / I don't have** is also ordinary English.

Keep existence separate from ownership: **There isn't a table** describes the room; **I haven't got a table** describes what you have.

a yellow sofa, the lamp is red

Form	Example	Meaning
yellow	It's a yellow sofa.	Describe the sofa's colour.
is	The lamp is red.	Describe one lamp.
small	There are two small windows.	Describe more than one window.
an	It's an old wardrobe.	Introduce a wardrobe with a vowel sound in old.

Form	Example	Meaning
yellow	It's a big yellow sofa.	Use normal size-before-colour order.
too	The sofa is too big for the door.	Say the sofa is excessively big to fit.

Plural means more than one: **two windows**. An adjective normally comes before a noun: **a yellow sofa, a small window**. It can follow **be**: **The sofa is yellow**. It does not change for a male or female owner, a thing, or a plural noun.

With two descriptions put size before colour: **a big yellow sofa**. Say **two small windows**, not a plural adjective ending. Articles depend on the following sound: **a red lamp, an old wardrobe**.

Use **too** before an adjective for an excessive degree: **too big, too small**. This is different from **very big**, which simply describes a high degree.

one chair, two chairs, these

Form	Example	Meaning
chairs	I've got two chairs.	Say you have two chairs.
boxes	There are three boxes.	Say three boxes are present.
This	This is my chair.	Point to one nearby chair.
These	These are my chairs.	Point to nearby chairs, more than one.
are	Those are my cups.	Identify more than one cup over there.
families	There are two families.	Name two families.

For most plural nouns add **-s**: **chair → chairs, cup → cups**. Nouns ending in **-s/-sh/-ch/-x** commonly add **-es**: **box → boxes**. Consonant plus **-y** changes to **-ies**: **family → families**.

Point to a singular thing with **this** or **that**, and plural things with **these** or **those**: **this chair, these chairs**. Use **this is, these are**.

After a number say the plural noun for two or more: **two chairs**. Important irregular plurals such as **children, people, men** and **women** are learned with the words.

do, does, don't, doesn't

Form	Example	Meaning
Do	Do you live here?	Ask about the listener's home.
Does	Does Anne live here?	Ask about Anne's home.
play	Does Jack play at night?	Ask about Jack's routine.
don't	I don't know.	Say you do not know.
doesn't	She doesn't know.	Say one woman does not know.
Is	Is she here?	Ask about her current location with be.

For an ordinary present simple question, use **do** with **I/you/we/they** and **does** with **he/she/it**: **Do you live here?, Does Anne live here?** The following verb stays in its base form.

Negation uses **don't** or **doesn't** plus base verb: **I don't know, she doesn't know**. Do not double the person ending: **Does she live?**, not **Does she lives?**.

With **be**, keep its own question and negative patterns: **Is she here?, She isn't here**. Do not add **do** to these **be** patterns.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS**

Underline the form described in this unit.

- 1 What is your surname?

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

- 2 There is a bed.

Meaning: Say one bed is present.

- 3 It's a yellow sofa.

Meaning: Describe the sofa's colour.

- 4 I've got two chairs.

Meaning: Say you have two chairs.

- 5 Do you live here?

Meaning: Ask about the listener's home.

6 Lukas is my neighbour. He's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

7 Lena is my neighbour. She's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

8 Lukas is here. He lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

9 Lena is here. She lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

10 I'm from Germany.

Meaning: State your country of origin.

11 There isn't a sofa.

Meaning: Say no sofa is present.

- 12 There are two small windows.

Meaning: Describe more than one window.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 _____ is your surname?

- ☐ A Where
- ☐ B Who
- ☐ C What

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

- 2 There _____ a bed.

- ☐ A are
- ☐ B am
- ☐ C is

Meaning: Say one bed is present.

3 It's a _____ sofa.

- ☐ A yellow
- ☐ B yellows
- ☐ C yellowly

Meaning: Describe the sofa's colour.

