Group Task: Read Emma and Thomas's profile and choose ONE housing type that suits them best.

Meet Emma (63) and Thomas (66) – A Couple Looking for a New Chapter

Updated Profile (with intentional ambiguity):

Emma and Thomas, a couple in their 60s from the Netherlands, are ready for a change. They've recently decided to downsize and are open to living somewhere new – as long as it "feels right."

They describe themselves as *calm but curious*, and they enjoy a mix of relaxing activities like gardening and reading, and more spontaneous ones like taking road trips or joining local events.

They're not city lovers, but they do appreciate a sense of community and being close enough to places where "things happen." They value privacy but don't want to feel isolated.

Emma loves cooking in a cozy kitchen, while Thomas enjoys tinkering with tools and needs "a corner for his projects."

They would love a guest room – but only "if it doesn't take over the house."

They own a car, enjoy open spaces, and say that "modern or traditional – it depends on the vibe."

Based on the following housing types, what would YOU choose for them?

Choose one of these:

- Bungalow
- Detached house
- Mansion
- Mobile house
- Semi-detached house
- Shipping container
- Skyscraper
- Studio flat
- Terraced house
- Thatched cottage
- Villa

Discuss in your group and explain:

- How did you interpret their lifestyle and priorities?
- Which features of the house match their (slightly unclear) needs?
- What trade-offs might they accept?
- How might different houses offer "the right feeling" for them?

Listening Task

Part 1: Match the Speaker to the Home

Instructions: Listen to the four speakers who describe where they live. Then, complete the table by matching each speaker to the correct type of home and filling in key details.

Speaker	Type of Home	Location	Likes / Positives	Dislikes / Challenges
1				
2				
3				
4				

Part 2: True or False

Instructions: Listen again and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. Speaker 1 lives on a houseboat in the countryside, far from the city. ___
2. Speaker 2 lives in a spacious flat with a balcony and city views. ___
3. Speaker 3 prefers their new farmhouse more than their old flat in Florence. ___
4. Speaker 4's house in Boston is very modern and doesn’t need any repairs. ___
5. The farmhouse described by Speaker 3 is surrounded by trees and far from town. ___

Discussion: Unusual Houses Around the World

Instructions:

- Read 3 short texts about unusual houses around the world.
- Be ready to discuss.

1. The Airplane House, Miziara, Lebanon

The Airplane House in Miziara, Lebanon, is one of the most unusual homes in the world. From the outside, it looks exactly like a big white airplane standing on the ground. It has wings, round windows, and even a pilot's cockpit. The house was built by a family who loves travelling and airplanes. Inside, the house is comfortable and has large rooms like a normal home. There is a living room, bedrooms, a kitchen, and bathrooms. The style of the house is not very modern, it feels more like a family home from the past. The place is peaceful because it is in a quiet village, but from the outside it looks lively and fun because of its special airplane shape. Many people visit this house to take pictures because it is very surprising to see a plane in the middle of a village.



2. The Drina River House, Serbia

The Drina River House is a small wooden house built on a big rock in the middle of the Drina River in Serbia. The house is very small - there is only space for a little room where people can sit or sleep. There is no kitchen or bathroom like in a normal house. It was built in 1968 by young people who wanted a quiet place to relax in nature. The house is very peaceful because it is surrounded by water and far from the noise of the city. The style is simple and traditional; it is made of wood and looks like an old cabin. The rooms are tiny, but the view from the house is beautiful and calm. Many tourists visit the place to take photos of this magical little house standing alone on the river.



3. The House of Stone, Brazil

The House of Stone is a very unusual and artistic home in Brazil. It was built by Estevão Silva da Conceição, who used stones, old objects, glass, and recycled materials to create his dream house. From the outside, the house looks very lively and colourful because there are decorations everywhere - walls are covered with plates, bottles, mirrors, and small statues. Inside, the rooms are quite small because there are so many decorations and objects everywhere. The house feels a little crowded, but also very creative and interesting. Every corner has something special to look at. The atmosphere in the house is not peaceful or modern - it feels like a museum full of stories and surprises. Many people visit it to see how one person turned their home into a piece of art.



Discussion Questions:

1. Which house did you find the most interesting? Why?
2. Would you like to visit any of these houses? Which one?
3. Which of these houses do you think is the smallest?
4. Which house do you think is the most peaceful?
5. Which house looks the most lively or fun?
6. Do you think it is comfortable to live in the Drina River House? Why or why not?
7. What are the advantages of living in a house like the Airplane House?
8. What problems could people have if they lived in the House of Stone?
9. If you could stay in one of these houses for a weekend, which one would you choose? What would you do there?
10. If you had to build your own unusual house, what would it look like? What materials would you use?