Nearly a million more young adults now live with parents

Level 3 • Advanced

1 Warmer

Put these types of housing in order from best (1) to worst (6) in your opinion. Think of reasons for your choice.

1. __________________________ a. a flat in the city centre
2. __________________________ b. a small house in the suburbs
3. __________________________ c. a small cottage in the country
4. __________________________ d. a room in your parents' house
5. __________________________ e. a mobile home, camper van or caravan
6. __________________________ f. a houseboat (a barge moored on a canal or river)

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

Key words
complacency thinktank implications stable grim undersupply flatline anecdotal uncapped housing ladder

1. A __________________________ is a group of people who work together to produce new ideas on a particular subject.
2. __________________________ are the possible results or effects of something.
3. __________________________ evidence is based on someone's personal experience or information rather than on something that can be checked.
4. If numbers and percentages __________________________, they are at a low level and do not increase.
5. __________________________ is an insufficient amount of something.
6. A __________________________ job is regular and one you can rely on.
7. If a place is described as __________________________, it is ugly and unpleasant.
8. __________________________ is an attitude or way of behaving that is too confident and relaxed because you think you can deal with something easily, even though this is not the case.
9. __________________________ prices or rents have no limit on the amount that can be charged.
10. The __________________________ is a series of stages in which you start by buying a cheap place to live then buy and sell several times getting a bigger, better place to live each time.

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. What is Shelter?
2. What was the average household size in the UK in 2017?
3. What percentage of young people in the UK aged between 20 and 34 lived with their parents in 2017?
4. What number does this percentage equate to?
5. What was the percentage increase from 1998 to 2015 in the number of young people living with their parents in London?
6. What is Civitas?
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Number has risen from 2.4 million to 3.4 million in 20 years, report says

Aamna Mohdin
8 February, 2019

1 Nearly a million more young adults are living with their parents than was the case two decades ago, a study has found. The figures, in a report by the right-leaning thinktank Civitas, will increase concerns that too little is being done to protect young people from Britain’s housing crisis. The proportion of people aged 20 to 34 who live with their parents has risen from 19.48% in 1997, equating to 2.4 million people, to 25.91% in 2017, equating to 3.4 million.

2 The report says the findings have profound implications for the government’s housebuilding targets. It also notes a “collapse in single living” among those who do move out of their parental home, as young people are now far more likely to be living with partners or friends.

3 “The data is bearing out what we feel anecdotally to be the case,” said Daniel Bentley, the editorial director of Civitas. “Younger people are beginning to live with their parents for longer and are finding it more difficult to move out. If they do move out, they’re often living with larger groups of people.”

4 The study used data from the Office for National Statistics to look at average household sizes over long periods. The average size fell from 3.3 people per household in 1951 to 2.36 in 2001. However, it flattened at 2.36 in the early 2000s and had risen to 2.39 people per household by 2017, the highest level since 1999.

5 This has implications for how many homes will need to be built in the future. The government develops its housebuilding targets using household projections, calculating how many households are likely to be formed in the future by looking at patterns over recent decades. Bentley said if the government failed to acknowledge the drop in the number of young people moving out or living alone, “it will reinforce an undersupply for housing for decades.”

6 The growth in young people living with their parents has been strongest in London, which saw a 41% increase between 1996–98 and 2014–15. “Jeffrey Patrick”, 26, who asked for his real name not to be published, moved back in with his parents in north London in August, 2018, after struggling to find a stable job. After six months of being on employment support allowance, he was told he no longer qualified for the benefit.

7 “The most frustrating thing about it is, you’re 26, you’re meant to have achieved so much in life, but you’re back at home living with your parents. It’s also unfair on my parents – they have to have a 26-year-old move back into the house, which creates all sorts of pressures on them,” he said. “It has a massive effect on your social life. It’s difficult to sustain a relationship when you’re next door to your parents, you’re geographically distant from your friends and you’re in an area that’s really grim.”

8 Umar Parkes, 22, an estate agent who lives with his mother in London, said: “The figures don’t surprise me. I almost feel like I was born a generation too late. I don’t know anyone, off the top of my head, younger than 30 who has purchased a property.” Parkes said he was keen to move out but could not afford to do so. “It’s going to take a long time to save up,” he said.

