

## Unit 6 Reading/Quiz

### True/False

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

### Tiny Homes

Shelter is a fundamental human need. Everyone needs a place to live. In the United States and many other western countries, however, some homes have grown far beyond basic shelter. The size of American homes increased by 50 percent between 1970 and 2007, when they reached their peak. In response, a number of people have recently begun to ask, “Have our homes become too big?” Architects, designers, and activists around the world are trying to answer this question with innovative ideas for smaller homes. Some are so tiny that you can walk from one wall to the other wall in just a few steps.

Living in a tiny home has several advantages over large homes, both for the occupants and for the rest of the world. Large homes have many costs. First, of course, they are expensive to buy. Many people spend half of their income or more to buy a home. Most people need to get a loan and may spend the rest of their lives repaying it. Large homes can also be very expensive to maintain. Energy bills are high and there is always something that needs repair. In contrast, people who choose a tiny home often have less debt because their home is less expensive and they may not need a loan to buy it. Other costs, such as repairs and energy, are also much lower in tiny homes (See Table 1). As a result, owners of tiny homes have more money for other things.

The advantage of tiny homes extends beyond their owners. Because they use less building material and energy, tiny homes have a smaller environmental impact. Tiny homes also leave more space for others. More than 50 percent of the world’s population now lives in urban areas, and the movement of people to the cities is likely to continue. As cities become more crowded, more people will have to live in smaller spaces. In fact, there is already a need for smaller and cheaper housing in many cities, and some city officials are looking for ways to provide it. To ease the housing shortage in New York, for example, the mayor recently held a competition for the design of tiny homes—apartments ranging between 250 and 375 square feet (23–35 square meters). In Tokyo, there is a similar shortage of living space, so residents must use every available spot. One tiny house was recently built on a parking space.

What makes these tiny homes different from ordinary homes, besides size and cost? Architects say there are several key features of tiny home design. First, many elements must have more than one function. For example, a table can be used for food preparation as well as for dining. Second, spaces should be flexible. This means that furniture should be easy to move and store. A bed may be folded into the wall to make way for daytime activities. Finally, architects emphasize the need to use all available space, not just the space on the floor. Whereas people typically store their belongings in closets or on the floor, in tiny homes, a lot of the storage space is in the walls.

Not everyone wants to live in a tiny home, but these homes provide an alternative for people who want a simpler, less expensive lifestyle. They also provide options for cities that need to provide shelter for their growing populations.

**Table 1** Home ownership in the United States, 2007

	Tiny home owners	Average home owners
Needed a loan in order to buy their home	32%	71%
Own their home	78%	65%
Size of their home	100–400 square feet	25,000 square feet
Cost of their home	\$2,500–\$20,000	\$272,000

**Instructions:** Refer to the reading “Tiny Homes.” For each statement, answer *True* or *False*.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The main idea of the readings is that most people will live in tiny homes in the future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The size of American homes continues to grow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. About one-third of all tiny home owners needed a loan to buy their homes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The purpose of the third paragraph is to describe the advantages of tiny homes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Owners of large homes have more debt than owners of tiny homes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Tiny homes have benefits for individuals and society.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Storage space in tiny homes takes up about 250–375 square feet.

### Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

**Instructions:** Refer to the reading “Tiny Homes.” Choose the correct answer for each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Where can you find this information: American homes got much bigger between 1970 and 2007?
- This information appears in the reading only.
  - This information appears in Table 1 only.
  - This information appears in both the reading and Table 1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Where can you find this information: The average U.S. homeowner needs a loan in order to buy a home?
- This information appears in the reading only.
  - This information appears in Table 1 only.
  - This information appears in both the reading and Table 1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Where can you find this information: The cost of the average American home in 2007 was \$272,000?
- This information appears in the reading only.
  - This information appears in Table 1 only.
  - This information appears in both the reading and Table 1.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Where can you find this information: Tiny homes cost much less than the average home?
- a. This information appears in the reading only.
  - b. This information appears in Table 1 only.
  - c. This information appears in both the reading and Table 1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Where can you find this information: People who live in tiny homes are more likely to own them than people in larger homes?
- a. This information appears in the reading only.
  - b. This information appears in Table 1 only.
  - c. This information appears in both the reading and Table 1.

**Unit 6 Vocabulary Quiz****Completion***Complete each statement.***Instructions:** Choose the correct word or words to complete each sentence.

be prone to	filter	incorporate	make way for
not stand a chance	pay off	update	withstand

- I think our extra training is really going to \_\_\_\_\_ in the race next week. We may win!
- All of the trees were cut down to \_\_\_\_\_ a new housing project.
- These buildings are constructed to \_\_\_\_\_ the force of an earthquake.
- If you are not in good physical shape, you may \_\_\_\_\_ headaches if you visit high-altitude cities such as Denver and Mexico City.
- I need to buy curtains for my windows that will \_\_\_\_\_ the bright sun that comes in every morning.
- Tomorrow technicians will come to \_\_\_\_\_ all of the older computers in the office.
- You will \_\_\_\_\_ of passing the test tomorrow if you don't study.
- We will \_\_\_\_\_ everyone's ideas into the report before we publish it.

**Multiple Choice***Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.***Instructions:** Choose one answer to complete each sentence.

- A **breath of fresh air** is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a weather pattern
  - a new idea or perspective
  - a pleasant, happy feeling
  - a different method
- If something is **in keeping with** past activities, it is \_\_\_\_\_ them.
  - consistent with
  - better than
  - in contrast with
  - an important part of

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Discouraging** news is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. frightening  
b. unexpected  
c. predictable  
d. disappointing
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The **death toll** is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. the cause of death  
b. part of a funeral  
c. the number of people who have died  
d. a tradition when people die
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. An object that is **brittle** \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. can withstand heavy force  
b. breaks or crumbles easily  
c. bends under pressure  
d. can be dangerous
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When you **blend** something, you \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. mix it with something else  
b. let someone else use it  
c. analyze its parts  
d. maintain its quality
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. **Inspiration** usually starts with \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. hard work  
b. cooperation with others  
c. a great idea  
d. efficiency
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The **turn of the century** means \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a period of one hundred years  
b. one hundred years ago  
c. when one century ends and another begins  
d. one hundred years from now

### Matching

**Instructions:** Match each word or phrase with the sentence that best suggests it.

- a. safeguard
- b. ventilation
- c. extended family
- d. beyond one's means
- e. resilient
- f. innovative
- g. a fact of life
- h. apparent

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Everyone was at the wedding, including cousins, uncles, aunts, and grandparents.

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- \_\_\_ 2. The engineers have some new and interesting ideas for improving our product.
- \_\_\_ 3. The house was simply too expensive. He did not earn enough money so he could not buy it.
- \_\_\_ 4. It was very clear from everyone's responses that no one liked the new design.
- \_\_\_ 5. There are a lot of insects in the woods. If you want to live here, you just have to accept this.
- \_\_\_ 6. The strong wind bent the branches of the tree but they did not break. They just bent back when the wind stopped.
- \_\_\_ 7. Many years ago, the residents built a wall around the city as protection against enemy invasions.
- \_\_\_ 8. I put a fan in my window to keep the air moving in my bedroom.