4 I've got two _____.

- ☐ A chairs
- ☐ B chaires
- ☐ C chair

Meaning: Say you have two chairs.

5 _____ you live here?

- ☐ A Does
- ☐ B Do
- ☐ C Is

Meaning: Ask about the listener's home.

6 Lukas: Lukas _____ my neighbour. He's from Hamburg.

- ☐ A is
- ☐ B am
- ☐ C are

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

7 Lena: Lena _____ my neighbour. She's from Hamburg.

- ☐ A are
- ☐ B is
- ☐ C am

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

8 Lukas: Lukas is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

- ☐ A He
- ☐ B They
- ☐ C We

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

9 Lena: Lena is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

- ☐ A We
- ☐ B She
- ☐ C They

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

10 I'm _____ Germany.

- ☐ A at
- ☐ B from
- ☐ C to

Meaning: State your country of origin.

11 There _____ a sofa.

- ☐ A not
- ☐ B isn't
- ☐ C aren't

Meaning: Say no sofa is present.

12 There are two _____ windows.

- ☐ A smallest
- ☐ B small
- ☐ C smalls

Meaning: Describe more than one window.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

Where What

_____ is your surname?

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

are is

There _____ a bed.

Meaning: Say one bed is present.

yellow yellow

It's a _____ sofa.

Meaning: Describe the sofa's colour.

chair chairs

I've got two _____.

Meaning: Say you have two chairs.

Does Do

_____ you live here?

Meaning: Ask about the listener's home.

are is

Lukas: Lukas _____ my neighbour. He's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

are is

Lena: Lena _____ my neighbour. She's from Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

They He

Lukas: Lukas is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

They She

Lena: Lena is here. _____ lives in Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

at from

I'm _____ Germany.

Meaning: State your country of origin.

aren't isn't

There _____ a sofa.

Meaning: Say no sofa is present.

smalls small

There are two _____ windows.

Meaning: Describe more than one window.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1 is surname? What your

Meaning: Ask for a surname.

2 a bed. There is

Meaning: Say one bed is present.

3 a It's yellow sofa.

Meaning: Describe the sofa's colour.

4 I've got two chairs.

Meaning: Say you have two chairs.

5 live you Do here?

Meaning: Ask about the listener's home.

6 Hamburg. He's is from neighbour. Lukas my

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

7 She's neighbour. my Lena from is Hamburg.

Meaning: Refer to the learner as your neighbour.

8 is in Lukas lives here. He Millbrook.

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

9 Lena Millbrook. lives here. is She in

Meaning: Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun.

10 Germany. I'm from

Meaning: State your country of origin.

- 11 isn't sofa. a There

Meaning: Say no sofa is present.

- 12 windows. are small two There

Meaning: Describe more than one window.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Ask for a surname. You say:

- ☐ A Where is your surname?
- ☐ B What is your surname?

2 Say one bed is present. You say:

- ☐ A There are a bed.
- ☐ B There is a bed.

3 Describe the sofa's colour. You say:

- ☐ A It's a yellow sofa.
- ☐ B It's a yellows sofa.

4 Say you have two chairs. You say:

- ☐ A I've got two chairs.
- ☐ B I've got two chair.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① What is your surname? | Ⓐ Refer to the learner as your neighbour. |
| ② Lena is my neighbour. She's from Hamburg. | Ⓑ Say one bed is present. |
| ③ There is a bed. | Ⓒ Ask for a surname. |
| ④ Do you live here? | Ⓓ Describe the sofa's colour. |
| ⑤ I've got two chairs. | Ⓔ State your country of origin. |
| ⑥ Lena is here. She lives in Millbrook. | Ⓕ Ask about the listener's home. |
| ⑦ I'm from Germany. | Ⓖ Refer back to Lukas or Lena with the appropriate pronoun. |
| ⑧ It's a yellow sofa. | Ⓗ Say you have two chairs. |