Nearly a million more young adults now live with parents

Level 2 • Upper 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 are given to help you.

undersupply  reinforce  projection  collapse  decade
grim  complacency  thinktank  implications  steady

1. A ____________________________ is a group of people who work together to produce new ideas on a particular subject. (para 1)
2. ____________________________ are the possible results or effects of something. (para 2)
3. If there is a ____________________________ in the level of something, it falls suddenly and rapidly. (para 2)
4. A ____________________________ is a calculation of the way something will develop in the future. (para 5)
5. A ____________________________ is a period of ten years. (para 5)
6. If you ____________________________, something, you make it stronger. (para 5)
7. ____________________________ is an insufficient amount of something. (para 5)
8. A ____________________________ job is reliable and continues for a long period of time. (para 6)
9. If a place is ____________________________, it is ugly and unpleasant. (para 7)
10. ____________________________ 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. (para 9)

3 Find the information

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

1. What percentage of young people in the UK aged between 20 and 34 lived with their parents in 2017?
2. How many people does this percentage represent?
3. What is Civitas?
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 A study has found that nearly a million more young adults in the UK are living with their parents than twenty years ago. The figures, in a report by the 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, or 2.4 million people, to 25.91% in 2017, or 3.4 million people.

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

3 “The data supports what we thought,” said Daniel Bentley 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 remained 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 reduction 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 steady job. After six months of being on employment support allowance, he was told he could no longer receive the benefit.

7 “The most frustrating thing about it is that, when 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 an enormous effect on your social life. It’s difficult to have a relationship when you’re next door to your parents, you’re a long way from your friends and you’re in an area that’s really grim.”

8 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 do so. “It’s going to take a long time to save up,” he said.

9 The opposition 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 is lower than almost ever before.”

10 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 associated with adulthood. The independence and confidence that come with making your own home are denied them. They also often have an increased dependence on parents, leading to increased stress and mental health issues for everyone involved.”

11 Polly Neate, 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. This requires brave action. The cost of not acting is far greater.”

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4 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. The number of people aged between 20 and 34 in the UK who live with their parents is gradually falling.
   - T

2. The average household size is lower now than it was in 1951.
   - T

3. The increase in the number of young adults living with their parents has been greatest in London.
   - T

4. Umar Parkes knows several people younger than 30 who have bought homes in London.
   - F

5. Many young people cannot afford to live on their own because rents and house prices are very high.
   - T

6. According to Shelter, the UK needs 20 million new homes in the next three years.
   - T

5 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a two-word phrasal verb meaning permanently leave the house or flat where you live (para 2)
2. an adjective meaning involving or provided by your parents (para 2)
3. a noun meaning a series of actions or events that together show how things normally happen (para 5)
4. a noun meaning money or help that the government gives people who need financial help (para 6)
5. a two-word phrasal verb meaning regularly put money into a bank so that you can use it later (para 8)
6. a two-word phrase meaning falling very rapidly and suddenly (para 9)
7. an adverb used for emphasizing a particular quality (para 9)
8. a noun meaning an unexpected situation in which immediate action is necessary to prevent a bad situation from becoming worse (para 11)

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. average
2. home
3. low-cost
4. health
5. steady
6. social
    a. issues
    b. job
    c. size
    d. homes
    e. life
    f. ownership
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7 Word-building

Complete the table using words from the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. imply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. allow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. oppose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. depend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. house</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Discussion

Discuss the statements.

- Everyone should be able to buy their own home.
- Renting is just as good as owning.
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KEY

2 Key words
1. thinktank
2. implications
3. collapse
4. projection
5. decade
6. reinforce
7. undersupply
8. steady
9. grim
10. complacency

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

4 Comprehension check
1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F

5 Find the word
1. move out
2. parental
3. pattern
4. benefit
5. save up
6. in freefall
7. genuinely
8. emergency

6 Two-word expressions
1. c
2. f
3. d
4. a
5. b
6. e

7 Word-building
1. implication(s)
2. projection
3. allowance
4. opposition
5. dependence
6. housing