Nearly a million more young adults now live with parents

Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

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. The paragraph numbers will help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>significant</th>
<th>projection</th>
<th>thinktank</th>
<th>implications</th>
<th>target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A____________________ is a group of people who work together to produce new ideas on a particular subject. (para 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ______________________ are the possible results or effects of something. (para 2)</td>
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<td>3. A____________________ is something that people try to get or achieve. (para 2)</td>
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<td>4. If something is ________________, it is very important. (para 2)</td>
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<td>5. A____________________ is a calculation of the way something will develop in the future. (para 4)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>emergency</th>
<th>afford</th>
<th>decade</th>
<th>steady</th>
<th>grim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. A____________________ is a period of ten years. (para 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. A____________________ job is reliable and continues for a long period of time. (para 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. If a place is ________________, it is ugly and unpleasant. (para 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. If you can’t________________________ something, you do not have enough money to buy it. (para 7)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. An____________________ is an unexpected situation in which immediate action is necessary to prevent a bad situation from becoming worse. (para 9)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Find the information

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

1. What is Civitas?
2. What percentage of young people in the UK aged between 20 and 34 lived with their parents in 2017?
3. How many people does this percentage represent?
4. What was the average household size in the UK in 2017?
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 Shelter?
Nearly a million more young adults now live with parents

Aamna Mohdin
8 February, 2019

1 Nearly a million more young adults in the UK are living with their parents than twenty years ago, says a new study. The figures, in a report by the thinktank Civitas, will increase worries that the government is doing too little to protect young people from Britain’s housing crisis. The percentage of people aged 20 to 34 who live with their parents has increased from 19.48% in 1997, or 2.4 million people, to 25.91% in 2017, or 3.4 million people.

2 The report says the figures have important implications for the government’s housebuilding targets. It also describes a significant fall in the number of people living alone because young people are now far more likely to live with partners or friends.

3 The study looked at average household sizes over long periods. The average size fell from 3.3 people per household in 1951 to 2.36 in 2001. But it remained at 2.36 in the early 2000s and rose to 2.39 people per household by 2017, the highest level since 1999.

4 This has implications for how many homes we need to build in the future. The government develops its housebuilding targets using household projections. It calculates how many new households there will be in the future by looking at patterns over recent decades. The report says that if the government fails to recognize the fall in the number of young people moving out or living alone, there will not be enough houses for many years to come.

5 The growth in young people living with their parents has been strongest in London. In London, there was a 41% increase between 1996–98 and 2014–15. “Jeffrey Patrick”, 26, who didn’t give his real name, moved back in with his parents in north London in August, 2018, because he was unable to find a steady job.

6 “The most frustrating thing about it is, when you’re 26, you should have done so much in life, but you’re back at home living with your parents. It’s also unfair on my parents – they have a 26-year-old back in the house, which creates all sorts of pressures on them,” he said. “It has an enormous effect on your social life. It’s difficult to have a relationship when you’re with your parents, you’re a long way from your friends and you’re in an area that’s really grim.”

7 Umar Parkes, 22, 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 younger than 30 who has bought a home.” Parkes said he wanted to move out but could not afford to. “It’s going to take a long time to save the money,” he said.

8 Nick Ballard, of Acorn, a renters’ union, said: “High rents and house prices mean that young people are unable to take many of the steps adults normally take. They don’t have the independence and confidence that come with making your own home. They often depend on their parents, and this leads to increased stress and mental health problems for everyone in the family.”

9 Polly Neate, of the housing and homelessness charity Shelter, said: “Decades of failed housing policy mean that it’s difficult for young families and poorer people to find somewhere to live. This is another example of how the housing emergency is felt across society. Shelter has found that we need three million new social homes in the next 20 years. This requires brave action. The cost of not acting is far greater.”

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4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

1. The number of people aged between 20 and 34 in the UK who live with their parents …
   a. … been greatest in London.
2. The average household size …
   b. … three million new homes in the next 20 years.
3. The increase in the number of young adults living with their parents has …
   c. … is increasing.
4. Umar Parkes does not know anyone younger than 30 …
   d. … because rents and house prices are very high.
5. Many young people cannot afford to live on their own …
   e. … who has bought a home in London.
6. According to Shelter, the UK needs …
   f. … is lower now than it was in 1951.

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. to many for come years
2. from way friends a your long
3. of sorts pressures all
4. number in a people alone fall the of living
5. level the since 1999 highest
6. find job unable to steady a

6 Two-word expressions

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make phrases from the text.

1. young a. size
2. significant b. rent
3. average c. crisis
4. steady d. adult
5. high e. job
6. housing f. fall
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7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their stress.

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<tr>
<th>target</th>
<th>alone</th>
<th>figure</th>
<th>increase (v)</th>
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<th>surprise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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8 Discussion

- Should young people in their twenties and thirties live with their parents? Why? Why not?
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**KEY**

2 **Key words**

1. thinktank
2. implications
3. target
4. significant
5. projection
6. decade
7. steady
8. grim
9. afford
10. emergency

3 **Find the information**

1. a thinktank
2. 25.91%
3. 3.4 million
4. 2.39
5. 41%
6. a housing and homelessness charity

4 **Comprehension check**

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. d
6. b

5 **Chunks**

1. for many years to come
2. a long way from your friends
3. all sorts of pressures
4. a fall in the number of people living alone
5. the highest level since 1999
6. unable to find a steady job

6 **Two-word expressions**

1. d
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. c

7 **Word stress**

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