

Our family lives in a panel house. Our flat is on the fourth floor. It has all modern conveniences: central heating, gas, electricity, cold and hot water, a lift. There are three rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom in our flat. All the rooms are papered with wallpaper of a different pattern and colour.

The living-room is the largest and most comfortable room in the flat. In the middle of the room we have a square-table with four chairs round it. There is a sofa with two cosy armchairs and low table with a TV-set. There is a bookcase near it. At the opposite wall there is a piano.

The bedroom is smaller than the living-room and not so light because there is only one window in it. In this room there is one big bed with a bedside-table. An alarm-clock and a small lamp are on the table. There is a dressing-table with a big mirror.

The third room is my study. It is not large but very cosy. There isn't much furniture in it, only the most necessary. It has a writing-table, sofa and an armchair before it.

But the warmest place in our flat is the kitchen, I think — the place where the whole family gathers every evening not only to have supper together, but also to speak and to have a rest.

Let us say a few words about homes in Britain. There are 22 million homes in Britain — big homes and small homes, old cottages and new buildings, houses and flats. Many British people love old houses and they are often more expensive than modern ones.

They also love gardening and you can see gardens everywhere you go: in towns, villages and in the country. Some are very small with just one tree and a few flowers. Others are enormous with plenty of flowers and enough vegetables and fruit trees.

Millions of these houses are the same with two or three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, dining-room and kitchen downstairs.

There are many different kinds of homes in Britain, but there are not enough! It is often very difficult for young people to find a house when they want to start a family. British houses are usually smaller than American houses. But like Americans old people, young families and unmarried people do not usually live together.