9 The Shadow Housing Secretary, John Healey, said: “These figures should shake the government out of their complacency. Home ownership has been in freefall for younger people, and the number of new genuinely low-cost homes being built has fallen to near-record lows.”

10 Nick Ballard, a national organizer for Acorn, a renters’ union, said: “Uncapped rents and house prices force young people into a kind of ‘suspended animation’ where they are unable to take many of the steps associated with adulthood. The independence and confidence that come with making your own home are denied them, often accompanied with increased dependence on parents, leading to increased stress and mental health issues for all concerned.”

11 Liz Emerson, co-founder of the Intergenerational Foundation, said the report’s findings were a symptom of a housing crisis that prevented young people from striking out on their own. “For young people, this means a loss of independence and shattered dreams, and reflects that the older generation own more than their fair share of housing wealth,” she said.
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12 Polly Neate, the chief executive of the housing and homelessness charity Shelter, said: “Decades of failed housing policy have meant that young families and people on lower incomes now struggle to find somewhere to live. This is yet another example of how the housing emergency is being felt across society. Shelter has found that we need 3m new social homes in the next 20 years, including for young families unable to get on the housing ladder. This requires bold action. The cost of not acting is far greater.”

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First published in The Guardian, 08/02/19

4 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. What does the increase in the number of young adults living with their parents indicate?
   a. that people prefer to live with their parents
   b. that young people cannot afford to buy their own homes
   c. that young people are no longer independent

2. Why does ‘Jeffrey Patrick’ feel frustrated?
   a. because he feels he has not achieved much in life
   b. because he no longer qualifies for unemployment benefit
   c. because living at home puts pressure on his parents

3. How many people under the age of 30 who have bought their own home in London does Umar Parkes know?
   a. twenty-two
   b. more than one thousand
   c. none

4. What, according to the national organizer of the renters’ union, does an increased dependence on parents lead to?
   a. uncapped rents and house prices
   b. increased stress and mental health issues
   c. a poor social life

5 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. an adjective meaning very great or serious (para 2)
2. a two-word phrasal verb meaning show that something is true (para 3)
3. a six-word phrase meaning immediately and without thinking very much (para 8)
4. a two-word phrase meaning falling very rapidly and suddenly (para 9)
5. a two-word noun phrase meaning a situation in which someone feels they cannot be active because they must wait for something to happen (para 10)
6. a two-word phrasal verb meaning do something new, especially in order to become more independent (para 11)
7. an adjective meaning seriously damaged or harmed (para 11)
8. a two-word noun phrase meaning a reasonable or morally correct amount or proportion (para 11)
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6 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column.

1. sustain a. implications
2. have b. pressure
3. qualify c. someone out of their complacency
4. create d. steps
5. shake e. a relationship
6. take f. for a benefit

7 Word-building

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

1. There is an undersupply of suitable ________________________ for young people in the UK. [HOUSE]
2. It's difficult being ________________________ distant from your friends. [GEOGRAPHY]
3. Home ________________________ for younger people is in freefall. [OWN]
4. Many young people are unable to take the many steps associated with ________________________ . [ADULT]
5. The number of new ________________________ low-cost homes being built is very low. [GENUINE]
6. Many young people find it ________________________ that they have to live with their parents. [FRUSTRATE]

8 Discussion

Discuss the statements.

• Everyone should be able to buy their own home.
• Renting is just as good as owning.
• If you live with your parents, you should also look after them when they get old.
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KEY

2 Key words
1. thinktank
2. implications
3. anecdotal
4. flatline
5. undersupply
6. stable
7. grim
8. complacency
9. uncapped
10. housing ladder

5 Find the word
1. profound
2. bear out
3. off the top of your head
4. in freefall
5. suspended animation
6. strike out
7. shattered
8. fair share

3 Find the information
1. a housing and homelessness charity
2. 2.39 people
3. 25.91%
4. 3.4 million
5. 41%
6. a right-leaning thinktank

4 Comprehension check
1. b
2. a
3. c
4. b

6 Verb + noun collocations
1. e
2. a
3. f
4. b
5. c
6. d

7 Word-building
1. housing (or houses)
2. geographically
3. ownership
4. adulthood
5. genuinely
6. frustrating