

## 6.2 Alone or together?

GOALS ■ Talk about housing and living ■ Use determiners and quantifiers

### Vocabulary & Speaking housing and living

- 1a Work with a partner. Make a list of five advantages and five disadvantages of either living alone *or* living with a partner and/or family.
  - b Join another pair who chose to make the other list and compare your ideas. Discuss your ideas as a group.
- 2 Complete the texts about two different trends, using the words in the boxes.

globally growth households independently  
resident shift

According to recent research, the number of people living alone is shooting up dramatically. <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, there's been a rise from 153 million people in 1996 to nearly 300 million this year. It's more popular to live <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in some countries than in others. Sweden has the highest percentage, with 47% of homes having just one <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. and the UK and Germany also have quite high percentages. But this is definitely a global trend, and for many countries it represents a dramatic cultural <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, the nations with the fastest <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in one-person <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are China, India and Brazil.

facilities private properties resources separately  
supported socially

In many countries, particularly in Northern Europe, but increasingly elsewhere, there is a big move towards something called *co-housing*. This is where people live <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ houses, but the <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are grouped into a small community with some shared <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, such as heating, gardens, a laundry and entertainment space. In other words, it's not that different from an old-fashioned village, where everyone <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ each other, spent time together <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and shared certain <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, like the village hall.



- 3 Work with a partner. Discuss the following questions.
  - 1 Why do you think there has been a global growth in one-person households? Is this happening in your country?
  - 2 Is community important to you? Do you, or would you like to, see your neighbours socially?
  - 3 What might be the advantages of sharing resources, such as electricity and facilities, with other residents in your neighbourhood? Might there be any disadvantages?
- 4 6.1 ))) Listen to a radio programme about the trends mentioned in exercise 2. Decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F).
  - 1 **Many** more people now live alone than before.
  - 2 **Both** Emma and Harry live with family.
  - 3 **A number of** people in the Lilac co-housing project don't share their house.
  - 4 **Neither** Harry nor Emma feels lonely.
  - 5 According to Harry, **too many** people have rooms they don't use.
  - 6 **Every** house at the Lilac co-housing project has its own garden.
- 5 Would you prefer to live like Emma or like Harry? Why? Discuss with a partner.

## Grammar using determiners and quantifiers

- 6 Look at the words in bold in exercise 4 and choose the correct options to complete the Grammar focus box.

### GRAMMAR FOCUS determiners and quantifiers

- We can use **many, a number of, hundreds of, several, few, a few**, with <sup>1</sup> *countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable* nouns.
- We can use **much, a great deal of, a large quantity of, little, a little** with <sup>2</sup> *countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable* nouns.
- We can use **a lot of, lots of, some and any** with <sup>3</sup> *countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable* nouns.  
Note that **a few** and **a little** emphasize the positive (*A few houses have been built already*) and **few** and **little** emphasize a small number (*Little has been done to improve the situation*).
- Too many** is used with <sup>4</sup> *countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable* nouns and **too much** is used with <sup>5</sup> *countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable* nouns to mean 'more than we need' or 'more than is a good idea'.
- Enough** is used with <sup>6</sup> *countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable* nouns to mean 'as many/much as we need'.
- We can use **all** with <sup>7</sup> *singular / plural* nouns and verbs. We use **every** and **each** with <sup>8</sup> *singular / plural* nouns and verbs.  
*All the houses have their own gardens.*  
*Every house has the same front door, but each one is a different colour.*  
*There are houses on each side of the street.*  
(NOT ~~every side of the street~~)  
Note that we use **every** for all of the people or things in a group of three or more, and **each** to mean every individual person or thing.
- We use **both, either** and **neither** to talk about two people or things.  
**Both** is used with <sup>9</sup> *singular / plural* nouns, **either** and **neither** are used with <sup>10</sup> *singular / plural* nouns.

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- 7 Choose the correct option to complete each sentence. Sometimes both options are possible.
- How **much** / **many** houses are there in the community?
  - Every** / **Each** house is the same size.
  - Little** / **Few** people could live completely alone on an island.
  - Do the houses cost **a great deal of** / **a lot of** money?
  - All** / **Every** the houses have three bedrooms.
  - Neither** / **Both** of the bedrooms is very large.
  - There aren't **enough** / **many** car parking spaces.

### PRONUNCIATION weak sounds: of

- 8a 6.2 ))) Listen and write down the five sentences that you hear.
- b How is *of* pronounced? Notice the links between the words in each phrase.
- c 6.2 ))) Listen again and repeat.
- 9 Look at the design for the Lilac co-housing project. What do you think are the best/worst aspects about it? How would you change it?



- 10 Work with a partner and design a new community. This could be co-housing or an estate of completely separate properties. What facilities and resources will you include?
- 11a **TASK** Tell another pair about your community. Then write ten sentences comparing the two communities, using the language from exercise 6.  
*In our community there are a few ..., but in Sonia and David's community there are lots of...*  
*Both the communities ...*
- b As a group of four, use your sentences to present the two communities to the class, and discuss the similarities and differences.